

Annual Portfolio Overview

Polynesia-Micronesia Biodiversity Hotspot

January 2011

Introduction

The Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot includes all the islands of Micronesia, tropical Polynesia, and Fiji. Included in this enormous expanse of ocean are more than 4,500 islands, representing 11 countries, eight territories and one U.S. state (Hawaii). Despite its large marine coverage, which is four times larger than the United States, it is one of the smallest hotspots in terms of terrestrial land area, covering only 46,315 square kilometers, an area the size of Switzerland. The total population of the hotspot is approximately 3,235,250 but 65 percent of the population is found in Hawaii and Fiji. Within the hotspot, six countries and territories do not meet the criteria to be eligible for CEPF support. These include Nauru; the U.S. state of Hawaii; the U.S. territories of American Samoa and Guam; the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Tuvalu.

CEPF's \$7 million investment was launched in September 2008 with a call for proposals by Conservation International's Pacific Islands Program, which was selected as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT). This portfolio overview describes achievements that have taken place from 30 September 2009 until 31 December 2010 and builds upon the first annual portfolio overview completed in January 2010.

The geographic complexity and isolated nature of Pacific Islands have led to the development of extremely high levels of endemism in this hotspot. The various mechanisms of island biogeography and evolution have been able to work particularly clearly in the Pacific free of continental influences. As a result, the hotspot is home to approximately 5,330 native vascular plant species, of which 3,074 (57 percent) are endemic; 242 breeding native bird species of which approximately 164 (68 percent) are endemic; 61 native terrestrial reptiles, of which 30 (49 percent) are endemic; 15 native mammals, all bats, 11 (73 percent) of which are endemic; and three native amphibians, all endemic. Although there are no true native freshwater fish, at least 96 marine species are found as adults in freshwater and 20 species are endemic. Knowledge of invertebrate diversity is very patchy, but for many groups that have been studied, it is high. Land snail diversity is particularly high with over 750 species in Hawaii alone and perhaps 4,000 species in the insular tropical Pacific.

Island ecosystems and species are extremely vulnerable to impacts, such as habitat destruction and invasive species, and therefore the flora and fauna of this hotspot ranks among the most endangered in the world. In fact, species extinction rates in this hotspot approach the highest in the world, especially for birds and land snails. Plant, bird, and invertebrate diversity in the hotspot are particularly high, but diversity of non-volant mammals, reptiles and amphibians is low.

The major threats to Pacific biodiversity are human-induced and include invasive species, habitat alteration and loss, destructive harvesting techniques, and over-exploitation of natural resources. The impact of extreme natural events such as cyclones, drought, and fire may also be significant at times. The future impact of climate change and sea level rise is uncertain at this stage but threaten to be devastating, especially to low lying islands and atolls which could be submerged completely. While many of the threats to native Pacific biodiversity are similar to those in other tropical regions of the world, Pacific Island biotas are particularly vulnerable because the biota evolved in the absence of mammalian predators, grazing herbivores, and many of the diseases that evolved on larger land masses. Furthermore, the small size and isolated nature of the Pacific

Islands result in increased vulnerability to disturbances that may be relatively minor on a larger land mass.

Niche for CEPF investment

Overview

The Ecosystem Profile for Polynesia Micronesia was developed in 2003 to 2004 through a consultative process lead by Conservation International's Pacific Islands Program but engaged many of the key stakeholders in the hotspot. Species outcomes in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot include all those species that are globally threatened according to the 2003 IUCN Red List, the most recent Red List at the time the outcomes were defined in the profiling process for the 14 eligible countries and territories. These comprised 244 threatened species that were used to define the universe of species outcomes for this hotspot. A further prioritization identified 67 species to become the focus of CEPF's investment.

Site outcomes were determined by identifying the sites in CEPF eligible countries that contain populations of at least one globally threatened species. This analysis identified 161 sites within the hotspot, each containing at least one globally threatened species, and however, this was too vast for one fund to handle alone. Consequently, sites were prioritized based on irreplaceability, which resulted in a total of 60 top priority sites identified for CEPF support.

The appropriate niche for CEPF investment has been developed based on an analysis of three major themes: species and site outcomes; major threats to endangered species; and current environmental investments together with national and regional conservation strategies.

Major findings of this analysis include the following: our knowledge of the hotspot's biodiversity is patchy, incomplete and poorly managed; terrestrial species and site conservation is currently weakly supported; conventional forms of protected area management have been largely ineffective; and invasive species are the major threat to native biotas, but tackling invasive species is relatively poorly supported. Finally, while there are many existing regional and national conservation strategies, these strategies need much stronger support for implementation.

The niche of CEPF in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot is to catalyze civil society action to counteract threats to biodiversity, especially from invasive species, in key biodiversity areas in the hotspot. The geographic focus for CEPF intervention in the hotspot will be on CEPF eligible countries only. The three primary strategic directions are:

1. prevent, control and eradicate invasive species in key biodiversity areas;
2. strengthen the conservation status and management of 60 key biodiversity areas; and
3. build awareness and participation of local leaders and community members in the implementation of protection and recovery plans for threatened species.

Portfolio Status

The issue of whether overseas territories in Polynesia Micronesia would be eligible to receive funds from CEPF was resolved by the World Bank on 5th January 2010. This allowed a separate grant portfolio of up to US \$ 1 million for projects in overseas territories to be managed separately in parallel to the grant portfolio for the Pacific Island Countries and based upon this decision CEPF was able to request the grantees to develop these projects which had been suspended since August 2009.

Based upon this restriction, CEPF's funds available for both Pacific Island Countries (PICS) and Overseas Territories (OTS) were redistributed by the four strategic directions as follows (Table 1).

Table 1: Reallocation of CEPF's funds for Polynesia Micronesia hotspot between Pacific Island Countries (PICS) and Overseas Territories (OTS) for large and small grant portfolios.

Strategic Direction	Allocation Large Grants PICS	Allocation Large Grants OTS	Allocation Small Grants PICS	Allocation Small Grants OTS	Totals
1. Invasive species prevention	2,421,073	422,927	106,000	50,000	3,000,000
2. Improve management of key biodiversity areas	1,311,704	246,707	158,589	33,000	1,750,000
3. Safeguard and restore threatened species	949,759	197,366	202,875	50,000	1,400,000
4. Strategic leadership through a regional implementation team	850,000				850,000
Total	5,532,536	867,000	467,464	133,000	7,000,000

The Secretariat and RIT have developed systems to track projects awarded to projects in the five Overseas Territories or in the remaining nine Pacific Island Countries for both the large and small grant portfolios.

Between 1st October 2009 and 31st December 2010, an additional 13 grants were approved as summarized in Table 2. These included six grants that addressed invasive species under strategic direction 1, two grants under strategic direction 2 to improve management of key biodiversity areas and another five grants strategic direction 3. Safeguard and restore threatened species.

As well as developing these projects, the Regional Implementation Team in conjunction with the CEPF Secretariat issued a third call for proposals on 1 March 2010 for all 14 Pacific Islands Countries and Territories as we had received all GEF Operational Focal Point Endorsements. However, this call for proposals focused more on Overseas Territories, especially the islands of French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna, Pitcairn, Tokelau and Easter Island.

What is clear from the applications received (Graphs 2 and 3) is that comparatively, there has been a greater demand for large grants (100) opposed to small grants (63). This is partly an artifact of the costs of projects proposing activities to tackle invasive species, but also reflects the follow up work on feasibility studies prepared in 2005 under the Australian Government's Regional Natural Heritage Programme.

There was also significant increase in the number of small grants awarded by the RIT under all three strategic directions. These are detailed under each strategic direction below. The grant totals in Table 2 below vary slightly from the figures in the 2009 annual portfolio overview as some projects have been amended to address budget shortfalls or make up for fluctuations in exchange rates. In addition, occasionally, grantees do not spend the full grant amount and these funds are deobligated from project as part of the process to close out these grants.

Table 2: Break down of the CEPF Polynesia Micronesia portfolio by Strategic Directions for Pacific Island Countries (PICS) and Overseas Territories (OTS) from 1 May 2008 until 31 December 2010

Strategic Direction	PICS Large Grants	OTS Large Grants	PICS Small Grants	OTS Small Grants	Totals
1. Invasive species prevention	1,324,557	186,925	197,244	-	1,708,726
2. Improve management of key biodiversity areas	636,497	-	64,796	35,540	736,833
3. Safeguard and restore threatened species	671,169	168,187	136,295	-	975,651
4. Regional Implementation Team	849,930				849,930
Totals	3,539,653	297,612	398,335	35,540	4,271,140

Table 3: Number of large and small grants awarded by CEPF and the RIT for Pacific Island Countries (PICS) and Overseas Territories (OTS) from 1 May 2008 until 31 December 2010.

Strategic Direction	PICS Large Grants	OTS Large Grants	PICS Small Grants	OTS Small Grants	Totals
1. Invasive species prevention	7	2	12	-	21
2. Improve management of key biodiversity areas	5	-	4	2	11
3. Safeguard and restore threatened species	6	2	7	-	15
4. Regional Implementation Team	1	-	-	-	1
Total	19	4	23	2	48

Table 3: Percentage of available funds for large and small grants awarded by CEPF and the RIT for Pacific Island Countries (PICS) and Overseas Territories (OTS) from 1 May 2008 until 31 December 2010

Strategic Direction	PICS Large Grants percent allocated	OTS Large Grants percent allocated	PICS Small Grants percent allocated	OTS Small Grants percent allocated	Overall percent allocated
1. Invasive species prevention	55	44	186	0	57
2. Improve management of key biodiversity areas	49	0	41	108	42
3. Safeguard and restore threatened species	71	85	67	0	70
4. Regional Implementation Team	100				100
Total	63	41	85	27	61

Coordinating CEPF Grantmaking

There are two entities that support CEPF's investment. The Regional Implementation Team is based at Conservation International's Pacific Islands Program, Apia, Samoa. This team is advised by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) which provides the RIT with detailed reviews of applications and guide the development of the grant portfolio as a whole.

The RIT team comprises:

- James Atherton, Conservation Outcomes Manager
- Leilani Duffy, Grant Manager
- Siniva Tuuau-Enosa, Grant Coordinator
- Pauline Johnston, Finance Manager

The previous Grant Coordinator Joanna Matthes-Tuisila departed the RIT in early 2010 and replaced by Siniva Tuuau-Enosa who has been liaising with the grant coordinators at the CEPF Secretariat. The importance of this relationship between the RIT and Secretariat cannot be over restated as the coordinators provide frequent, detailed communication between the RIT and grantees.

By the end of 2010, the CEPF Secretariat has undertaken three separate RIT Supervision Missions to the CI PIP Offices in Samoa. These occurred between:

- 20-25 May 2009
- 22-26 February 2010
- 17-21 August 2010

These trips provide an important opportunity to work jointly with the RIT in reviewing the status of the portfolio, resolve any issues that have arisen and as necessary meet with grantees either in person or a conference call. The physical distance and time difference between CI's Headquarters and the Pacific Islands Program, these meetings are an important part of gauging the performance of the RIT, the development of the portfolio as a whole and to maintain the collaboration between the RIT and the Secretariat.

Technical advisory group

As well as the regional implementation team members, this advisory body comprises representatives of the following institutions:

Greg Sherley (Chairperson)	UNEP, Samoa
Francois Martel	Conservation International Pacific Islands Program (departed end 2010)
Easter Galuvao	SPREP, Samoa
Souad Boudjelas	Pacific Invasive Initiative, Auckland
Jean Yves-Meyer	Department of Research, Ministry of Culture, High Education and Research, French Polynesia
Mark O'Brien	Birdlife Pacific Partnership, Fiji
Marika Tuiwawa	Institute of Applied Sciences, USP, Fiji
Willy Kostka	Micronesia Conservation Trust, Pohnpei, FSM
John Watkin	CEPF – Washington DC

This entity provides the necessary technical advice and geographic coverage that is required to ensure that CEPF's investment has the greatest incremental value but also ensures that there is no duplication of activities with other on-going projects.

To date the TAG has held three meetings on the following dates:

- 6 - 7 November 2008
- 21 - 22 May 2009
- 24 - 26 May 2010

Each meeting represents an opportunity for the TAG to jointly review the letters of inquiry received from the calls for proposals and collectively decide whether the applications fit with CEPF's Strategic Directions and investment priorities. The RIT tracks the decisions and records the final response that is sent to the applicants. The minutes of these meetings represent a comprehensive record of these discussions.

The TAG has met annually during these three meetings, although members who could not attend would attend the meetings via skype conference or teleconference. In reviewing the LOIs the TAG do their own individual reviews one month prior to the actual meeting then they send in their reviews to the RIT to compile all comments for the actual TAG meeting. Most members of the TAG have said that this sometime is challenging work which requires more time for them to do a thorough review, since its voluntary they are doing this off their own time. On the third TAG meeting a review period of six weeks was given to all members of the TAG to do their own review prior to the actual TAG meeting. The TAG and the RIT should be complimented on the patience and diligence with this they have undertake the huge task of coordinating the reviews and providing relevant and profession feedback to the applicants. This has been an enormous task given the 164 letters of inquiry received to date.

Performance Assessment

The portfolio of grants has increased from 2009 with 23 large grants and 25 small grants contracted as detailed in Table 2 and split between eligible Pacific Island Countries and Overseas Territories.

These grants range from addressing conservation priorities for Critically Endangered species and undertaking IUCN assessments of little known taxa to improving the management of priority key biodiversity areas. In addition one grant provided additional support to further develop networks and improve data and information access across the Pacific.

Finally CEPF was able to contract two large projects in French Polynesia as a result of resolving the issue of the eligibility of Overseas Territories favorably.

Portfolio Investment Highlights by Strategic Direction

Strategic Direction 1: Prevent, control, and eradicate invasive species in key biodiversity areas

The projects under this strategic direction have achieved a varying amount of success depending on whether the preliminary feasibility studies had already been undertaken and which taxa the project was addressing.

In Micronesia the project "*Conserving the Biodiversity of the Pohnpei Watershed Forest Reserve by Managing Invasive Weeds*" implemented by Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) has initiated project activities in partnership with the Pohnpei State Forestry and the Invasive Species Taskforce of Pohnpei (iSTOP) and have completed their initial assessment to all known sites known to hold stands of invasive plants to confirm the status of all locations for the five known target species.

CSP has also launched an awareness campaign using highly interactive, ongoing education and awareness program as part of the CSP Youth to Youth (Y2Y) and Green Road Show (GRS). This has been undertaken in all 27 public schools throughout the Island reaching over 1,000 people.

The grantees supported under this strategic direction have started preparing to execute the restoration campaigns, however, it has been clear to CEPF that there are significant upfront costs for many of these projects. For instance these projects often need to pay the full amount to charter a boat to reach the remote locations up front. Also the cost of the bait used in these restoration campaigns is extremely expensive and the quantities required mean that this has to be special ordered. These situations are difficult to justify within CEPF's grant procedures as these often represent additional financial risk to the organization. Typically, these projects also require a long lead in period for all the pieces to fall into place as well as requiring prolonged monitoring of the sites after the restoration has been completed to ensure that these sites are pest free.

One project in particular " *Holding the Lines* " has been cause for concern over the significant lack of progress or associated expenditure. Both the RIT and Secretariat have broached this issue with SPREP who have reassured CEPF that there are legitimate reasons for the lack of progress.

It is hoped that 2011 will be a year where many of these projects complete the activities and that the sites targeted can then be monitored for the prerequisite two years to verify that these islands are pest free.

There were 12 invasive species projects supported through the small grants, which looked at a range of activities from awareness programmes on invasive species such as the crab-eating macaque in Palau to the development of a Biosecurity Plan for Phoenix Islands. Other activities included support to regional workshop like the Biocontrol Strategy for the Pacific and emergency response to the management of the mongoose incursion in Samoa as well as the green iguana in Fiji.

One of the biggest achievements for the small grants support to invasive species is doing the ground work in addressing the biggest threat to the livelihoods of some of the islands in Palau and that is the spread of the crab-eating macaque. We approved 2 small grants one to conduct a nationwide census survey to locate the areas where the monkey is most concentrated and an awareness programme on the problems created by the monkey, and the second grant was to start a neutering programme to sterilize all monkeys that were identified in order to contain them and prevent the spread of the monkey to other islands of Palau. This was a successful programme because it made people aware of the environmental, social, economic and cultural impact that this invasive species had on some places especially Auguar Island. When people saw the advertisement on TV as well as continuous radio programmes most families who had monkeys as pets brought their monkey's in to be sterilized as well as people calling the Palau Animal Welfare and Department of Agriculture Invasive Species Coordinator (Dr. Joel Miles) reporting on people who were illegally smuggling the monkeys from Auguar Island to the main Island Koror and other places.

Strategic Direction 2: Strengthen the conservation status and management of 60 key biodiversity areas

The BirdLife project titled *Fijians for Fijian Forests - Supporting Community-Driven Protected Area Establishment in Fiji* made impressive advances in 2010 through successfully negotiating nine traditional clans or mataqalis to protect their forests and declaring Mt Nabukelevu as a community-managed Protected Area for a period of 20 years, reviewed after every 5 years. This was despite the lack of legislation and enforcement to have this community-based protected area through the national forum called the Protected Area Committee following the overturning of the Fijian Government in 2009.

BirdLife have developed the community protected work in tandem with promoting alternative livelihood activities such as improved honey production, handicrafts and poultry raising as well as improved agricultural practices and tree planting. The project has also benefitted from the recent restructuring within Government Departments, in particular the Provincial Administration which has lead to the Provincial Officers lending their full support to the project and forging close links with the mataqalis to promote community development through sustainable livelihood and national environmental strategies and plans.

There have been setbacks in implementing this project both as a result of tropical cyclones, especially in March 2010 when a devastating tropical cyclone that hit Fiji which completely ruined the village nursery in Navetau and caused significant loss in agricultural production. In addition there were other considerations to be taken into account when dealing with communities. These include working around village functions such as deaths, weddings, chiefly rituals.

In the Cook Islands Conservation International's Grant Management and Policy completed a financial site visit in June 2010 of the Te Ipukarea Society (TIS) in relation to the grant, "*The Sustainable Management of the Rarotonga Flycatcher and its Habitat*" which started on 1 September 2009. This site visit focused on TIS's financial management for the period until 31 March 2010.

The results of this site visit indicated that there were several areas that TIS would have to improve to comply with CEPF's policies and procedures as stated in the agreement. In addition, as a result of confusion over the start date, costs had been booked against this project before the official start of the project. TIS were required to repay these costs.

Putting aside the huge conservation imperative of maintaining the activities to safeguard this endemic bird species that had increased from 27 individual in 1987 to over 250 in 2008. After considerable negotiation, and through the diligence of the TIS project manager, this grant was significantly restructured and the costs incurred refunded.

However, this situation did highlight the potential problems of working with local civil society organizations which have been created by volunteers interested in promoting environmental conservation and sustainable development. These organizations frequently do not have in place adequate legal and financial controls that meet generally accepted accounting practices, organizational operational manual as well as putting in place appropriate human resources practices. Often this is because of the small scale of these organizations which often rely on trust and operate an almost "familial attitude".

In a bid to further bolster the capacity of TIS, in 2010 an addition grant titled, "*Conservation in the Cooks; Setting Priorities, Building Capacities*" was awarded to BirdLife Pacific to raise the profile of TIS as their national partner and develop a fundraising plan to ensure that this important local organization can promote the importance of sound environmental stewardship to all aspects of society.

The grant to the New England Aquarium to support the creation of a trust fund has only made limited progress, much of which has been hampered by the protracted search for Executive Director of the trust fund as well as securing charitable status of the fund in the United States. There have been some positive strides to publicize creation of the protected areas through the development of a Facebook page however, there is some concern as to whether Facebook is the best way to promote the project in the Pacific, especially for people with poor internet access.

This grant was approved based on the CEPF global target that in each of the 10 regions a grant has to be given to support a trust fund endowment, although this particular project did not address any of the three strategic directions which are the core criteria in assessing applications for the region. The New England Aquarium application fitted well with this expectation.

After two calls for proposals (2008/2009), SD-2 received the least number of applications dealing with priority KBA sites identified in the CEPF Investment Strategy for the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot. This became a concern and when the 3rd call for proposal was launched it targeted SD-2, with emphasizes on the countries with most KBA sites such as French Polynesia, Fiji and FSM. From 2008 – 2010 about 33 percent of the priority KBA sites have been supported as well as other sites which were identified as habitats to some of the endangered species in the CEPF priority list.

There were 6 proposals approved in the small grants two for the French Polynesia and the rest was for Fiji, Palau and Samoa. Most of these projects targeted species that were located in KBA sites from plants to birds and watershed areas. One particular project which had a significant finding is the project on Evaluating Conservation Outcomes for Samoa, whereby she concluded that “One of the lessons learned was the reality of implementing academic into practical application. While conservation evaluation has received substantial attention in the academic literature, there remains a disconnect between what is optimal or desirable and what is achievable in evaluation application on the ground.

http://www.conservation.org/publications/Pages/biodiversity_conservation_lessons_learned.aspx

This statement is so true of many past conservation projects that have been written with high achievements in the Pacific yet a few years later after the funds had been used, when you revisit the project it would be a totally different scenario than what is written about. Therefore, the need to have a sustainability plan or transition whereby the local communities or NGOs or governments who will be the custodian of these projects can continue working in the area even without donor support.

Strategic Direction 3: Build awareness and participation of local leaders and community members in the implementation of protection and recovery plans for threatened species

All the projects that had been supported to date continued with the implementation of their activities. The project to study the ecology of the Tooth-billed Pigeon (manumea) and the Mao (ma’oma’o) benefitted from the recruitment of Rebecca Stirnemann as a field assistant as well as amending the grant to allow the purchase a vehicle.

In a bid to improve the capacity of the local communities to act as stewards of turtles nesting CEPF supported three community representatives from three villages to undertake a study tour of the Marine Turtle Project implemented by the Tasiriki Village, Moso Island, Vanuatu on 20-27 February 2010.

The study tour provided “hands-on” experience for the new Fiji turtle monitors on the work involved as turtle monitors and provided the opportunity to discuss community participation, activities undertaken, awareness, protecting nesting turtles and turtle nesting areas, challenges. It also provided an opportunity train the Fiji turtle monitors on turtle tagging, conducting beach surveys for turtle nests and record keeping.

As a result of the exchange the turtle nesting monitoring form used by communities in Vanuatu to record information was modified to suit local conditions in Fiji and used by the community turtle monitors. The form was also translated into Fijian for use of monitors.

There were 7 projects approved for the small grants and most targeted community awareness, study of new endangered species not on the priority list such as the endemic Samoan Swallowtail Butterfly and rare plants of Samoa and Tonga. It was very important to note that the small grants provided an opportunity to study rare plants of specific Polynesia countries which has been identified as a gap in from other funding sources. Hence, under this strategic direction two projects targeted the study of rare plants for Samoa and Tonga which also updated the list of plants for these countries as well as contributing to the IUCN Red List on plants.

Collaboration with CEPF donors

CEPF together with other donors such as the Global Environment Facility and New Zealand Government Aid (NZ Aid) had supported the PIPA (Phoenix Island Protected Area). In 2010 the PIPA was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It is the largest and deepest World Heritage site on Earth (website www.phoenixislands.org). CEPF's support to the PIPA contributes to a universal site with global significance in valuing environmental conservation of Kiribati's Pacific Ocean Arc focusing on the terrestrial component.

Overall, the work of CEPF in partnership with the CI-Pacific in the Pacific Region through the RIT and TAG has fostered great working collaboration and partnerships with many regional, international and government ministries such as ; SPREP, IUCN Oceania, TNC, University of South Pacific, Secretariat Pacific Community, PII, government of Samoa, NZ Department of Conservation, UN Agencies like UNEP, UNDP and the Packard Foundation.

Conclusion

Now that the eligibility of the Overseas Territories has been clarified the portfolio of grants in Polynesia Micronesia has started to gain momentum during 2010 with projects distributed from Micronesia to French Polynesia. In the upcoming year, CEPF and the RIT will be able to develop and even more robust portfolio that will help engage civil society in biodiversity conservation.

Decentralizing the small grant mechanism to the RIT as part of CEPF's second phase has increased the relevance of this source of funds both in providing a rapid response to emerging threats, but also providing a locally relevant amount for community based organizations as well as supporting planning grants or pilot approaches to test whether there is any validity in amplifying these activities.

Some of the grantees have found aspects of the CEPF application process, financial risk assessments and antiterrorism screening and the templates that CEPF uses to be a challenge. Both the Secretariat and RIT have spent a considerable amount of time working closely with the applicants to demystify the requests and ensure that these exercises are regarded as a means to build the capacity of these grantees in applying for additional funding, not just CEPF.

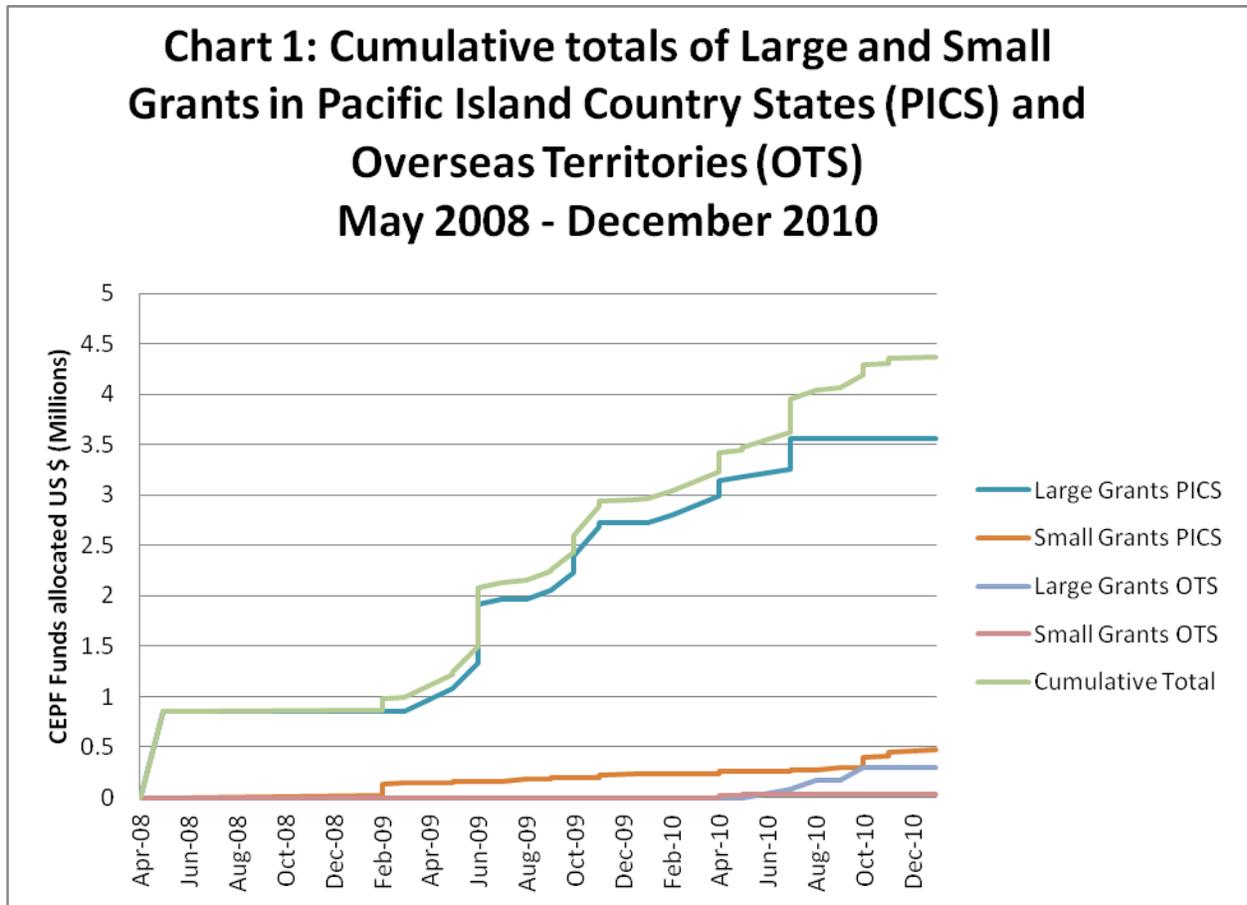


Chart 2: Summary of the RIT Responses to Grantees on Large Grant Applications by Strategic Directions

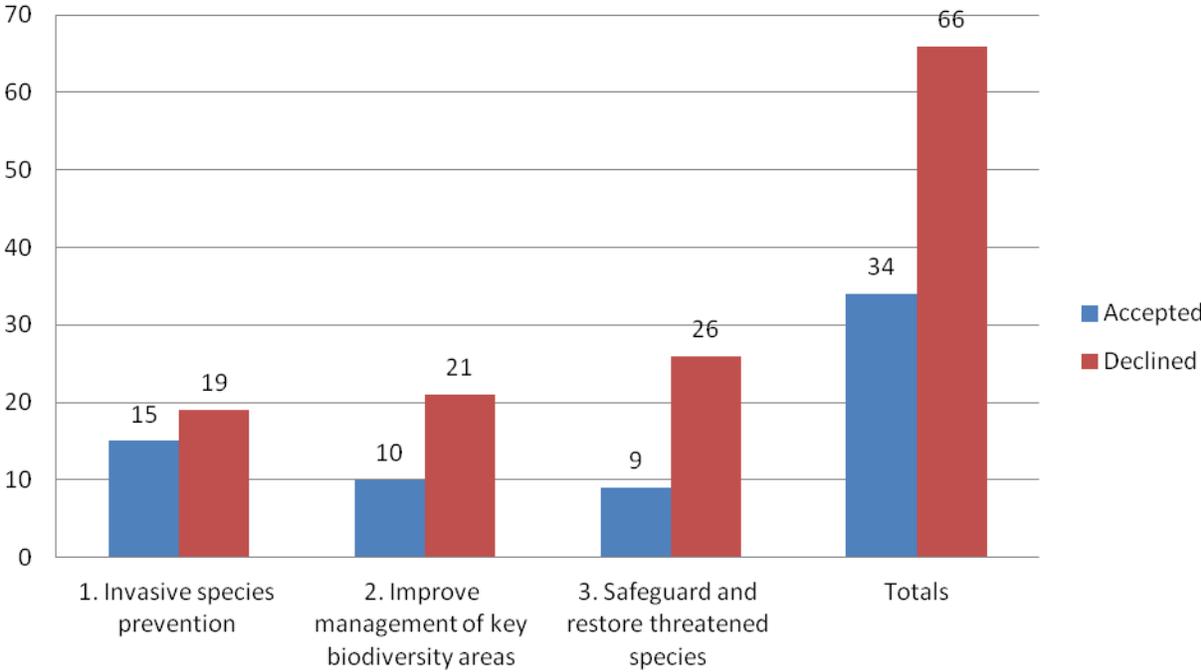


Chart 3: Summary of the RIT Responses to Grantees on Small Grant Applications by Strategic Directions

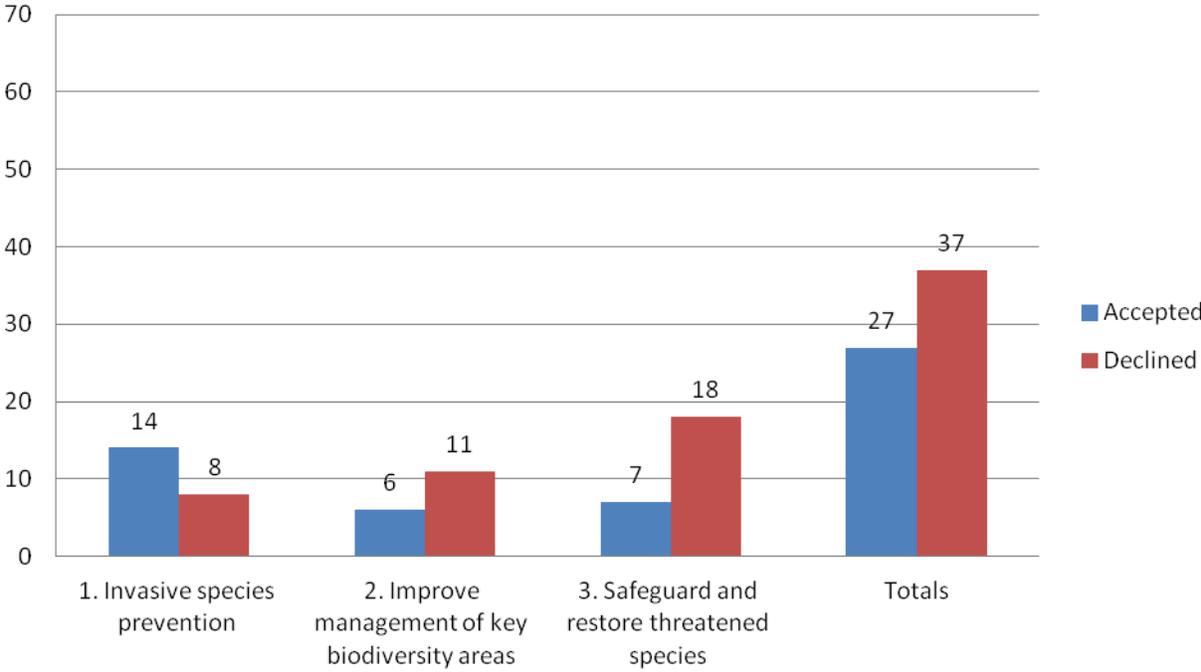


Chart 4: Approved Large Grants by Strategic Direction for the Pacific Island Countries (PICS) and Overseas Territories (OTS)

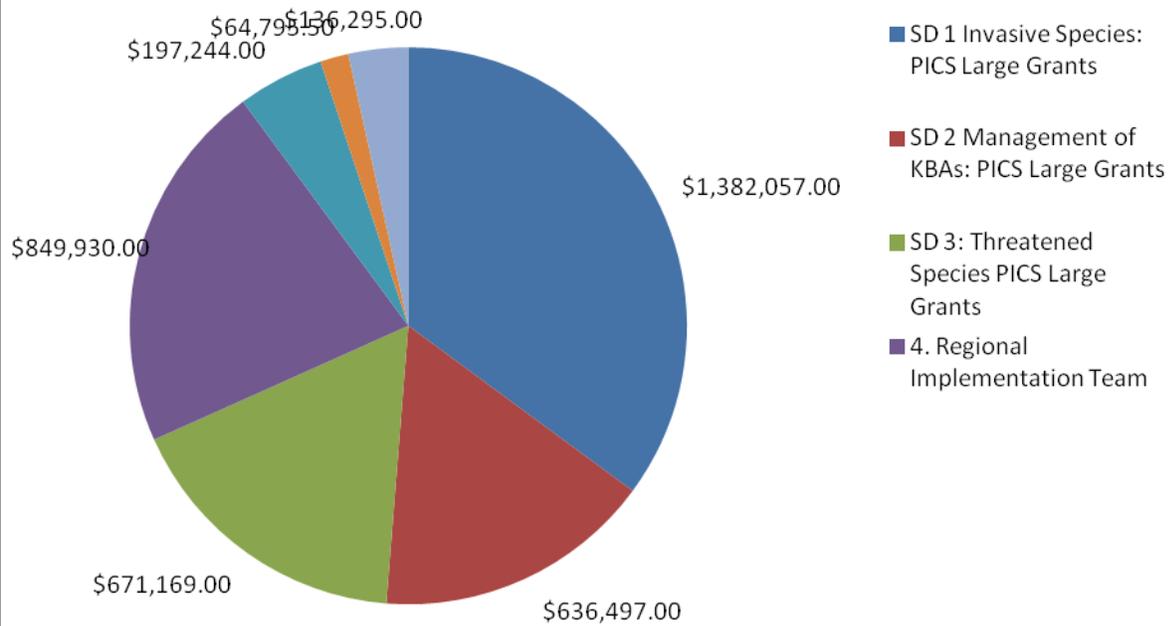
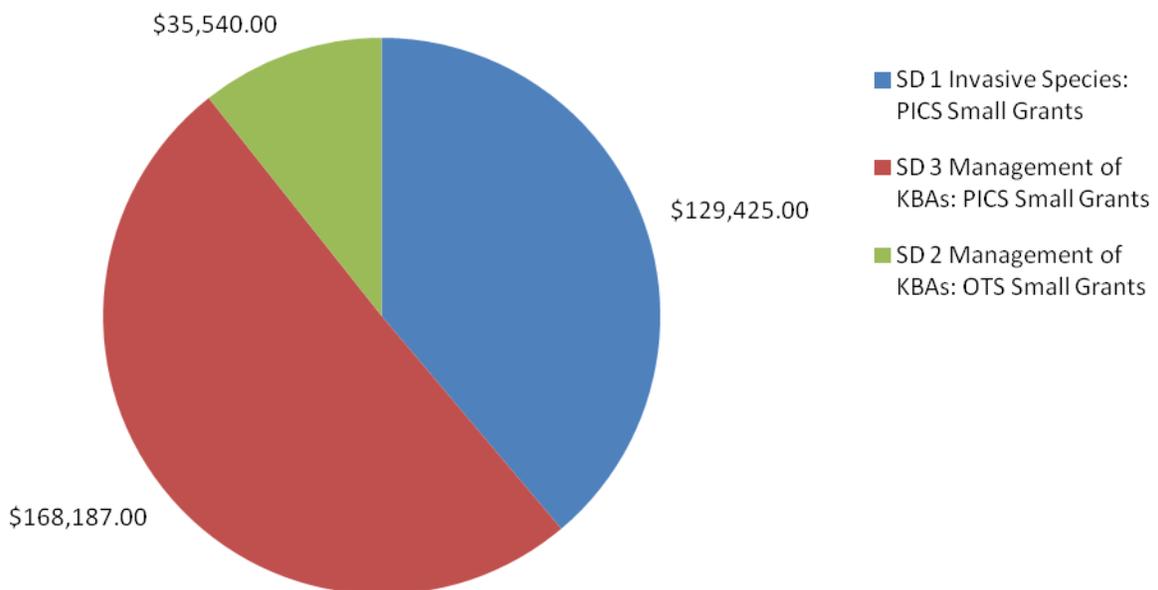


Chart 5: Approved Small Grants by Strategic Direction for the Pacific Island Countries (PICS) and Overseas Territories (OTS)



Polynesia-Micronesia Ecosystem Profile Logical Framework

Objective	Targeted Outcome Indicators	
<p>Counteract threats to biodiversity, especially from invasive species, throughout the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot focusing on key biodiversity areas.</p>	<p>NGOs and civil society actors, including the private sector, actively participate in conservation programs guided by the CEPF ecosystem profile for Polynesia Micronesia Hotspot.</p> <p>Alliances and networks among civil society groups formed to avoid duplication of effort and maximize impact in support of the CEPF ecosystem profile for Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot.</p> <p>60 priority key biodiversity areas with strengthened protection and management.</p>	<p>There have been three first two calls for proposals distributed to over 300 contacts within the hotspot and beyond. The first was on 1 September 2008 and the second on 1 March 2009 and 1 March 2010. By 31 December 2010, 100 applications for large grants had been received and 63 small grant applications.</p> <p>Following the TAG review the portfolio is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approved grants = large 23 and 25 small grants - Rejected grants = 77 large grants and 38 small grants. <p>GEF Focal Point Endorsement has been secured for eligible countries and territories.</p> <p>On a hotspot wide scale a grant to support to Pacific Invasive Initiative will provide hotspot wide technical advice and training as well as preventing duplication of activities support by other funding sources.</p>
Intermediate Outcomes	Intermediate Outcome Indicators	Progress
<p>Outcome 1: Invasive species have been prevented, controlled or eradicated from priority key biodiversity areas</p> <p>\$2,500,000</p>	<p>Number of sites containing key biodiversity areas that are free of invasive species increased</p> <p>Hotspot-wide strategies to prevent invasive species from establishing new areas</p>	<p>The key Habitat restoration of Nu’utele and Nu’ulua islands through the management of Pacific rats and yellow crazy ants has been accomplished (KBA 156).</p> <p>The invasive crab-eating macaques around Babeldaob Island in Palau have been sterilized to prevent further population increase (KBA 146).</p> <p>Implementation of the Species Recovery Plan for the Fijian Crested Iguana on two sites Monuriki Island (KBA 65) and Yadua Taba Island (KBA 95) in Fiji to prevent invasive species occurrence in areas inhabited by the crested iguana endemic to Fiji.</p> <p>A grant was given to Eco-Oceania outside the normal call for proposal period to prepare a Biosecurity Plan for the Phoenix Islands Protected Area, Kiribati. This came about because of sightings of illegal fishing boats around the area and the possibility of a ship wrecked that can bring alien invasive species to the uninhabited islands of the PIPA, after some islands have been declared pests free and results were shown through re-vegetation growth and increase number of sea birds.</p>

	<p>Rapid response program to respond to sightings of invasive species</p> <p>Improved awareness by civil society of the threat posed by invasive species</p>	<p>A program of control of myna birds <i>Acridotheres tristis</i> has been initiated in a bid to boost the breeding success of the reintroduced Kuhl's lorikeet <i>Vini kuhlii</i> on Atiu Island, Cook Islands</p> <p>A grant was also given to SPREP outside of the call for proposal period to conduct an emergency investigation into the mongoose that was found near the new wharf in Aleipata District. Mongoose is an invasive species in Fiji and is not present in Samoa and this was the first time that it was found on the island. So, this emergency grant was given to contained the mongoose and conduct testing on how it reached the island, either through importation of materials from Fiji for the wharf construction or other means. The investigation was also to make sure that no mongoose population is to be established in Samoa</p> <p>The small grants mechanism has been established and is effectively a rapid response mechanism that can provide up to US\$ 20,000 to address emergency issues, as exemplified by the community leaders and traditional landowners in establishing conservation areas on islets and to implement recovery plans for the Ratak imperial pigeon (<i>Ducula oceanica ratakensis</i>) and migratory bristle-thighed curlew (<i>Numiensis tahitiensis</i>)</p> <p>Nationwide awareness programme was conducted on preventing the spread of crab-eating macaques throughout the Republic of Palau. This was well received by many stakeholders ranging from schools to communities throughout Koror State and Babeldoab State learning about the impact of macaques on neighboring state of Anguar which most of the islands livelihood had been destroyed by the macaques feeding on village crops and plantations.</p> <p>The project on the documentation of an existing invasion and preventing future introductions in the Island like Marine Lakes in Palau has provided necessary information to Koror State Department of Conservation and Law Enforcement on the magnitude of the threat to the jellyfish lake ecosystem by the invasive anemone. It also raised media awareness for visitors to the region of the threats that they may unwittingly carry from too much application of sun-tan lotion which has contributed to the existence of the invasive anemone. As well as providing further trainings to Palauan marine scientist to monitor the lake.</p>
<p>Outcome 2: The conservation status of a prioritized set of key biodiversity</p>	<p>Number of protected areas with strengthened protection and</p>	<p>Site support groups have been developed for Mt. Nabukelevu and Natewa Peninsula in Fiji.</p>

<p>areas is improved</p> <p>\$1,500,000</p>	<p>management.</p> <p>Number of hectares of key biodiversity areas with strengthened protection and management.</p> <p>Number of newly established hectares or expanded protected areas.</p>	<p>An assessment of the potential for rehabilitating of Orona, Enderbury and Birnie Islands in the Phoenix Island Protected Area has been undertaken.</p> <p>Fund have been provided to the Line and Phoenix Islands Wildlife Conservation Unit to implement established conservation and management recommendations in a comprehensive and integrated approach to restore the ecology of the Northern Line Islands</p> <p>A grant to the Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA KBA-4) of Cook Islands to strengthen the sustainable management of the site which is the habitat for the Rarotonga flycatcher endemic to the island.</p> <p>Support to a learning exchange by representatives of community groups to experience the successful community turtle monitoring program by the Vanua-Tai Resource Monitors Network. This project will allow the representatives from two Fijian communities to learn from the Vanua-Tai's long experience in turtle monitoring.</p> <p>Support has been provided to assist in the establishment of a long-term financing mechanism managed by the PIPA Trust Organization</p>
<p>Outcome 3: A prioritized set of threatened species are restored and have effective conservation safe guards</p> <p>\$1,150,000</p>	<p>Effective stewardship of biodiversity and ecosystem services by indigenous and local communities in enabled focal areas</p> <p>Number of projects outside protected areas that integrate biodiversity conservation in management practices</p> <p>Number of targeted communities involved in managing productive use of natural resources that show socioeconomic benefits</p> <p>Hectares in productive landscapes with improved management for biodiversity conservation or sustainable use</p>	<p>Research is being undertaken on the nesting sites of the little known Fiji petrel (<i>Pseudobulweria macgillivray</i> the tooth-billed pigeon (<i>Didunculus strigirostris</i>) and the ma'oma'o (<i>Gymnomyza samoensis</i>)</p> <p>CEPF is supporting the implementation of the National Trust of Fiji Crested Iguana Species Recovery Plan</p> <p>A Species Recovery Plan is being developed and implemented through a community-based approach for the Niuafou megapode or Malau (<i>Megapodius pritchardii</i>) in Tonga</p> <p>Project has been supported for the capacity building of local staff of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource Environment (MNRE) as well as communities located on the sites identified for potential sightings of the endemic Samoan Swallowtail Butterfly as a model for valuing and conserving butterflies distinctive in the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot. Core scientific monitoring and research and being undertaken to ensure the conservation of the endangered kakerori (<i>Pomarea dimidiata</i>) through to safeguard this flagship species in the Takitumu Conservation Area, Cook Islands</p>

ffIntermediate Outcomes	Intermediate Outcome Indicators	
<p>Outcome 4: An effective regional implementation team to coordinate the CEPF investment is established.</p> <p>\$850,000</p>	<p>Number of groups receiving grants that achieve a satisfactory score on final performance scorecard</p> <p>Number of learning exchanges and participatory assessments of portfolio-level results hosted and documented</p>	<p>The RIT was selected and contracted on 1 May 2008, and a Technical Advisory Group has been appointed providing broad technical advice and transparent review of the proposals received. The small grants has closed 13 projects which all have achieved their objectives set-out as shown in the constructive final performance reports and technical reports received from each grantees.</p> <p>Grantmaking has been initiated with two calls for proposals.</p> <p>Regional Implementation Team Manager (RITM) site visits and monitoring to selected countries in the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot.</p> <p>In mid-2009 RITM went on her first mission to Micronesia to promote the CEPF Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot and conduct awareness on CEPF and the grant making process. Stakeholder consultations were carried out in each three countries starting from Palau, FSM and Marshall Islands. The Palau Conservation Society which is a CI-Pacific partner in the country assisted the RITM in arranging the stakeholder meetings and individual meetings with each interested environmental NGO. A similar programme was conducted for FSM and Marshall Islands.</p> <p>This was the first RITM visit so it gave the new grantees for CEPF from Micronesia Region a chance to discuss their projects and for the RITM to give guidance on areas where they were not very cleared with especially the reporting part and duration of application and when they are going to receive first disbursement once the grant is officially approved.</p> <p>The RITM (Leilani Duffy) and the Conservation Outcome Manager (James Atherton) both attended the Island Species Led Action (ISLA) course coordinated by Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in Fiji for two weeks of early July 2009. This was an excellent training because it provided great information on island biodiversity and especially invasive species and their current threat in the Pacific Region, as well as looking at species that are seen as critically endangered and it look at options for species recovery activities. The course was very practical and it provided an environment for learning and sharing among Pacific conservationists around the region.</p> <p>RITM also attended the UNDP-GEF Small Grants Regional Workshop held in Samoa in August 2009 and presented on the CEPF programme for the Pacific. As well, CI-PIP had a side event during the SPREP Annual meeting 2009 and the Conservation Outcome Manager (James Atherton) presented</p>

		<p>on the work of CI in the Pacific as well as on CEPF and projects we are supporting in the region.</p> <p>In September 2009 just one week before the tsunami the RITM joined the consultant for the Aleipata Island Restoration Project with MNRE staff to conduct a post monitoring of the island after the helicopter spray rat eradication programme.</p> <p>The field monitoring was an excellent opportunity to participate first hand in the ground work being implemented by grantees. We had checked all the stations marked with baits to look for any signs of rats as well we hiked over the highest peak on the island and went down to the other side to check on baits and replace more baits. I did not see any sign of rats except for two dead wild boar decaying and smelling bad. This was an indicator of how effective the poison had been in killing off invasive species.</p> <p>I had followed the MNRE staff who were also doing a bird count of the friendly ground dove which had just been reintroduced into the island after it was captured and relocated for 2 weeks while the eradication operation was underway. We sighted a number of friendly ground doves up on high elevation.</p> <p>The Conservation Outcomes Manager also participated in a number of grantee projects in the reporting period- including flying fox surveys, manumea-maomao bird research and trapping and tagging friendly ground doves on the Aleipata islands.</p> <p>The RITM went with the CEPF Team (Grant Director and Grant Coordinator) as well as the COM, staff from MNRE and local community members to Nuutele Island to conduct a field visit to the site (February 2010) where the rat eradication operation had taken place last year in early August 2009. The field visit included setting out baits for the rats and checking whether there were any rats eating the baits. From all the bait stations checked there was no sign of rats except for coconut crabs responsible for eating some of the baits. This was a good indicator of rats being phased out from the island, as well, there were friendly ground dove spotted near the coastal area. This is another indicator of the non presence of rats, because according to the MNRE Staff (Moe) who took us to the island, the friendly ground dove was not seen flying near the coast prior to the eradication programme because of the existence of rats.</p>
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		<p>The COM attended selected sites to look for the <i>Gymnomyza samoensis</i> (Ma'oma'o bird) with Dr. Dave Butler the grantee for this project "Implementing the recovery plan for the tooth-billed pigeon and Ma'oma'o threatened birds in Samoa'. There were a couple of sites and the main selected site now is Vaisigano (Magiagi Forest).</p> <p>The COM did site visits to a number of small grant projects in Samoa including the mongoose eradication project, the Samoa butterfly project, the rare plants of Samoa project and the Samoa flying fox project. He did not have any issues to report on any of these projects.</p> <p>The RIT had also attended a PII training workshop for the Aleipata community on Biosecurity. This was an interesting training because it brought community stakeholders from Aleipata who were involved in the protection of the island from any pest invasion. The training had boost interest from the community to practice Biosecurity measures and enforcing checking of any bags and items that are taken to the island to ensure that no pest are reintroduced again.</p> <p>RIT Coordinator went on supervision mission in Fiji and conducted a site visit to the National Trust Fiji project site on Monuriki Island with the iguana translocation to the Eco-Kula Park. This was a very interesting site visit as it shows the local community commitment into the re-establishment of the iguana population on the island as they threaten by the presents of goats. The Eco-Kula Park provided a safe haven for the regeneration of iguana until they reach a certain number then they will be returned to their original site. Apart from the project site visit, the RIT Coordinator also conducted meetings with grantees in Fiji to get an insight in the progress of their work and from what the grantees were saying their project were quite successful with local community.</p> <p>The METT tools still remains a problem for grantees in providing accurate information on data regarding hectares of land covered by project etc. This could be due to the complicated list on the METT tools and questions.</p>
Strategic Funding Summary	Amount	
Total Budget Amount	US \$6,000,000	

Approved Grants in Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot in 2010
Polynesia-Micronesia

Strategic Direction 1. Prevent, control, and eradicate invasive species in key biodiversity areas

Holding the Lines — Restoration of the Northern Line Islands, Kiribati

Assist the Government of Kiribati's Line and Phoenix Islands Wildlife Conservation Unit to implement established conservation and management recommendations in a comprehensive and integrated approach to restore the ecology of Northern Line Islands; a key biodiversity area with globally significant sea bird colonies. This project will help improve quarantine controls and address urgent threats from invasive species.

Funding: \$165,000
Grant Term: 10/1/2009 - 9/30/2011
Grantee: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Habitat Restoration of Priority Islands in the Phoenix Islands Protected Area

Improve the breeding success of indigenous seabirds on Orona, Enderbury and Birnie Islands in the Phoenix Island Protected Area by eliminating invasive species. Also enact measures that keep these important seabird breeding sites pest-free in perpetuity. The lessons learned from these activities will be published and assist in improving pest management techniques on other tropical islands.

Funding: \$292,000
Grant Term: 11/1/2009 - 12/31/2010
Grantee: Pacific Expeditions, Limited

Pacific Invasives Learning Network: Expanding and Consolidating the Network to Build Capacity for Invasive Species Management Across the Pacific Islands

Expand and consolidate the Pacific Invasive Learning Network in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot and initiate the inclusion of the remaining CEPF eligible countries of the Cook Islands, Niue and Tonga. The project will also provide training and learning opportunities for other CEPF-funded projects in the hotspot and contribute to the effective management of the biggest threat to native Pacific biodiversity, namely invasive species.

Funding: \$81,950
Grant Term: 2/1/2010 - 7/31/2011
Grantee: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Conserving the Biodiversity of the Pohnpei Watershed Forest Reserve by Managing Invasive Weeds

On the island of Pohnpei, support the removal of five invasive plant species from the Pohnpei Watershed Forest Reserve and improve the management of the Pohnpei Central Forest, a key biodiversity area that is

home to nine globally threatened species. Promote awareness and education of these threats through community conservation officers to prevent the reintroduction of invasive species of plants and animals onto the island.

Funding: \$184,329
Grant Term: 4/1/2010 - 3/31/2013
Grantee: Conservation Society of Pohnpei

Safeguarding the Endemic Henderson Crake (*Porzana atra*) During the Restoration of Henderson Island World Heritage Site

Gather and protect ex-situ a viable number of Henderson crakes that are endemic to Henderson Island in the Pitcairn Group during a sustained campaign to remove Pacific rats. This project will make significant strides to prevent the global extinction of this species as well as several other threatened marine birds achieving a milestone in maintaining and protecting the natural heritage uniqueness of Henderson Island World Heritage site.

Funding: \$129,425
Grant Term: 10/1/2010 - 12/31/2011
Grantee: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Survey of Indigenous Biota and Pests in the Tokelau Islands

Survey the fauna and flora of the Tokelau Atolls to assess the priorities and feasibility for ecological restoration and biosecurity for the island group. This work will integrate with the local government and communities in looking at a strategic approach of the values, threats, and opportunities for site and area management in the country.

Funding: \$57,500
Grant Term: 10/1/2010 - 1/31/2012
Grantee: Eco Oceania Pty Limited

Strategic Direction 2. Strengthen the conservation status and management of 60 key biodiversity areas

Conservation in the Cooks: Setting Priorities, Building Capacities

Establish conservation priorities through the identification of important bird areas and refinement of key biodiversity areas throughout the Cook Islands group. Build the capacity of local partner organization to undertake these processes, and develop a fundraising strategy for Te Ipukarea Society to address key conservation gaps in the overall knowledge of sites and threatened species.

Funding: \$151,949
Grant Term: 4/1/2010 - 3/31/2012

Grantee: BirdLife International

Building Conservation Capacity in Micronesia: Toward Sustainable Watershed Management in Key Terrestrial Biodiversity Sites

Establish the first Regional Alliance of Watershed Partnerships in Micronesia by bringing together the main nongovernmental organizations and government partners from Palau, Pohnpei and Kosrae. Combined, these partners will develop and implement a framework for sustainable terrestrial conservation of upland watershed areas, contributing to the goals of the Micronesia Challenge to conserve 20 percent of terrestrial forest resources in the Micronesia region.

Funding: \$157,070

Grant Term: 7/1/2010 - 6/30/2012

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Strategic Direction 3. Build awareness and participation of local leaders and community members in the implementation of protection and recovery plans for threatened species

Community Turtle Conservation and Monitoring Network

Support a learning exchange by representatives of community groups to experience the successful community turtle monitoring program by the Vanua-Tai Resource Monitors Network. This project will allow the representatives from two Fijian communities to learn from the Vanua-Tai's long experience in turtle monitoring. The two groups will share experiences and approaches, as well as resolve questions on sustainable use of marine resources.

Funding: \$29,892

Grant Term: 11/1/2009 - 12/31/2010

Grantee: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Threatened Endemic Plants of Palau

Undertake a comprehensive Red List assessment of the endemic plant species of Palau. This process will build awareness among the leaders of the local communities about the island nations' rare and endemic plant species, and will provide training in field surveys for local botanists and valuable information for protected area identification and management.

Funding: \$36,050

Grant Term: 5/1/2010 - 4/30/2012

Grantee: University of Adelaide

Dual Research Program on Sea Turtles of the Society Archipelago – French Polynesia

Develop innovative approaches for the scientific monitoring and conservation of the critically endangered hawksbill and green turtles throughout French Polynesia through a nationwide awareness program, which will result from a stakeholder workshop to improve the turtle status through coordinated conservation and

sustainable management efforts.

Funding: \$80,000
Grant Term: 7/1/2010 - 12/31/2011
Grantee: Te mana o te moana

Strengthening Information for Regional Assessments of the Conservation Status and Distribution of Biodiversity in the Pacific Islands

Support IUCN Oceania and partners to undertake biodiversity assessments targeting reptiles, freshwater fish and partulidae land snails. These data will be compared with information on local livelihoods and rural economies enabling conservation programs to be developed that include sustainable management of the resources to safeguard human livelihoods and improve well-being.

Funding: \$151,169
Grant Term: 7/1/2010 - 12/31/2011
Grantee: International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Improving the Status of the Gallicolumba erythroptera, Critically Endangered Species

Restore the last four strongholds of the Critically Endangered Polynesia ground dove Gallicolumba erythroptera including the atolls of Tenararo, Vahanga, Rangiroa and Morane. Raise awareness of the precarious state of this species and establish a Site Support Group within the local communities to monitor the bird population.

Funding: \$88,187
Grant Term: 8/1/2010 - 7/31/2012
Grantee: Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie Manu