

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

April 2, 2019

CEPF Grant 109332: EMI-SD1

Wildlife Conservation Society

Empowering communities to conserve PNG's Central Manus Key Biodiversity Area

Manus Island, Papua New Guinea

Grant Summary

1. Grantee Organisation: Wildlife Conservation Society Papua New Guinea
2. Grant title: Empowering communities to conserve the Central Manus Key Biodiversity Area in Papua New Guinea
3. Grant number
4. Grant amount (US dollars): 250,000.00
5. Proposed dates of grant. 1 June 2019 – 31 May 2021
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Manus Province, Papua New Guinea
7. Date of preparation of this document: April 2, 2019

A. Project background

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) proposes to work with self-identified clans interested in the establishment and formalization of community conservation areas in central Manus, which will be achieved through the recognition and implementation of existing conservation deeds with as many as 10 clans that have expressed strong interest in the long term conservation of their forest. The clans have a combined customary land ownership of at least 15,000 hectares within the Great Central Forest in Manus. A combination of participatory mapping and ethnographic investigation into emic perceptions of territorial claims and use rights will be needed to understand complex customary tenure systems and legal rights. WCS will engage local residents in conversations about land tenure and access rights and will focus on designing management plans where the use/access rights are clear in order to minimize conflict and mitigate expediency. Thus, the protection will take the form of conservation deeds in which the clans will themselves determine the specific regulations governing the conservation areas within their forests. Initial consultations with the clans in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent specific to the proposed activities of developing conservation deeds will be undertaken. The establishment of conservation deeds with a customary group will then follow a 4-step process consisting of:

1. Preparation of the draft conservation deeds
2. Mapping of the clan areas
3. Community development of substantive deed content and scope
4. Formalization of the deed.

To incentivize the establishment of community conservation areas, WCS will:

1. Provide information to landowners, and local and provincial governments about the ecosystems services provided by the central forest, and the longitudinal risks associated with its loss.
2. Expose central Manus clan leaders to the impacts of prior agroforestry and logging projects by organizing visits to communities that have already experienced the negative effects of such projects.
3. Provide trainings facilitated by local legal professionals that will inform landowners of their customary rights, explain the national laws that govern natural resources and highlight international best practice standards expected in the conduct of agroforestry and logging operations.
4. Support the development of feasible, conservation compatible sustainable natural resource based livelihoods. Thanks to funding from the Australian Government, in 2019 WCS engaged an expert to explore the commercial potential of local cash crops in Manus (e.g. coconut, vanilla, cocoa, and Gallip nut *Canarium indicum* - a species native to Manus). The

final report of the expert should be available in June 2019. This will include an assessment of existing supply chains and barriers to production, and the formulation of a work plans for developing the most feasible livelihood options, based on the outcomes of the feasibility study. Through the proposed project WCS will then begin developing demonstration projects based around the identified cash crops with the deed communities through the provision of technical assistance, training, and small supplies to head start the new livelihoods.

B. Participatory implementation

All project work will be conducted in areas where WCS has worked for a number of years, and upon obtaining participants' Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC). This will allow the clans to give or withhold consent to the project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can still withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC affords clans the ability to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. Conservation deed by-laws will be designed in a participatory manner with interested communities. Individuals will be free to decide whether they engage in the projects cash crop initiative. Since rights-holders are regulating their own use, to improve their quality of life as they define it, this does not constitute a taking of rights. Rather, clans themselves are exercising their legitimate rights to manage their resources, as they deem fit.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

Eligibility for participation is defined through

- i) local land tenure rights to the forested area of communities within the Great Central Forest of Manus Island (broadly defined as anyone who is granted use-rights to forest areas by the participant clans)
- ii) engagement with communities that have expressed an interest in better understanding land rights and signing conservation deeds.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

WCS will ensure the views of women are properly accounted for during this process. Men and women's roles in clan society are deeply influenced and segregated by gender. WCS must work within these cultural norms. We will ensure that the actions we take do not upset the norms in ways that would cause harm to women, while also finding culturally appropriate ways to ensure women's inclusion and access to benefits. Women-only discussion groups will be held during the FPIC process and during the roll out of the cash crop initiative to ensure a gender sensitive approach is maintained throughout the project. The conservation deeds will only be signed by communities that wish to be involved in this process. Furthermore, the deeds will be drafted in a participatory manner with the community and will contains provisions, decided on by the community, to withdraw from the conservation deeds and from this project.

Where grievances do arise and are reported through the complaints mechanism described in Section F, we will respond to them promptly and keep records of actions taken.

E. Threat Analysis.

There is a risk that WCS' support for new cash crops could incentivize clans to deforest their primary forest to increase planting areas for cash crop production. To manage this threat WCS will map forest

areas and establish agreements for their conservation through the conservation deeds process before initiating assistance for cash crop production. This risk will also be managed through an assessment of the ecological risks associated with cash crop production options before choosing which crop/s to support. There are no other foreseeable risks to ecological or biological diversity.

F. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism.

Stakeholders will be able to raise grievances at all times. We will make sure that each clan has a printed brief in easily understandable language that conveys the project objectives and a description of the grievance mechanism, which will include the email and telephone contacts for WCS, the CEPF Regional Implementation Team, and the local World Bank office, as well as the email of the CEPF Executive Director. During the first set of community meetings, WCS staff will thoroughly review and explain the grievance mechanism with each community. We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.

G. Safeguard Monitoring

WCS PNG will monitor safeguard issues during each field visit. At all times staff will follow WCS PNG'S community engagement protocol which includes a 4 step process from field preparations, to engagement in the field, after field work and providing updates/information back to communities and addressing issues or concerns regarding the project. This protocol therefore provides the opportunity for any issues or concerns regarding the safeguards to be raised and addressed.

H. Implementation Arrangements

The project plan will be discussed with participating clans and implementation arrangements will be designed in a participatory manner with each clan. During each WCS visit implementation arrangements will be discussed and decided on with the clan/s before activities commence.