

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Bat Conservation International, Inc.
Project Title:	Bats of Bougainville: Completing the FPIC process prior to initiating a bat conservation and development program
Date of Report:	November 30, 2015
Report Author and Contact Information	Dave Waldien, Sr. Director, Global Conservation (dwaldien@batcon.org)

Background Information

CEPF Region: East Melanesian Islands

Strategic Direction: 1. Empower local communities to protect and manage globally significant biodiversity at priority Key Biodiversity Areas under-served by current conservation efforts

Grant Amount: \$15,000

Project Dates: 1 October 2014 to 30 September 2015

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

Rotokas Ecotourism Group (RET): This local civil society organization is our primary project implementation partner in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. RET communicates regularly with the Indigenous clans in our project region, providing invaluable contributions to the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent process. Their ecotourism business is also a key element in our project implementation plans for the next steps, as it contributes economically to all of the communities in which it operates.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of CEPF's Ecosystem Profile for the East Melanesian Islands. For example, you may refer to the Strategic Directions that your project has contributed to.

The CEPF Ecosystem Profile for the East Melanesian Islands places a high priority on the conservation of the region's most threatened bat species. Of the twenty priority mammal species listed in the profile, twelve of them are bats. Two bat species are listed as priorities in Papua New Guinea: greater monkey-faced bat (*Pteralopex flanneryi*) and the Bougainville monkey-faced bat (*Pteralopex anceps*). Our project has laid the foundation for a long-term, locally driven, and culturally sensitive effort for both of these species on Bougainville in and near the Mt. Balbi and Kunua Plains Key Biodiversity Area. This has contributed directly to Strategic Direction #1 by empowering local communities to protect and manage globally significant biodiversity at priority Key Biodiversity Areas under-served by current conservation efforts. This small grant project will ultimately be the first phase of a much larger initiative for bat conservation in the region.

The first step and primary objective of our project was completing the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) process with the Indigenous clans who control the roosting and habitat areas for our target species. The FPIC process is a pre-requisite to proceeding toward any of the CEPF Investment Strategies for bat conservation and community development. With the invaluable assistance of local civil society group, Rotokas Ecotourism, we completed the consultation process with the four communities nearest our intended area for conservation action and received unanimous consent for our project to

move forward to its subsequent phases. Ongoing consultation will continue to be integral to our project to ensure we are aware of and responsive to any local ideas, suggestions, and concerns.

Overall, we are very encouraged by the positive response of all of the Indigenous people, from children to elders, all asked thoughtful questions and recognized the importance of protecting Bougainville's bats as a key step toward protecting their forests and living in greater harmony with the environment. In subsequent project phases, we plan to work in concert with the Indigenous communities to reduce the direct threats to bats via hunting and habitat degradation, even as we assist with addressing the important issue of a lack of protein in the local diet. Education and long-term environmental conservation programs will also help us to determine more specifically the drivers of the threats to the biodiversity in the Mt. Balbi and Kunua Plains KBA. As community environmental awareness is raised, we expect generally for there to be an increased demand for more conservation strategies and help for training, implementation, and to assist in securing funding to facilitate such work from all levels. Ultimately, this will allow BCI and other organizations to make greater progress toward implementing the goals of the CEPF's Ecosystem Profile for the East Melanesian Islands.

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

The overall objective and expected result of this project from its approved proposal was to ensure that all of the FPIC elements were completed prior to commencing any of the proposed bat conservation project elements under subsequent grants. Therefore, our primary completed result/impact for this CEPF small grant was the completion of the FPIC process and the production of a Social Assessment document that explains our approach, understanding of the local Indigenous clans, and the outcomes of our community consultations.

During February 2015, BCI's Senior Director for Global Conservation, Dr. Dave Waldien, traveled to Papua New Guinea and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville to meet with key partners, potential collaborators, and, most importantly, to consult directly with the Indigenous communities on Bougainville about our proposed bat conservation initiative near the Mt. Balbi and Kunua Plains KBA. The dates of this trip were February 1 – 19, 2015.

During his time in Port Moresby, Dr. Waldien met with representatives of the UNDP's GEF grants program, USAID, and he also met with the US ambassador at the embassy. The purpose of these meetings was to explain the importance of bat conservation in the country and the greater region, and also to explore opportunities to leverage additional funding and or partnerships for our continuing initiative in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. All of the meetings went well, and we expect to follow up on specific opportunities in the future.

While in Buka, Dr. Waldien first met with members of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville's government, including officials from the new Bougainville Bureau for the Environment. He then met our primary local partners, the Rotokas Ecotourism Group, and traveled to Wakunai on the island of Bougainville. The leaders of this organization are members of the Rotokas Indigenous people in our target area and had conducted greater than 50 consultations and preliminary meetings with Indigenous community stakeholders prior to Dr. Waldien's arrival. Due to these prior consultations, Dr. Waldien was warmly welcomed by the Council of Elders for the Rotokas Indigenous people in Wakunai, along with the clan chiefs in each of the three communities that he visited while trekking across the island in areas of suspected habitat for our two focal bat species, near the Mt. Balbi and Kunua Plains KBA. Following each of the community consultations, clan chiefs and members of the communities signed a Memorandum of Agreement recognizing the importance of bat conservation as part of the greater need for environmental restoration and preservation, and recognizing Bat Conservation International as a welcome partner.

Based on these consultations, the local expression of approval, and the resulting Social Assessment document, which was produced with and reviewed by Rotokas Ecotourism, we believe that we have completed the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent process for the immediate area in which we plan to begin our on-the-ground bat conservation activities. We do realize, however, that we will need to

maintain ongoing consultations and awareness with these same clans and that we will need to consult with additional communities if our project expands to additional areas on Bougainville.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: NA

Species Conserved: NA

Corridors Created: NA

If you provided information here, please also complete Annex 1, Performance Tracking Report Addendum at the end of this document to provide details.

Please describe the success and/or challenges of the project towards achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

By successfully completing the FPIC process, we have determined that our bat conservation project can move forward on Bougainville in the region of the Mt. Balbi and Kunua Plains KBA. The results of our strong partnership with Rotokas Ecotourism and the community consultations have set the framework for the next phase of our project activities and for avoiding any adverse impacts on the Indigenous Peoples. Therefore, our short-term objectives have been met, and we are beginning to implement our longer-term objectives as additional funding is secured.

We were able to avoid many of the expected project challenges due to our great fortune of identifying strong local partners early on in the project (i.e. Rotokas Ecotourism). These partners completed the early communications and sensitive introductory work for our project with the Indigenous clans, which, if not completed prior to Dr. Waldien's arrival in February 2015, might have caused delays and additional challenges to arise.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The unanimous support and consent for our project given by the local Indigenous clans was an unexpected and very positive outcome of our initiative thus far. This highlights the level of local interest in bat conservation as an element of environmental stewardship, and it also speaks to the quality of work done by our partners from Rotokas Ecotourism to build awareness respond to any initial concerns ahead of Dr. Waldien's meetings with each of the communities.

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

The following tools and products will be attached electronically to our report:

--BCI Social Assessment: This document demonstrates our understanding of the Indigenous clans on Bougainville with whom we have consulted, and it documents our completion of the FPIC process along with our Social Safeguards compliance.

--BCI Consultation in Ruruvu: This documents the consultation meeting between BCI and the Indigenous clan members in Ruruvu in February 2015.

--BCI Consultation in Sisivi: This documents the consultation meeting between BCI and the Indigenous clan members in Sisivi in February 2015.

--BCI Consultation in Togarao: This documents the consultation meeting between BCI and the Indigenous clan members in Togarao in February 2015.

--BCI Consultation at the Wakunai Station with the Council of Elders: This documents the consultation meeting between BCI and the Indigenous Council of Elders in Wakunai in February 2015.

--Consultation Attendance Sheets: These sheets list all those who signed in during the four consultation meetings held with BCI during February 2015.

--Memorandum of Agreement with signatures: This document formalizes the intent of BCI, the consent of the Wakunai District Council of Elders, and the mutual interests of all parties to the agreement.

--2-page Bougainville Handout in English: This was used to help communicate the importance of bats to the people and ecosystems of Bougainville during Dr. Waldien's trip to the island in February 2015.

--2-page Bougainville Handout in Tok Pisin: This was used to help communicate the importance of bats to the people and ecosystems of Bougainville during Dr. Waldien's trip to the island in February 2015.

--Bougainville Bat Species Map: This map shows the bat species richness of Bougainville, and it highlights the ranges of the two endangered species.

Lessons Learned

Please 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.

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

This was BCI's first major step into bat conservation in the East Melanesia region. Therefore, it was imperative that we identify and work with experts who could guide our initial plans. We first contacted a previous recipient of one of BCI's student research scholarships, Dr. Nancy Irwin, because of her experience working with bats in Papua New Guinea. Dr. Irwin then connected us with Mr. Steve Hamilton, who lived on Bougainville for multiple years, has extensive experience with bats in the region, and operates an ecological consulting business in Papua New Guinea. The initial design of this project was heavily influenced by the ideas and vision for sustainable bat conservation of Mr. Hamilton and Dr. Irwin (both further described in our project proposal). Their collective experiences working with the bats and Indigenous Peoples of Papua New Guinea were extremely valuable and played a crucial role in the initial concepts that ultimately became a funded CEPF small grant. Finding and utilizing the expertise of others was a very important learning opportunity for BCI that contributed enormously to this project.

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

Just as with the project design process (described above), the crucial lessons learned by BCI during project implementation came as a result of our good fortune to find and partner with outside experts. In this case, working with Mr. Gavin Reynolds (consultant to the Bougainville Bureau for the Environment), Paul Bedggood (New Zealand's Volunteer Service Abroad), and the local civil society group, Rotokas Ecotourism, opened doors and facilitated relationships to a degree that would likely have been out of our reach during the short time frame of this small grant. Their invaluable assistance making arrangements and building awareness with key stakeholders on Bougainville ahead of Dr. Waldien's visit in February 2015 truly allowed this project to succeed. Global conservation is extremely challenging, and this experience has proven that strong local partnerships are vital.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

None.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Please provide:

- 1) *Details of any additional donors who supported this project*
- 2) *Details of any further funding secured for this project or for your organization as a result of CEPF's investment in this project.*

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Woodtiger Fund	A	\$5,000	Used to support salaries, benefits, and travel
Shared Earth Foundation	A	\$2,500	Used to support salaries, benefits, and travel
Christensen Fund	B	\$30,000	For next steps of project to work with Indigenous clans and protect endangered bat species on Bougainville.

***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

Please summarize the success or challenges in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of the project activities and results.

By establishing the FPIC with the Indigenous clans in the area of the Mt. Balbi and Kunua Plains KBA on Bougainville, our project has opened the door to implementation of a long-term and sustainable bat conservation program for the island, which will hopefully be replicated on additional islands and for additional bat species. Thus far, one of our greatest successes has been gaining the support of many different levels of stakeholders for our project, including a key local civil-society group, government offices, and interested individuals. We have also succeeded in securing a new grant from the Christensen Fund to support our next steps, which will include at least one field expedition in the next year to assess the habitat and survey for monkey-faced bats in the KBA. Furthermore, we have continued broadening and deepening our regional partnerships, which now include the country representatives of the UNDP's GEF Small Grants Programme for Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. With these partners, we have begun conceptualizing a plan to share the initial bat conservation process and successes with a key civil society group from one of the islands in the Solomons to begin the replication process.

Please summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability that has been achieved.

None.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

*Please provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.
This may be attached in the form of an updated Social Safeguards document.*

The primary goal of this project was to establish an FPIC with the Indigenous Peoples in our project area on Bougainville. We completed this objective, and we drafted a Social Assessment document that describes how we approached all of the Social Safeguard considerations through this process (see attached). The section titled "Consultation with Affected Communities" particularly addresses our actions to date.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Please note any additional comments or recommendations arising from the project.

None.

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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ANNEX 1: 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.

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 (attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate the 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			Please also include name of the KBA(s)
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			Please include the names of protected areas
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	4	4	Although this was not the primary goal of this grant, four communities did receive ecotourism revenues as a results of our trip to visit them as part of the process of establishing the FPIC with the Indigenous clans in our project area on Bougainville.

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

