

Social Assessment

May 29, 2018 (Amended Feb 14, 2020)

CEPF Grant Proposal 103961

J. Albert C. Uy, University of Rochester

*Establishing a Protected Area in East Makira Key Biodiversity Area to Conserve Biodiversity, the
Solomon Islands*

East Makira, Solomon Islands

Grant Summary

1. **Grantee organization:** University of Rochester (UR)
 2. **Grant title:** Establishing a Protected Area in East Makira Key Biodiversity Area to Conserve Biodiversity, the Solomon Islands
 3. **Grant proposal number:** 103961
 4. **Proposed grant amount (US dollars):** US\$84,476.00
 5. **Proposed dates of grant:** June 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2020
 6. **Countries or territories where project will be undertaken:** Solomon Islands
 7. **Date of preparation of this document:** May 29, 2018 (Amended Feb 14, 2020)
8. **Indigenous People affected:** This section will describe the Indigenous People in the project area.

The project has activities that will be implemented in customary land areas belonging to indigenous people of East Makira; thus, a Social Assessment has been prepared to show how the project is complying with CEPF's Safeguard Policy on Indigenous Peoples.

Makira Island is one of the easternmost major island of the Solomon Archipelago, and is 3,188 km² in size. Based on a 2009 Solomon Islands National Statistics Office census, there are 40,419 people in Makira, almost all of which are Melanesian. This project's ultimate goal is to establish a protected area entirely within customary land, and involves three indigenous communities: Nasuahu, Kereapena and Napuamarawa (NKN). An informal survey submitted by the NKN communities to us indicates that the Nasuahu and Kereapena communities are composed of 21 families (110 individuals) and 11 families (47 individuals), respectively. Information on the Napuamarawa community is forth coming. In total, we therefore expect over 300 indigenous people will be involved and affected by this project.

East Makira, partly due to its isolation, has received limited attention from conservation initiatives. The weather coast of East Makira, in particular, has been neglected. The communities along the weather coast of East Makira are also under-developed, compared to their counterparts in Star Harbor and especially in West Makira. For one, access to health care and education is very difficult, with individuals having to travel to Star Harbor for access to a clinic or Kirakira for a hospital. Given the limited economic opportunities of the weather coast region, many communities have turned to clear-cut logging out of necessity.

Traditions remain strong in East Makira, with tribal elders and chiefs still yielding much influence over the community. Likewise, church leaders remain effective in maintaining prosocial behavior in the communities. Given the minimal interactions with Western culture, many communities still fully embrace their traditions, and are wary of foreign intervention, especially since most experiences with international organization are in the form of logging and fishing companies.

9. **Summary of the proposed project:** This section will describe what you plan to do and how you plan to do it, with a particular focus on activities implemented in areas inhabited and/or used by Indigenous People.

Makira Island, which is included in the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot and the Global 200 Ecoregions, has one of the highest rates of species endemism in the entire Solomon Islands. Unfortunately, this rich endemism is under constant threat from clear-cut logging. Without alternative sources of income, communities throughout Makira are turning to commercial logging for quick revenue, and thus we here propose conservation initiatives that begin to meet these challenges.

For over 10 years, J. Albert C. Uy and his team from the University of Miami (Uy relocated to the University of Rochester in Jan 2020) have worked in East Makira, one of the most remote regions of

the Solomon Archipelago. Conversations with multiple communities throughout the region during various expeditions indicated that many are either currently engaged in or have signed concessions for clear-cut logging with foreign companies. The large-scale loss of forest and riverine ecosystems, and the resulting loss of ecosystem services, are therefore imminent. At the conclusion of one of our expeditions in search for the Makira moorhen in 2016, elders of the NKN communities approached our team in hopes of establishing a protected area (PA). This proposed PA in East Makira is over 18,500 hectares, and includes high elevation cloud forests, secondary and climax rainforests, and a major river system that empties into mangroves, lagoons and near-shore marine ecosystems [see Figure 1]. The NKN communities have resisted logging for years but their customary land is under immediate threat, as neighboring communities are engaged in commercial logging and several men from the NKN communities are now working for logging companies in these neighboring areas. This persistent threat from logging leaves a short window of opportunity to engage the NKN communities in establishing a PA, which they have chosen to name as the Yato Conservation Area (Yato means “boundary” in the native language). Without access to programs that can help with the establishment of a PA, it is inevitable that they will turn to logging within the next two years. Our goal, therefore, is to empower the NKN communities to establish then manage the Yato Conservation Area (YCA), with the aim of preserving continuous tracks of intact ecosystems that is critical for preserving endemic plants and animals, and continued access to ecological services provided by a healthy ecosystem.



Figure 1: [Left Panel] Map of East Makira, showing the proposed Nasuafu, Kereapena & Napuamarawa (NKN) Protected Area (PA) and the Nafinua Station on Frigatebird Island, a small islet off Makira. The area, outlined in yellow, is greater than 180 km² (18,500 hectares) of cloud forest, secondary and climax rainforest, and large river systems that empties into mangroves and lagoons. [Right Panels] Examples of climax forest, riverine, and lagoon ecosystems contained in the proposed PA.

Project Approach. The ultimate goal of this project is to establish the YCA. The proposed approach includes a series of activities with clear deliverables. Uy and his UR team will lead this project; however, they will partner with experienced conservation biologists and lawyers from Solomon Island NGOs. A lawyer will be hired from the Solomon Islands Environmental Law Association (SIELA) to help navigate through the legal issues involved with declaring a PA. In addition, Uy will engage with Mr. David Boseto and Dr. Patrick Pickacha, who are founding members Ecological Solutions Solomon

Islands (ESSI), will be hired as consultants. Boseto and Pickacha have many years of experience in capacity building, as well as guiding communities in establishing protected areas. In addition, a The project comprises 4 major components, with associated deliverables and activities detailed in Table 1 below.

At the conclusion of the proposed CEPF project and the establishment of the protected area, Uy will continue to work with the NKN communities to seek funding to maintain the PA, which include fund raising with private companies and grant proposals with other NGOs. Uy will take advantage of UM's Development Office, who expressed strong interest in securing long-term funding for this project, including establishing student-led initiatives that leverage social media (e.g., a proposed voluntary carbon tax program targeting UM students, staff and alumni).

Detailed below in Table 1 are the major components, and associated activities and deliverables of this project.

Table 1: Description of components of the proposed project establishing the Yato PA (updated Feb 14, 2020)

Component	Deliverables	Activity and Description
1. Secure project endorsement from stakeholders & outreach (YEAR 1)	1.1. A draft of consent letter template by August 2018. This deliverable is complete.	1.1.1. Community meetings to discuss the partnership with NKN communities by July 2018. This activity has been conducted.
		1.1.2. Development of a letter of project endorsement by August 2018, as implemented by Uy with input from the NKN communities. This activity has been conducted.
	1.2. Establishment of management committee to oversee the overall goals and implementation of this collaborative project with Uy's team by Aug 2018. The management committee will endorse the project by signing the consent letter. Achieved in Dec 2018.	1.2.1. Meetings with community elders of the NKN communities to establish a management committee by July 2018. This effort builds on the existing Conservation Committee established by NKN elders and will facilitate communication between Uy and the stakeholders. This activity has been conducted.
	1.3. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism developed and implemented, with input from the stakeholders by August 2018 (achieved in June 2019)	1.3.1. Meetings with the management committee to develop and establish the conflict resolution and complaint mechanism. The mechanism will be implemented and publicized throughout the three communities by August 2018. This activity has been conducted.
	1.4. Endorsement of project and complaints system through signed letters by the management committee by Aug 2018. The committee posted the notice for the complaint system in June 2019.	1.4.1. Uy will meet with the communities to discuss the CEPF project and the final draft of the support letter. Uy met with the stakeholders during an official project launching event in June 2019
		1.4.2. Uy will meet with NKN elders and management committee to receive endorsement of the project by August 2018. This activity has been conducted.
	1.5. Outreach program, which includes materials for outreach, to reach and inform over 200 NKN community members of the goals of the project by December 2018. Because of the remoteness of the NKN communities, we have opted to start the outreach by sponsoring an official launching event at Baghare Community High School in June 2019. The event was attended by community members, and provided us	1.5.1 Development of powerpoint and oral presentations to provide 1) a primer to conservation and climate change, and 2) details of the goals of this CEPF project for our outreach program by August 2018. This activity has been conducted.
		1.5.2. Implementation of outreach program to provide 1) a primer to conservation and climate change, and 2) details of the goals of this CEPF project by December 2018. Each of the 3 communities will be visited at least once. Because of the remoteness of the NKN communities, we have opted to start the outreach by sponsoring an official launching event at Baghare Community High School in June 2019.

	<p>an opportunity to interact with interested stakeholders, including answering questions they may have regarding our program. We will continue to develop materials for more general outreach.</p>	<p>1.5.3. Administration of survey to 100 community members (33-34 from each community) to measure conservation attitudes using the New Ecological Paradigm before and after exposure to our outreach program by Dec 2018. Because of the remoteness of the NKN communities, we are still devising ways to more effectively reach the stakeholders.</p>
	<p>1.6. A workshop, based on documents (e.g., reader) and powerpoint presentations, to be held at the Nafinua Station to introduce 10 stakeholders to concepts in conservation, and the processes involved in declaring a PA by Dec 2018. This workshop was ran in Dec 2018.</p>	<p>1.6.1. Develop and execute a workshop on conservation and the steps required to declare a PA by December 2018. This single workshop will be held at the Nafinua Research Station, and will last for 5 days and involve 10 stakeholders. This activity has been conducted.</p>
2. Boundary and habitat mapping (Year 1)	<p>2.1. Complete field data set (e.g., GPS coordinates, site descriptions, altitude) for boundary mapping, and mapping of habitats, settlements and culturally relevant sites by February 2019. The initial data were collected in June 2019. In addition, we met with community elders who marked the proposed boundaries of the Yato Conservation Area on a 1:500000 map from the SI Ministry of Lands.</p>	<p>2.1.1. Uy's student & 2 rangers from the Manutage will work with 8 stakeholders for 21 days to complete data collection for mapping by Feb 2019. Mapping activities include taking GPS and altitude data of landmarks to establish boundaries, habitats and sites. This activity has been conducted.</p>
	<p>2.2. A physical and digital map containing placement of key habitats, settlement and culturally relevant sites within the NKN PA by May 2019. After collecting data and information in June 2019, we are currently constructing a digital map using ARC GIS. The map should be completed by the end of Feb 2020, and will be presented to the NKN communities in March 2020.</p>	<p>2.2.1. Uy and his UM student will combine field data with remote sensing data to construct the digital map of the diverse habitats, settlements and culturally important sites within the proposed PA's boundaries by May 2019. This activity is in progress.</p>
		<p>2.2.2. Production of physical maps with the habitats, settlements and culturally relevant sites mapped within the proposed NKN PA to be shared with the NKN communities by August 2019. This activity is in progress</p>
		<p>2.2.3. Participatory meetings with stakeholders to seek their input regarding the map, especially its boundary by August 2019. Map will be revised as needed. This activity is planned for March 2020.</p>
3. Biodiversity Survey (Year 2)	<p>3.1. Complete field data set for plant and animal species diversity surveys at 8 permanent study plots within the NKN PA by December 2019. Due to delays with Uy's recent move and the need to change the local partner, we plan to start this survey in June 2020.</p>	<p>3.1.1. Uy, hist team and local collaborators will train 8 stakeholders in in biological survey techniques, and plant and animal species identification for 10 days by December 2019. This activity is planned for June 2020.</p>
		<p>3.1.2. Uy's student & 2 rangers from the Manutage will work with 8 stakeholders for 21 days to complete biodiversity surveys at 8 permanent study plots by December 2019. The team will collect abundance and distribution data for several taxa. This activity is planned to start in June 2020. We will identify and engage with a local partner to help with training the stakeholders in survey techniques by March 2020.</p>
	<p>3. 2 Establish permanent study plots of long-term surveys of diversity and habitat quality (across years) by December 2019. Due to delays with Uy's recent move and the need to change the local partner, we plan to start this survey in June 2020.</p>	<p>3.2.1 Eight permanent study plots will be established for diversity surveys (two each in cloud forest, primary rainforest, secondary rainforest and mangrove habitats) by December 2019. The 8 plots will be monitored every other year. This activity is planned to start in June 2020.</p>

	3.3. A powerpoint presentation and document detailing the results of the diversity survey by Feb 2020. Results of the surveys will be summarized by Dec 2020. Note, however, that we have published a paper that includes a survey of bird diversity of the proposed protected area (Mittermeier et al. 2018)	3.3.1. Uy & his student will create a powerpoint presentation that summarizes the results of the surveys by Feb 2020. The presentation will given to stakeholders and include a discussion on the relevance of each habitat, and their relative value in conservation. This activity is planned after data is collected from the study plots. 3.3.2. Uy & his student will create a document that summarizes the results of the surveys by Feb 2020. The document will include a discussion on the relevance of each habitat, and their relative value in conservation, which is critical for the PA proposal. This activity is planned after data is collected from the study plots.
4. Declaration of protected area (Year 2)	4.1. Draft of PA proposal by October 2020.	4.1.1. Uy consult with SIELA lawyer about PA proposal and presentation to NKN communities by March 2020
		4.1.2. Community/stakeholders meeting with Uy, his team and SIELA lawyer to discuss the process of declaring a PA by October 2020
		4.1.3. The management committee with Uyand SIELA lawyer will draft a PA proposal by Dec 2020. The PA proposal will contain details about the boundaries of the PA, the restrictions on resource harvest by stakeholders and governance.
	4.2 Posting of Public Notice regarding the PA proposal and community/landowners meeting discussion by Oct 2020	4.2.1. Public notice about the meeting to discuss the PA proposal is posted by Oct 2020. The public notice needs to be up for 4 weeks.
	4.3. Land owner consultation meeting and endorsement of PA proposal by Oct 2020	4.3.1. Uy and his team will hold a meeting with the NKN landowners to discuss the details of the draft PA proposal, the boundary map of the proposed Yato PA, and nomination of management committee (if changes are desired) by Oct 2020.
		4.3.2. Elected management committee signs and endorses the PA proposal by Oct 2020
	4.4. Letter indicating intent for the proposed PA will be written and sent to relevant Ministries and Provincial Government by Oct 2020	4.4.1. The Management Committee, in consultation with Uy, his team and the SIELA lawyer will draft a letter to relevant federal Ministries and the Provincial Government indicating the intent to establish a PA, including the PA proposal by Oct 2020
4.4.2. The Management Committee will present the letter of intent to establish a PA and meet with relevant federal Ministries and Provincial Government by Oct 2020		
4.5. Consultation with four neighboring communities (Wanahata, Iaru, Notorara and Bagarei) and Ward 17 Council of Chiefs regarding the boundary map and general support by Oct 2020	4.5.1. Meetings with neighboring tribes & the region's Council of Chiefs to discuss the boundary map, as well as the NKN communities' goal of declaring the PA, by Oct 2020. We will ensure that all neighboring tribes are consulted and the map revised accordingly	
4.6. Draft a management plan for the NKN PA by Oct 2020	4.6.1. The management committee will develop and draft a management plan for the NKN PA (e.g., vision, restrictions of resource use, governance) in consultation with Uy and the SIELA lawyer by Oct 2020	
4.7. Declaration of the NKN PA by July 2021 (the timing will depend on approval by the SI government)	4.7.1. The management committee of the NKN communities, in consultation with Uy and a lawyer from SIELA will submit the PA application to the Ministry of Environment to register the NKN PA through the Protected Area Act 2010 by July 2021	
5. CEPF financial and programmatic reports	5.1. University of Rochester submit annual project audit to CEPF by Dec 2020	5.1.1. External project audit submitted for June 2018 to May 2019 period, in July 2019 (under advice from CEPF, we are conducting the audit in 2020 with the University of Rochester)

		5.1.2. External project audit submitted for March 2020 to Dec 2020 period, in Dec 2020
5.2. Baseline and final evaluation of the gender tracking tool (GTT) applied for University of Miami by August 2018 and May 2020, respectively	5.2.1. Baseline evaluation taken of University of Miami in first project quarter for Gender Tracking Tool by August 2018	
	5.2.2. Final evaluation taken of University of Rochester in first project quarter for Gender Tracking Tool by June 2020	
5.3. Prepare, sign, implement and monitoring Professional Service agreements with SIELA and local counterparts in compliance with CEPF policies. (July 2020). This deliverable will be updated once we secure a local counterpart (by March 2020)	5.3.1. Prepare Terms of Reference for SIELA and local counterparts by July 2020. This activity will be updated once we secure a local counterpart to replace by March 2020.	
	5.3.2. Prepare and sign professional service agreements, which includes detailed deliverables, reporting schedule, financial management requirements for project reimbursement and CEPF flow down provisions, between University of Rochester and the local partner for the biological surveys by June 2020. This activity will be updated once we secure a local counterpart.	
	5.3.3. Prepare and sign professional service agreements, which includes detailed deliverables, reporting schedule, financial management requirements for project reimbursement and CEPF flow down provisions, between University of Rochester and SIELA by July 2020	
	5.3.4. Ensure compliance of professional service agreements, in July 2020, to ensure local partner for biodiversity surveys is compliant, to include completion of deliverables and approval of University of Rochester financial staff of submission of all receipts.	
	5.3.5. Ensure compliance of professional service agreements, in July 2020, to ensure SIELA is compliant, to include completion of deliverables and approval of University of Rochester financial staff of submission of all receipts.	
5.4. Safeguard policies for Indigenous Peoples and Involuntary resettlement implemented and monitored to ensure full compliance with CEPF policy throughout the project duration	5.4.1. Complaints system developed and disseminated to project partners and beneficiaries by August 2018. This was accomplished in June 2019.	
	5.4.2. Permission from the NKN communities formally obtained and sent to CEPF in support of project activities and objectives by August 2018. This was achieved in Dec 2018.	
	5.4.3. Safeguard policies for Indigenous Peoples and Involuntary resettlement implemented and monitored, to include submission of compliance report to CEPF on July 30 and January 30.	
	5.4.4. Final impact report submitted 60 days after project close (December 2020)	
5.5. Final impact monitoring report completed and submitted by July 2020	5.5.1. Monitoring systems established and implemented by UR to measure project impacts and CEPF indicates throughout the project.	

10. Potential impacts: This section will assess expected project impacts (both positive and negative) on Indigenous People.

POSITIVE IMPACTS

Conservation Education. As part of our outreach activities (see Activities 1.5.1 to 1.5.3 in Table 1), we will provide community members with environmental education, especially as it relates to our project of declaring a protected area (e.g., the importance of maintain biodiversity, climate change, etc). The outreach will include powerpoint presentations, leaflets and films/documentaries, including the documentary on our work in East Makira (“Islands of Creation” by the Smithsonian Institute). Note that these materials can also be adopted and used in local schools. Ultimately, we believe that engagement of community members, not just the elders or leaders, will result in full endorsement of establishing the YCA. Further, exposure to conservation ideas will provide stakeholders with a more sustainable perspective that they can apply to their everyday lives (e.g., resource management, hunting and fishing, etc). The impact of our outreach activities will be quantified using surveys administered before and after our program. We will use the New Ecological Paradigm Scale, which will measure the differences in behavior and attitude towards conservation.

Training. Eight stakeholders from the three communities will be trained in several quantitative field methodologies, including mapping, biodiversity survey techniques, and plant and animal identification. These eight stakeholders will also receive general training in ranger duties that will build local capacity to maintain a protected area (training to be carried out by Ecological Solutions Solomon Islands). These eight stakeholders can then be registered with the Solomon Islands Rangers Association, providing them with additional opportunities for further education. In June 2019, we engaged and trained 8 stakeholders in taking GPS data for boundary mapping. We plan to train 8 stakeholders in biodiversity survey techniques this coming May 2020.

Boundary mapping, and identifying culturally important sites. A major component of this work is to create a detailed map of the proposed Yato protected area, which will include 1) its boundaries, 2) the distribution of key habitats (e.g., primary forest, cloud forest), 3) settlements and agricultural areas, and 4) important cultural site (e.g., tabu sites) (see Component 2 in Table 1). Although the detailed boundary map can result in conflicts between neighboring tribes (see below), the more detailed boundary map will confirm ownership of tribal lands (which is critical for declaring a PA). In addition, mapping of culturally important sites will help the indigenous communities in educating the next generation about their local customs. We have accomplished taking data for the YCA’s boundaries, which we are using to create digital maps of the proposed protected area. Additional mapping of cultural sites will be conducted during the biodiversity surveys.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS.

Potential conflicts within and between communities. Declaring the YCA and more formal boundary mapping may result in conflicts within and between tribes. First, with more accurate boundary mapping, neighboring tribes could dispute the boundaries, especially if they are engaged in commercial logging. However, given that the region (*i.e.*, Ward 17) has an active Council of Chiefs, boundary disputes can be mediated directly through their own customs and traditions. In addition, based on our discussions with the NKN communities and a few of the neighboring communities, the boundaries seem to be well documented and agreed upon within the region.

Second, despite the overwhelming support from stakeholders, there will likely be a few individuals who may favor commercial logging over declaring a protected area. This is a possibility in any conservation program in the Solomon Islands. Our approach of engaging the community elders, establishing a management committee, and plans for community outreach should ameliorate this potential problem. That is, by explicitly detailing our goals to the community leaders and other stakeholders, we can create more realistic expectations to minimize conflicts. To this end, we conducted a formal project launching event in June 2019, which provided the NKN stakeholders with

the opportunity to interact with Uy and his team. The goals of the project were clarified during this event, and Uy answered any lingering questions from community members. In addition, because we were approached by the NKN elders to help establish the YCA, there is a strong and general support from members of the three communities, giving us assurance that if this type of conflict arises it can be easily resolved by community elders. If not, we have outlined mechanisms of grievance for such individuals (see below).

- 11. Participatory preparation:** This section will describe the participation of affected communities during the project design process (i.e. prior to submission of the full proposal), and explain how Free, Prior and Informed Consent was obtained.

Prior consultation with indigenous communities.

Elders of the NKN communities approached us to initiate this collaboration, reaching out to our team after our interactions with them during our search for the Makira Moorhen in 2016. In addition, we had three general meetings with community members from the NKN communities prior to developing this project. Leaders of the NKN communities remain committed to protecting their customary land from commercial logging. In fact, community members and elders reiterated their strong commitment to conservation during the launching event in June 2019. Finally, we also met with the President of the Council of Chiefs, Mr. Peter Warito, in 2016 to discuss ideas behind declaring a protected area, where he informed us that the three communities have formed a preliminary Conservation Committee and that they are supportive of this partnership. The meeting was also attended by Ward 17's provincial representative (MPA) Hon. John Mamafe. Given that this project was initiated by the three communities and endorsed by the Council of Chiefs, we will continue with this collaborative approach in implementing this project.

We have obtained a formal agreement to proceed with the proposed CEPF project (see attachment).

- 12. Mitigation strategies:** This section will outline measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits.

The best way to avoid adverse negative impacts while providing culturally appropriate benefits is through the active engagement and consultation with the community and their leaders.

We have conducted (and will continue to conduct) meetings and outreach programs to engage community members in the implementation of this CEPF project. These activities provided a direct avenue for community members to be heard and make an impact on project goals. It also allowed us to explicitly listen and learn from the community, ensuring that their culture and customs are taken into account during the implementation of the project. The outreach component of our project will further ensure that the goals of the project are as clear as possible to stakeholders, as confusion is a major source of conflict within communities (see Component 1 in Table 1).

To ensure that team members respect the customs of the NKN communities, we will draft a Code of Conduct for Visitors, which will be written in consultation with the management committee (in progress). This code will ensure that team members from the University of Rochester, and other collaborators adhere to behavior that is respectful of the local culture. We have written a similar document for University of Rochester students who participate in our field course conducted with support from the Manutage Community of Star Harbor, Makira.

Finally, although we will provide education about the long-term and global impacts of logging and unsustainable practices, all conservation work that we will implement will come first from the

communities' own goals and wishes. That is, stakeholders have been directly involved in the design and implementation of this project, ensuring that the work is in accordance with their local.

- 13. Monitoring and evaluation:** This section will explain how compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples will be monitored, and reported to CEPF and/or the Regional Implementation Team. Monitoring and evaluation methodologies should be adapted to the local context, indicators, and capacity.

One of the activities of this project is to establish a management committee composed of leaders (men and women) from the NKN communities. In Dec 2018, we ran conservation workshop for stakeholders who were chosen by the NKN communities as the YCA's management/conservation committee. With the formation of the management committee, our team has been in close contact with the committee to monitor any grievances, as they will be tasked to be in communication with the general community. In addition, the General Grievance mechanism outlined below includes contact information for the principal investigator of this project, J. Albert Uy, allowing community members to directly contact Uy if they have grievances. The contact information includes email and local and international mobile phone numbers. Our team will monitor and record all of these activities, and provide CEPF and the RIT with quarterly reports, in accordance with CEPF's Safeguard Policies. In cases that are beyond our abilities to mediate, we will immediately inform and refer the case to the RIT at the IUCN office in Honiara and Suva, Fiji. Note, that potential land disputes discussed above are confidential and sensitive issues. We will therefore ensure that these issues are kept confidential.

- 14. Grievance mechanism:** All projects that trigger a safeguard must provide local communities and other relevant stakeholders with a means to raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank.

We have finalized a conflict resolution and complaint mechanism with input from stakeholders, especially the management committee (see Deliverable 1.3 in Table 1). Below is the grievance mechanism, which will be printed, laminated and posted in heavily trafficked areas in the NKN communities (e.g., schools and churches) in March 2020:

This project to establish a conservation or protected area in your tribal land is sponsored by Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. If you have any grievances or questions with the project or project management please contact:

Grantee, University of Rochester: J. Albert C. Uy, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY 14627, USA; Telephone contact: in USA +01 585 273 1309; in Solomon Island 7406580; Email contact: al.uy@rochester.edu

CEPF Regional Implementation Team: Helen Pippard, RIT, CEPF East Melanesian Islands Hotspots, Oceania Regional Office, IUCN, Private Mailbag 5, Ma'afu Street, Suva, Fiji Islands. Telephone Contact: +679 331 9084. Email contact: Helen.PIPPARD@iucn.org

CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org

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.

15. Budget: This section will summarize dedicated costs related to compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples. These costs should be incorporated into the budget of the CEPF grant and/or covered by co-financing.

The first component of this project involved establishing the formal project consent with the stakeholders, which involved considerable input from stakeholders on project implementation. For this, we budgeted the costs of travel and organizing these community-wide meetings. In addition, the management committee participated in a workshop that more explicitly detailed the project's approaches and goals, and provided a primer to conservation. The workshops also provided avenue for the management committee to further develop the project with us. This workshop was ran in Dec 2018. Finally, we have also budgeted the costs of outreach activities, which will provide environmental education to the three communities. The outreach will involve powerpoint presentations, leaflets and airing of documentaries to provide a background in conservation. The outreach will also involve presentations that will provide details about the project activities and goals, ensuring that stakeholders are aware of project specifics. Together, these activities will ensure involvement of the three communities in project implementation, thus reducing potential conflicts.