

CEPF Letter of Inquiry

To submit your Letter of Inquiry, please send it to the [email address for your region](#). If you have any questions or concerns please send your inquiry to the same account, and we will do all that we can to assist.

Thank you for your interest in CEPF.

Organization Information

Organization Legal Name

Wai-Hau Conservation Foundation Inc.

Organization Short Name / Acronym, if any.

Wai-Hau

Project Lead Contact – Provide the name and contact information for the person responsible for correspondence with CEPF regarding this project.

Felix Naitoro (Coordinator)

Wai-Hau Conservation Foundation Inc.

Waisurione Village

West 'Are 'Are Constituency

Malaita Province | Solomon Islands

Email: naitorof@gmail.com

Phone: +677 7408233

Ben Namu (Treasurer)

Ministry of Finance and Treasury

P.O Box 26

Honiara

Email: bnamu@mof.gov.sb | namo.ben10@gmail.com

Organization Chief Executive – Provide the name and contact information for the chief executive or person who is authorized to sign contracts on behalf of your organization.

Max Totorea (Chairman)

Tawamaea Village

West 'Are 'Are Constituency

Malaita Province

Mobile: +677 7608097

Mailing Address

C/- Ben Tahikarea Namu

P.O Box 26

Ministry of Finance and Treasury

Honiara | Guadalcanal Province

Physical Address – if different from mailing address above.

Waisurione Village

Afutara Postal Agency

West 'Are 'Are Constituency

Malaita Province

Country

Solomon Islands

Telephone

Felix Naitoro : +677 7408233

Ben Namu : +677 7673459

Fax, if any.

Not Applicable

Web Site Address, if any.

Currently no Website. For additional information please check our Facebook Page link below.

Facebook Page Link - <https://www.facebook.com/WaiHauConservationFoundationInc?ref=bookmarks>

E-mail Address – Provide an e-mail address. CEPF will use this to communicate the status of your application.

Felix Naitoro – naitorof@gmail.com

Ben Namu – bnamo@mof.gov.sb / namoben10@gmail.com

Total Permanent Staff

The Foundation has no permanent staff. The Foundation however is managed by the community with the supervision and direction of the trust board Committee. The trust board members includes-

Chairman – Max Totorea

Director – Felix Naitoro

Treasurer – Ben Tahikarea Namu

Secretaries – Vahid Namu and Raymond Ho'ahania

Community Leader – Joel Hou'u

Other Members

Israel Kionia

Charles Oekeni

Janet Ofani

Freda Naitoro

Year Organization Established

Formally established on June 2nd 2010 under the Solomon Islands Charitable Act (Cap 24)

Organization Type

Local

International

Local organizations should be legally registered in a country within the hotspot where the project will be implemented and have an independent board of directors or other similar type of independent governing structure.

History and Mission Statement – Provide a brief description of your organization’s history and mission, including experience relevant to the proposed project.

Brief history

Wai-Hau Conservation Foundation Inc. is 100 percent Rural Community-Based Conservation Organization also managed by the rural communities based in ward 25 - West Are’ are Constituency, Malaita Province. Its coastal coverage has been remarkably an undiscovered prime breeding site for the endangered leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys Coriaceous*) over the past decades. At the same time, it acts as the main road access for Wairaha, Hauhui and surrounding communities. In fairly recent years, it has been realized that these species heavily exposed to human exploitation causing constant severe stress to their natural breeding process and population. Other contributing factors include unregulated logging operations, commercial timber milling and extensive agriculture due to population pressure, causing continuous degradation to the environment and consequently the leatherback turtle’s habitat due to lack of Regulatory and Management Framework.

To protect these endangered species and safeguard the degrading environment, the local communities agreed to form Wai-Hau Conservation Foundation Inc. as a Regulatory and Management Framework in 2008 at Waisurione village. It was then formally established by virtue of incorporation under the Charitable Act of Solomon Islands on July 2nd 2010.

Mission Statement

Build local capacity and knowledge in Resource and Environmental management practices through inclusive engagement, active partnership, proactive dialogue and participation with all stakeholders including local communities, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Malaita Provincial Government, Solomon Islands National Government, individuals and Donor partners in the most prudent manner to create a self-reliant society.

Relevant experience to the project

Wai-Hau has vast experience and existing local capacity in leatherback turtle from similar project undertaken in 2014-2015 called “*CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS TO ENHANCE LEATHERBACK SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION*” in partnership with the Marine Research Foundation (MRF) of Malaysia through the Ministry of Environment and Conservation of Solomon Islands. Draft Report of this project can be accessed through this link <http://www.rufford.org/files/14398-1%20Detailed%20Final%20Report.pdf>.

Trainings include training of local rangers’ basic technical knowledge of using tagging devices, GPS handling and operation, Nest protections, data collection and relocations of threatened eggs to safer grounds due to beach erosion from inevitable sea level rise. Trainings were conducted by turtle experts from MRF.

The experts from MRF were heavily involved in the initial stage providing technical support and building local capacity on site at the village for a month. In 2015, more than 90 percent of the implementations were carried out by Wai-Hau Conservation Foundation with the existing capacity. Technical expert involvement is reduced to a week. It is a positive milestone indicating communities are capable to manage such projects with minimal technical assistance and supervisions. Nevertheless it is recognized that there is always room for further improvements.

Part of the support under this project, was also utilized to build Wai-Hau Conservation Research Centre in 2014, providing the very much needed environment to administer relevant projects.

Apart from the leatherback turtle project, Wai-Hau Conservation is also currently undertaking other projects including –

1. Mini-hydro project to provide renewable and efficient energy to support Wai-Hau conservation programs in the long term through the Ministry of Mines Energy and Rural Electrification. Stage one is nearly completion. That is data collection for the design phase.
2. Rainfall data collection through the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorological Services. The project is aimed at understanding the annual rainfall patterns in West Are ‘are for cultural usages, future infrastructure development designs and natural disaster and climate change adaption
3. Bio-diversity project under UNDP. To protect the degrading bio-diversities.
4. Long term plans are – Eco-tourism and Natural Water Purification and certification.

Eligibility Questions

The questions below help CEPF determine the eligibility of your organization or proposed project activities to receive CEPF funds. Where possible, you may revise your strategy to avoid these elements or you may wish to consult the "Resources" section at www.cepf.net that provides links to additional funding sources and resource sites.

Ineligible Recipients of Funds

Government agencies, and organizations controlled by government agencies, are **not** eligible to receive CEPF funds.

Do you represent, or is your organization controlled by, a government agency?

Yes

No

Government-owned enterprises or institutions are eligible only if they can establish (i) that the enterprise or institution has a legal personality independent of any government agency or actor, (ii) that the enterprise or institution has the authority to apply for and receive private funds, and (iii) that the enterprise or institution may not assert a claim of sovereign immunity.

If your organization is a government-owned enterprise or institution, can it clearly establish each of the three items named above?

Yes

No

Ineligible Use of Funds

CEPF will **not** fund the capitalization of trust funds, the purchase of land, the involuntary resettlement of people, or the removal or alteration of any physical cultural property under any circumstances. Please answer "yes" or "no" to each item below.

Does your proposed activity intend to use CEPF grant money to capitalize a trust fund?

Yes

No

Does your proposed activity intend to use CEPF grant money to purchase land?

Yes

No

Does your proposed activity intend to use CEPF grant money to resettle people?

Yes

No

Does your proposed activity intend to use CEPF grant money to remove or alter any physical cultural property (defined as movable or immovable objects, sites, structures, and natural features and landscapes that have archeological, paleontological, historical, architectural, religious, aesthetic, or other cultural significance)?

Yes

No

Safeguard Questions

The questions below will help CEPF to determine whether your project triggers any of the World Bank's safeguard policies. CEPF is required to assess all applications to determine if safeguards are triggered, and if so, whether or not appropriate mitigation measures are included in project design and implementation. For further information on CEPF application of safeguards please refer to http://www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/safeguard_policies.aspx.

Environmental assessment. Will the project have adverse impacts on the environment? If you answer yes, please provide additional information and a description of mitigating measures you will take.

Yes

No

Natural habitats and forests. Will the project cause or facilitate any significant loss or degradation of forests or other natural habitats? If you answer yes, please provide additional information and a description of mitigating measures you will take.

Yes

No

Involuntary restrictions of access to resources. Will the project introduce or strengthen involuntary restrictions of access to resources? If you answer yes, please provide additional information and a description of mitigating measures you will take.

Yes

No

Indigenous peoples. Does the project plan to work in lands or territories traditionally owned, customarily used, or occupied by indigenous peoples? If you answer yes, please provide a brief description of planned activities in these lands or territories, any adverse impacts foreseen on these indigenous peoples and any mitigating measures you will take.

Yes

No

The project will be implemented on 100 percent traditionally land owned by our Indigenous tribal groups. The project site covers three tribal lands (Po'otori, Aena'ura and Ausi). It is also a public road access for the communities over the years thus certain access and use of light at night times will be restricted. As part of this project, public notices will be served to schools, churches and surrounding communities as awareness as well ongoing involvement of people on basic rules and guidelines. There will also a wider community awareness involving members from each tribal group as done in the past two projects.

Pest management. Will the project involve use of herbicides, pesticides, insecticides or any other poison for the removal of invasive species? If you answer yes, please provide the name of the pesticide, herbicide, insecticide or poison you intend to use.

Yes

No

Project Title and Request

Project Title

“Building Capacity in monitoring and management of the Leatherback turtles in Are ‘are”.

CEPF Region – Please list the CEPF region where your project will be implemented. CEPF funding regions are described on www.cepf.net.

East Melanesia

Project Location – Define the geographic location (including country, corridor, site, etc) where project activities will take place.

The project will be implemented on site at Waisurione village in ward 24 of West ‘Are ‘Are Constituency, Malaita Province. It is located more than 80 kilometers south of Malaita province’s capital – Auki. The transport mode to and from Auki to Waisurione is via public motor vehicle.

Project Duration – Enter the approximate time period of your project.

The project duration is for 12 months. Will run from 2016 to 2017.

Strategic Direction from the CEPF Ecosystem Profile – Enter the single strategic direction this proposal aims to address. Use the exact number, such as 1, 2, etc. and wording from the ecosystem profile for this region found on www.cepf.net.

The project aims to address Strategic Direction 3.

- Strategic Direction 3. ‘Safeguard priority globally threatened species by addressing major threats and information gaps’. The focus is on the leather back turtles in Are ‘are, Malaita province.

Funding Request Amount – Enter the amount of funds (in US \$) requested from CEPF.

USD\$ \$19,885.61

Total Project Budget –Enter the total budget for this project from all funding sources.

\$19,885.61

Counterpart Funding – Identify the amounts and sources of any other funding already secured to be directed to this project.

No counterpart funding.

In-Kind Contributions – Enter the amount of your organization’s contributions to be directed to this project and explain how these have been calculated.

- Office Space and Conference room (Wai-Hau Conservation Research Centre) - \$1000 per week. The office space is rate is \$1000SBD per week equivalent to \$125.60 USD per week. For 16 weeks is \$16,000.00 equivalent to \$2,009.60 USD. The office space and conference room will be used for the duration of the project for project administration and trainings. This is the normal rate applied from previous engagements.
- Walkie Talkie - USD\$200. Existing equipment from the current project.
- First aid Kits- USD\$120. Existing Equipment from the current project.
- Water proof Bags-\$USD 100. Existing equipment from current project.
- Projector - USD\$1,004.80. Existing equipment.

Project Budget – Provide a breakdown of the proposed budget (in US\$ and only for the CEPF funded portion of the project) using the following categories.

Salaries/Benefits:

- Project Manager - USD\$199.76.
- Rangers Coordinators – USD\$2,876.54
- Night Rangers- USD \$4,794.24
- Assistant project Manager –USD\$199.76

Professional Services:

- Financial Management Information System (FMIS) MYOB Training- USD \$187.28
- Secretarial and Report writing Training USD\$399.52
- Project Management Training USD\$599.28

Rent and Storage:
Telecommunications:
a. Internet and Communication USD\$74.91
Postage and Delivery:
a. Stamps and airfreights USD\$62.43
Supplies:
a. Desktop PC USD\$1,248.50
b. Printer and accessories USD\$324.61
c. Camera USD\$1585.60
d. Stationaries USD\$87.40
e. Pit Tag USD\$374.55
f. Gum boots USD\$187.28
g. Rain Coats USD\$149.82
Furniture and Equipment:
a. Cupboard USD\$49.94
b. Billboards plus installations USD\$1,410.31
Maintenance:
a. PC Desktop USD\$93.64
b. Gen-set for Consultation USD\$62.43
Travel:
a. Project Manager – Auki – Honiara – Auki (Report Compilation) USD\$187.28
b. Rangers Look and Learn Trip to Zaira USD\$1,707.95
c. Participants travel for Community Consultation USD\$104.87
d. Accommodation USD\$ 1797.08
Meetings & Events:
a. Resource Personal USD\$87.40
b. Stipends USD\$424.49
c. Community Consultation Rations USD\$149
d. Coordinators and Rangers Refresher Training USD\$49.94
Miscellaneous:
a. Bank Charges USD\$52.44
b. Freights USD\$156.06
c. Other Logistics – USD\$199.76
Sub-Grants: None
Indirect Cost (max 13%): None
Total Budget: USD\$19,885

Letter of Inquiry

The letter of inquiry is meant to provide CEPF with an overview of the project concept. It is typically 2-3 pages in length, and must include at least the following information:

Project Rationale – Describe the conservation need (key threats and/or important opportunities) your project aims to address and what would happen if this project were not implemented.

Pacific leatherback turtle populations have declined alarmingly over the past 25 years (Spotila et al. 2000), and for management and recovery efforts to be effective, obtaining accurate estimates of current abundance and distribution at critical habitats is essential.

The Recovery Plan for U.S. Pacific Populations of the Leatherback Turtle (NMFS & USFWS 1998) lists identification of primary foraging areas and monitoring of the status and abundance of foraging populations as key priorities, given most of the current knowledge about leatherbacks comes from nesting beaches, and little is known about leatherback marine habitat use. Based on published estimates of nesting female abundance, leatherback populations are declining at all major Pacific basin nesting beaches (Spotila et al., 1996; NMFS and USFWS, 1998c; Dutton et al., 2007).

The leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys Coriacea*) is Endangered throughout its global range with populations facing high probability of extinction due to environmental and demographic stochasticity as a result of fisheries interactions, direct harvest (of turtles and eggs/nests), predation, and habitat degradation.

Demographic stochasticity in the Solomon Islands arises from threats such as collection of eggs and juveniles and adult turtles for consumption (although turtles are considered sacred at some sites, they are eaten at most others, either as part of cultural practices or simply as a protein alternative), bycatch in artisanal and commercial fisheries (to a large extent this also includes foreign offshore fisheries) and possibly climatic factors including increased storm erosion and decreased nesting area availability. Wai-Hau Conservation locality is no exception. With no support from governments and stakeholders for the past decades this species is exposed to human and animal poaching.

Environmental stochasticity arises from threats such as beach erosion, which is another major current concern as a result of sea level rise and climate change. Previous records from 2014-2015 indicated five (5) nests were destroyed due to beach erosion. With technical know-how on nest relocation to a managed designated hatching site will help reduce the number of nests being destroyed by beach erosion. Habitat degradation relates to current logging activities along the Wairaha basin posing greater risks to the leather back turtles breeding habitat (4.8 kilometre Wai-Hau beach) over the last decade. Logs, debris and soils are often washed ashore on the beach due to landslides and floods associated with the logging operations along Wairaha basin acting as barricade on the beach limiting access to the beach.

The monitoring and recovery effort from previous engagements under Marine Research Foundation (MRF) in 2014 and 2015 was limited. Only the summer season (June –September) was considered. Winter season (October – January) was not considered, and neither was how to address environmental and habit degradation threats. It was recognized that this creates a perception gap within communities with only partial data and information for the development of a monitoring and recovery management plan being available. Hence, persistent threats from human poaching were still manifested, undermining the broader recovery and effort to protect the species.

This project will enable us to undertake an inclusive monitoring and recovery effort which includes both the summer and winter seasons to reduce environmental stochasticity and human and animal exploitations of eggs, nests, juveniles, adult turtles on a 12 month rather than 4 months basis. Local rangers will be trained in monitoring and recovery skills including relocation of nests from beach erosion to a designated hatching location, and collect and document information to determine the exact timing of hatchlings are due to travel back to the sea in order to protect them from human and animal poaching.

Project Approach – Describe the proposed strategy and actions of your project in response to the conservation need stated above. Include the expected results of the project and any potential risks you face in implementing this plan.

The project aims to build the skills of Wai-Hau staff including local rangers in monitoring and recovery efforts for leatherback turtles, so that accurate data can be collected. Staff and rangers will also participate in look and learn trips to other sites in the Solomon Islands so that they can learn from and compare monitoring efforts taking place in other areas. Raising awareness of the need for turtle protection amongst communities, and obtaining information on current community utilization and monitoring efforts, will enable scientific data to be coupled with social perspectives. These activities will allow the staff of Wai-Hau to begin compiling information into a draft management and recovery plan for the leatherback turtles of West 'Are 'Are that could potentially (with input from wider stakeholders) be expanded to cover the Solomon Islands and perhaps further afield. The project approach will include-

1. Build local technical capacity and skills in monitoring and recovery efforts

This project will provide further training and capacity-building opportunity in monitoring and recovery efforts for Wai-Hau staffs/ rangers of Hauhui, Pauna nu'u, Wairaha and Waisurione communities to accurately monitor and document leatherback turtle nesting on the 4.8 km beach during both summer and the winter nesting seasons from 2016-2017. Communities will be provided with necessary equipment to document nesting location, eggs, tagging and monitoring along the beach. Four rangers will then be engaged at Wai-Hau during the monitoring seasons to mark nests, recording date and time, number of eggs and protecting the eggs as well as safeguarding the hatchlings to the sea from human and animals. Data collected with previous data collected will be analysed and feed into the Monitoring and recovery Management Plan that will be developed at the end of the project to by Wai-Hau.

2. Look and Learn trip

Eight (8) local rangers from Wai-Hau will undergo a look and learn trip to Zaira in Marovo, Western province. Training will include acquiring protocols and technical knowledge and skills on how to handle eggs and nests from its original location to a designated hatchery site due manage beach erosion, sea level rise, human and animal poaching. This will reduce number of nests and eggs that would potentially be destroyed by beach erosion due to high tides and rough seas.

Zaira was chosen based on its economic comparative to other similar conservation localities around the country. More importantly, Zaira's monitoring and recovery method of transferring eggs to a particular designated hatchery site which was also approved by the University of Queensland turtle experts, is perfectly relevant to Wai-Hau's geographical makeup. Currently there is no specific relocation or nurturing site at Wai-Hau. Where there is possibility of eggs vulnerability, based on rangers personal judgement, eggs are relocated only a few meters from the original nesting ground. Considering Wai-Hau's vast area of 4.8 km, managing single nest has been a difficult task resulted in many been destroyed defeating the outcome and long term aim of the project. The training at Zaira will indeed provide an ideal and more relevant capacity building training for our rangers to prudently manage turtle nests to achieve the outcomes of the entire project and its sustainability with an effective monitoring and recovery management plan.

3. Wider community consultation

The 4.8 kilometre beach stretches across three tribal groups. Po'otori, Aena ura and Ausi. Hence, a wider community consultation will be carried out by Wai-Hau in two folds.

- a) Convey message of the major threats to the leather back turtles and inform the communities of the significance of the project to the species and the rural communities and also to promote community ownership of the implementation of the project. Community leaders will therefore be engaged in the consultation workshop to be held at Waisurione village who will then convey the message to their wider communities through church announcements and other traditional gatherings. These resource people will be monitored to see if messages are conveyed by means of direct contact to other members of respective communities.
- b) Gain and understanding of how communities and the general public –
 - i. currently utilise turtles and eggs
 - ii. involved in present monitoring and recovery process and in the future

- iii. what measures or role they can play to protect and manage the turtles and
- iv. Identify what could have been done better in previous projects that how it would be best approached in through this project and in the future.

Such information will then feed into the draft Monitoring and recovery Management plan to be developed by Wai-Hau as part of Wai-Hau contribution to the project. As part of the ongoing awareness process billboards will also be erected at both ends of the beach to convey message for protecting the species to the public on daily as part of the monitoring and recovery process plus understanding the linkages between the environment and the effort to protect the leatherback to help reduce environment and habitat degradation.

4. Financial and other professional training

Financial training on MYOB and other professional training will be provided to Wai-Hau key personels for the purposes of proper management and reporting of the progress of the project. MYOB training will include mapping of Wai-Hau accounting and reporting processes and requirements electronically in order to prudently manage the project. If finance is not properly managed it can have an impact on the monitoring and recovery efforts thus defeating the effort to protecting these species.

5. Preparation and development of a draft Monitoring and recovery management plan for the recovery and protection of the leatherback turtle in West 'Are 'Are region.

Using information and data collected during previous monitoring seasons (e.g. 2014-2015) and 2016/2017 season, community consultations and the look and learn trip(s) plan, a draft monitoring and recovery plan/framework will be developed. The life span of this project may not allow for the plan to be finalised and endorsed but we anticipate that the data collected will enable us to begin this vital task and produce a draft document for discussion and refinement with other stakeholders.

Link to CEPF Investment Strategy – How does your project relate to the CEPF investment strategy presented in the Ecosystem Profile? (This document may be found at www.cepf.net) Your answer should include reference to a specific strategic direction from the relevant ecosystem profile that the project will support.

The project aims to address Strategic Direction 3.

- Strategic Direction 3. 'Safeguard priority globally threatened species by addressing major threats and information gaps'. In this case the leatherback turtles.

Project Partners / Stakeholders – List any partners to be directly involved in implementing this project as well as important stakeholders and how you have involved them in your planning.

The project will be working in partnership with the

1. Ministry of Environment, Conservation, Disaster and Meteorological Services.
Provide posters and other training materials for the community consultations. Report of implementation will be submitted to them for references purposes.
2. Marine Research Foundation (MRF)
MRF will assist in supply of specialized equipments to be used for the ranger's period. Specialized equipments are not available locally. These are very important equipments. Also provide technical advice on regular basis if need be.
3. Local Communities
Key personnel from communities (Paunanu'u, Wairaha and Hauhui) will be part of a wider community consultation to be held in Waisurione by Wai-Hau. Through this community consultation, information on the key threats and the monitoring and recovery efforts, importance and expected outcomes from the implementation will be conveyed to the communities. These key personals will disseminate these informations to their relevant communities at the beginning and during the course of the implementation.
4. SICCP
Provide brief to look and learn participants of the importance of the project and other technical advices on project implementation.

Long-term Sustainability/Replicability – Describe how project components or results will continue or be replicated beyond the initial project.

Develop Management and Recovery Plans

Information and data collected are vital for the sustainability of the monitoring and recovery effort. With the current

non-existence of any monitoring and recovery management plans or conceptual guidelines, information and data gathered will feed into a monitoring and recovery management plan or framework to be carried out by Wai-Hau at a later time hopefully with the assistance of other stakeholders. The monitoring and recovery management plan will focus on strategic actions on how to address threats affecting the population and existence of the leather back turtles in Are' are. The monitoring and recovery management plan will also form the basis for linking relevant stakeholders particularly the provincial and national government policies.

In addition, use the information and data to establish Wai-Hau Eco-tourism initiative with other stakeholders targeting the leather back turtle as a key tourism product to provide income for the communities to see the benefit of the project thus take ownership and sustain the project even without donor support.

Please compose your letter of inquiry in the section below.

* Letter of Inquiry

1. Project Rational
 - Protect the leatherback turtles from more human and natural exploitations to increase population
 - Increase awareness of the importance to protect the species
2. Project Approach
 - Build local capacity through technical trainings to enable local people to confidently and take ownership of the need to protect the species
3. Link to CEPF investment strategy
 - Aimed to achieve CEPF strategic direction 3. Safeguard priority globally threatened species by addressing major threats and information gaps'. Particularly the leatherback turtle species
4. Project Partnership
 - Ministry of Environment, Conservation, Disaster and Meteorological Services
 - Marine research foundation
 - Local communities
5. Long term sustainability
 - Develop monitoring and recovery management plan.