

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

Date

May 5, 2018

CEPF Grant 103738

Grantee

Natural Resources Development Foundation

Project Title

Forest Conservation through Payments for Ecosystem Services in the Mt Maetambe to
Kolobangara River Corridor, Solomon Islands

Project Location

Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization.

Natural resources Development Foundation

2. Grant title.

Forest Conservation through Payments for Ecosystem Services in the Mt Maetambe to Kolobangara River Corridor, Solomon Islands

3. Grant number

103738

4. Grant amount (US dollars). - \$120,306

5. Proposed dates of grant.

1st July 2018 to June 30th 2020

6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken.

Solomon Islands

7. Date of preparation of this document.

22 April 2018

The Process Framework will describe the project and how restrictions of access to natural resources and measures to assist affected communities. Affected communities should have the opportunity to participate in the drafting of the Process Framework. Typically, the Applicant will prepare a draft Framework that will then be shared and discussed with local communities and other relevant stakeholders. Based on the consultations, a final Framework will be prepared. CEPF may provide guidance on development of the Framework and will review and approve the final Framework prior to approving the final project proposal application. The Process Framework should include the following elements:

A. Project background

Logging has been a major contributor to Solomon Islands' national and rural economies for several decades. Exports of forest products contributed 50 - 70% of the country's annual export revenue and continues to be one of the largest component of its economy. Timber stocks in the country have been severely over-harvested during the last two decades. While the commercial logging ventures do provide employment for local communities and build some schools and clinics, local people are not seeing the benefits that were anticipated, with infrastructure being limited and of poor quality and royalty payments highly variable. In addition to not reaping the rewards of the logging operations, the communities are suffering from the effects of poor forestry management practices. In addition to the environmental

implications discussed below, many social issues are associated with forestry in Solomon Islands including corruption, land disputes, prostitution, child abuse and corruption. Unsustainable logging has had serious impacts on forests and the larger environment. Logging has changed the vegetation cover of the main islands of Solomon Islands, reducing biodiversity and threatening endemic species. Further, the forests provide significant “ecosystem services” which include but are not limited to habitat for plants/animal; carbon sinks; water catchment areas; soil filtration; erosion control; food and shelter; runoff avoidance, and flood control. The project sites linked to this proposal are located in Choiseul Province which contains tremendously diverse forest ecosystems. Choiseul Island has a total of 92 bird species, the highest for a single island in the country. There are 24 mammals recorded for Choiseul, 25 species of reptiles and 21 species of frogs. The freshwater ecosystem is amongst the most diverse in the South Pacific Islands. Specifically, the target areas subject to this proposal are located in the Mt Maetambe/Kolombangara River Corridor, recognized as a Key Biodiversity Area. The areas are under high pressure from logging companies, trying to get their way in by offering landowners fast cash. Not implementing the conservation project in these areas will certainly mean that the forest will be logged. However, among the Choiseul Provincial Government, local communities, and local organizations is a mounting recognition of this unique biological diversity, and the need to protect significant proportions of what remains of native forest and seascapes. In an effort to provide forest owning communities (tribes) with a "pro-forest" alternative income to unsustainable logging, NRDF has developed a suite of activities that are leading to improved forest management and increased household income. One of these activities, and subject to this proposal, is to link forest conservation efforts to Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES). Since 2012 NRDF is engaged in both National and local REDD+ initiatives. However it was in 2014 when NRDF captured interest in the Nakau programme, a PES programme initiated and running successfully by Live and Learn in Vanuatu and Fiji. This community based PES programme seemed to fit the vision and mission of NRDF to help local communities to conserve their threatened forest ecosystems. NRDF has built strong relationships with many forest communities in the area and already started to implement some Nakau readiness activities within the partner areas in Choiseul. The main aim of NRDF is to develop the Nakau-PES programme into a pro-forest income generating activity, supporting forest communities in Choiseul to protect and conserve their forest ecosystems.

The Nakau Programme methodology framework requires all projects to undertake a form of legal protection of the ecosystem supporting the ecosystem services used to generate PES units within the Project Area. In this project the Tribes will use the provision of the Solomon Islands Protected Area ACT 2010 and Protected Area Regulations 2012 to declare their area legally protected.

Therefore two major processes in the project can be identified:

1. The process towards declaring forest area as protected areas under the Protected Area ACT 2010
2. The process towards Nakau verification and sell verified PES units

The reason this project triggers the Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions is that when the forest area is declared PA/Nakau landowners can only harvest forest products:

- If it has no commercial purposes (only used for housing and livelihood)
- Under restricted timber harvesting: 10% in PA's and 5% of total volume in Nakau designated areas
- With permission from the Protected Area Management Committee and/or Rangers

B. Participatory implementation

The implementation of the project in all 4 tribal target areas will follow two processes:

1. Process declaring the area Protected Area under the PA ACT 2010
2. Nakau project validation process

Two of the four tribal groups have already decided to start the process to declaring their area Protected under the PA ACT. (Garasa and Siporae). The two other tribes have not started the consultation meetings yet but have shown interest in both PA and Nakau.

Regarding the protected area, a consultation within each tribal groups including chiefs, elders (men and women), youths and young children. These consultation meetings will engage the tribal members to contribute towards the following activities but not limited to them as stated on the protected area tool kit.

1. The category of the protected selected
2. The naming of the protected area
3. Contribute towards the development of the protected area management plans
4. Contribute towards nomination of protected area management committee
5. Contribute towards the selection of protected area rangers.

The Protected area toolkit has provided a platform for participation of all members of the tribe. Therefore, this process is an inclusive process that does not leave any one out.

Within the Nakau process four main decisions are identified that trigger FPIC and/or need a mandate from all the tribal project owners:

1. Registration of legally project owner entity (also in PA)
2. Agreement with terms and conditions in the PES agreements
3. Agreement on the Management plan (also in PA) and Business & benefit sharing plans
4. Agreement for the Project Description to be submitted for validation

NRDF will make sure that above decisions are carefully “handled” and will follow the right procedures as is prescribed in the Nakau Methodology Framework.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

This project will protect the interest of the indigenous people and will not allow activities that will affect the indigenous people living within their customary land. Protected Areas give landowners legal protection against logging and mining activities, including trespassing from neighboring tribes. The category that will be chosen is **Resource Management Area** and landowners can continue using the forest to harvest necessary products. Participatory land use planning and mapping will make sure that areas are reserved for gardening and other land uses and that will not be protected. Nakau activities only take place within the boundaries of the Protected Area.

Therefore no people will lose the right to use the forest but the use is more regulated to protect against over harvesting and ecosystem disturbance. It protects the people against large exploitive activities such as logging and mining.

The Nakau project itself is expected to provide people with an economic alternative and necessary income while closing the area for logging/commercial harvesting and managing the area as a Legal Protected Area.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

NRDF does not expect that the project will affect any individual or members of the tribes as the people will not be stopped entering or using the area for their necessary forest products. It will actually protect the people and will ensure a long term sustainable use of the forest resources.

Therefore, there is no need to measure to assist the affected people. However, if unforeseen circumstances do rise then NRDF will follow protocols as described under Section E and F of this document.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint 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.

This grievance mechanism must include, at a minimum, the following elements.

- Email and telephone contact information for the grantee organization.
- Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team.
- Email and telephone contact information for the local World Bank office.
- The email of the CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org
- A statement describing how you will inform stakeholders of the objectives of the project and the existence of the grievance mechanism (e.g., posters, signboards, public notices, public announcements, use of local languages).
- You should include the following text, exactly, in any grievance mechanism: “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.”

Following the guidance above, describe the grievance mechanism that you will use.

Because the programme is implemented under the Nakau programme most monitoring and grievance mechanisms follow the requirements set out in the Nakau Methodology Framework. The Nakau Programme has developed a special Dispute Resolution Framework which includes a recommended template that each of the parties involved (Project owner, Project Coordinator and Programme Operator) should develop and use to help resolve disputes between those parties. This Template will be developed together with the project owners during the preparation phase of the PES projects (Part of the project description document).

Regarding grievance that could arise during the implementation of CEPF project activities:

NRDF will develop and print a small brochure (in simple English) with a summary of the project and also include all the elements described above. It will clearly explain the steps somebody can take to raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank. The procedures will also be explained during meetings and gatherings with the tribal groups. All tribes involved will also sign a partnership agreement with NRDF clearly describing the roles and responsibilities of NRDF and the Partner (Tribe).

F. Implementation Arrangements

The protected area toolkit provides a strict protocol on the protected area act on the management of the protected area. A management plan will developed based on biological, cultural, social, spiritual and economic development. A wider consultation will be conducted within the tribes and their inputs will be part of the management plans. Then a management committee will be form to implement and monitor the management plan. This will be followed by the recruitment of the rangers who will enforce the management plan. Any grievance about management plan issues (and use of protected area) should be taken up with the management committee.

In regards of Nakau activities: Any grievance or complaint received by NRDF will trigger the Dispute Resolution Framework and procedures that will be developed as part of the project validation. Every year this process is closely monitored by the Project Coordinator (NRDF) and the Project Operator (Nakau). It is also part of the 3 or 5 yearly external audit.

NRDF will inform all the tribal members about the dispute resolution protocols under Nakau.