

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

7 March 2019

CEPF Grant 109296

FORCERT

**Community conservation through sustainable land use & village-based eco-
enterprises in the Cape Saint George Key Biodiversity Area in Papua New Guinea**

Namatanai District, New Ireland Province, Papua New Guinea

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: FORCERT
2. Grant title: Community conservation through sustainable land use & village-based eco-enterprises in the Cape Saint George Key Biodiversity Area in Papua New Guinea
3. Grant number: 109296
4. Grant amount: USD 80,776.27
5. Proposed dates of grant: 01/06/2019 – 31/05/2021
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Papua New Guinea
7. Date of preparation of this document: 07/03/2019

A. Project background

The gap between the very small wealthy part of the PNG population and the urban and rural majority continues to grow rapidly and is still becoming more and more obvious, especially in the larger cities. Deteriorating Government services, especially infrastructure, education and health, are making rural life more and more difficult and harsh. Improvement of service delivery and infrastructure to rural areas is the current government's main focus, but it remains to be seen if their strategy for that will be effective. At the same time, governmental promotional focus continues to be on large scale agricultural development, particularly oil palm, and on mining as these generate direct Government revenue. Although there now is some recognition of the need to promote small & medium enterprises in PNG, this does not appear to be part of a strategy of promoting smaller scale and ecologically sustainable agricultural development at the village level. Rather large scale resource exploitation projects are still being promoted as necessary to bring "development" including infrastructure to the rural areas. The importance of PNG's natural resources and biodiversity for the vast majority of the population has grown with the effects of climate change becoming obvious. Rural communities obtain food, building materials, medicines, decorations, safe drinking water, etc. and are still closely connected to their environment for their spiritual life. With weather patterns expected to become increasingly unpredictable, communities will have to rely more and more on their forests and other ecosystems for food and water security.

Throughout PNG there are many communities wanting to manage their own land and resources in a sustainable manner and that want to conserve the biodiversity of the ecosystems their land comprises of. In order to withstand the pressure from large foreign logging, oil palm and mining companies wanting to access their resources, the communities need to organize themselves, plan and manage their land use and conservation efforts well, and ensure they obtain sufficient income from their sustainable land use to meet the development aspirations of all community members.

Through this project the local landowning communities directly involved will organise themselves, understand the importance of sustainable management and conservation of land and resources, develop their own sustainable land use plan and their most viable village-based eco-enterprises. With this level of ownership and control of their own development, and various options of sustainable income generation, the community will be able to withstand the pressure of large scale destructive resource mining and land grabbing foreign enterprises. The community land use, conservation and action plans need to be linked to the government development plan system, starting at the Ward level, and working its way up to District and Provincial level. This will allow the community to show neighbouring communities and other communities in the Islands Region that it is possible for local communities to effectively protect biodiversity and developing sustainable livelihood options, while safeguarding the many other benefits conservation provides (this also relates to SD1, IP1.4 Demonstrate conservation initiatives).

If this project would not be implemented these alternative solutions would not be available, and landowning communities would succumb to the pressure of large scale industrial resource and land exploitation, leading to extensive, often irreversible biodiversity loss and other environmental and social

damage. For the Cape Saint George area, there are concrete plans for large scale oil palm plantation by Lakai Investments. Another proposed large scale operation over the same area is a logging operation by Topayo Holdings. The third large scale threat to the area is a mining operation by Cheroh Mining PNG Ltd. Both the oil palm and the logging companies are trying to convince the landowning clans to give their consent for their operation by handing out goods like boats with outboard motors to communities.

This project is located in the Cape Saint George priority KBA. The current strong threats of unsustainable developments (logging, mining, oil palm) that will have a very serious impact on the biodiversity of the Cape Saint George area, has led a number of communities in the Konoagil Local Level Government (LLG), Namatanai District, New Ireland Province, to invite FORCERT to work with them. This led to the first partnership between the Kait community and FORCERT, and visits were made to some of the other new potential partnership communities to confirm their invitations were supported by the community, and that there is broad support to work with FORCERT. The main need expressed by the communities during these visits, is for them to be able organize and plan themselves to withstand the pressure of these proposed large scale destructive developments, in order for them to remain in control of the changes that happen on their land, and be able to preserve the biodiversity and natural resource on their land.

The project is a continuation of a CEPF small grants project. The results of this project, for the FORCERT work with Kait, and in particular the Land Use Plan and Community conservation rules were communicated with the Koanagil LLG and this has created considerable interest from the LLG President and Ward Members.

FORCERT has now also been invited by the King and Kabosileo communities (falling under the same Ward as Kait), who are interested to also start a partnership relation.

At the same time the FORCERT partnership work with Kait also needs to be continued, with the next steps of the FORCERT Participatory Process of Change, which will focus on the community identifying their priority needs and the actions they themselves, with support/guidance from FORCERT where needed, can take to address those needs. Then this Community Action Plan needs to be linked with the Local Level Government (LLG) planning system.

Both the first project and the continuation proposed under this project will highly benefit biodiversity in the priority KBA, as FORCERT's partnership work with the communities involved will firstly make them aware of the need for sustainable land and resource use and biodiversity conservation.

FORCERT has witnessed this strong community commitment in its other partner communities on New Britain, and sees this is the result of it way of working with its partner communities, which is aimed at maximum ownership and leadership by the community of the above mentioned community awareness and planning processes, leading to the Community conservation rules (resulting from the community HCV assessment), Community sustainable land use plan, Community action plan, and Community Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) cycle being very much owned by the community and therefore very strong, cementing a long-term commitment by the community to adhere to its very own conservation and land management rules.

FORCERT is collaborating with TEC regarding the special situation of the Cape Saint George Key Biodiversity Area's trigger species Beck's petrel. TEC has applied with CEPF for funding support for continuation of their research into this species, in particular to find its breeding ground(s), and has requested FORCERT to bring in its expertise in community engagement and facilitation of community level sustainable land use planning and conservation. Also FORCERT and TEC will work together to produce a fact sheet on Beck's petrel that can be used by FORCERT for facilitation of its community High Conservation Values assessment process, and for further general awareness purposes on this species at different government levels.

In the normal situation, i.e. without project intervention, communities do not do any land use planning, and traditional conservation rules, including on peles tambu (sacred sites) will be less and less respected and implemented, or may have already lost their power completely. Without information and awareness on the need to balance economic development with social, spiritual, environmental considerations, communities will give economic aspects priority, regardless of their potential (long-term) negative impacts on biodiversity and society. Subsistence farming and cash cropping activities will expand into untouched forest areas, hunting and collecting of species will lead to deterioration of species population, or even local extinction. The communities will also be much more susceptible to proposed large scale resource exploitation project, e.g. mining, logging, oil palm, as they may not be able to comprehend these projects' wide and longer term negative impacts on biodiversity and society.

B. Participatory implementation

The current strong threats of unsustainable developments (logging, mining, oil palm) that will have a very serious impact on the biodiversity of the Cape Saint George area, has led a number of communities in the Konoagil Local Level Government (LLG), Namatanai District, New Ireland Province, to invite FORCERT to work with them. This led to the first partnership between the Kait community and FORCERT, and visits were made to some of the other new potential partnership communities to confirm their invitations were supported by the community, and that there is broad support to work with FORCERT. The main need expressed by the communities during these visits, is for them to be able organize and plan themselves to withstand the pressure of these proposed large scale destructive developments, in order for them to remain in control of the changes that happen on their land, and be able to preserve the biodiversity and natural resource on their land. The results of FORCERT work with Kait, and in particular the Land Use Plan and Community conservation rules were communicated with the Konoagil LLG and this has created considerable interest from the LLG President and Ward Members.

FORCERT has now also been invited by the King and Kabosileo communities (falling under the same Ward as Kait), who are interested to also start a partnership relation.

For all communities we engage with we follow ensure we obtain their FPIC of working in partnership with FORCERT, as detailed in our Participatory Process of Change (PPoC) under Stage 2. Community Entry; Step 2.1 Community to know and understand FORCERT as an organisation / Step 2.2 Checking and confirming FPIC / Step 2.3 Reconfirming community's decision & collection of baseline information.

For Kait this FPIC has already been obtained, and was granted by all clans of the community. For the King and Kabosilaio communities we still need to receive a written expression of interest after which the above detailed Stage 2 steps can be implemented to confirm FPIC.

All decisions on sustainable land use zoning and any restrictions on other uses are made by the community members themselves, through community meetings and workshops, facilitated by FORCERT. Participation of all groups in the community, in particular women and youth is facilitated with often separate group meetings, and where necessary also additional capacity building sessions with e.g. women groups.

Also the High Conservation Value assessment and resulting Community conservation rules are obtained through a similar process, with the community jointly discussing and deciding on any restrictions on access to certain areas and any restrictions on hunting and gathering of certain species.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

The possible unintended impact of the community sustainable land use planning and community conservation rules may be that people are restricted in their access and/or user rights to land and natural resources.

All members of the 5 partner communities, Kait, King, Kabosilaio, Lambom and Kaboman, are affected persons and will be involved in the above mentioned processes. Also clan members from neighbouring communities with land use rights may be affected. Therefore, representatives of neighbouring clans are invited to attend the land use planning process, and also awareness is carried out by our partner communities to neighbouring communities on their community conservation rules and their implications. In the Papua New Guinea rural communities, there are no barriers for people to self-identify as being affected, and they will be able to voice and have their grievance addressed through the community conservation committee.

FORCERT will monitor the performance of these committees at least twice per year to check on any grievances related to access and user right restrictions and the effectiveness of the committee in dealing with them.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

FORCERT will ensure representatives of neighbouring clans with land use rights are invited to attend the land use planning process.

FORCERT will build the capacity of the partner community, in particular the community conservation committee to enforce and monitor the land use plan and community conservation rules, and to carry out awareness to neighbouring communities on their community conservation rules and their implications. If necessary/requested FORCERT can assist in facilitating these awareness.

When during the FORCERT monitoring on the performance of the community conservation committee, a grievance related to access and user rights restrictions is discovered, FORCERT will contact the person(s) involved and check whether they are satisfied with the handling of their grievance by the committee.

If not, FORCERT will ask the committee to reconsider the grievance, and resolve it in a manner satisfactory to both the person(s) involved and the rest of the community.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism.

Local communities and other relevant stakeholders will be able to raise any grievances they have at all times. Customary landowners of the partner and neighbouring communities will be able to raise their grievances firstly to the relevant sectoral community committee, then to the Village planning committee, then Ward development committee, with the Ward member as its chairman. If they are not satisfied with their response, they can communicate their grievance with both the FORCERT management..

We will share all grievances, together with the 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.

A printed description of this grievance mechanism including the email and telephone contacts for FORCERT, the CEPF Regional Implementation Team, and the local World Bank office, as well as the email of the CEPF Executive Director will be made available upon request to all relevant stakeholders.

FORCERT's contact details:

1. Janet Tokupep
Team Leader Kokopo Community Enhancement Team
Mobile: 73921840
Email: jtokupep.forcert@gmail.com

2. Cosmas Makamet
Manager
Mobile: 72072395
Email: cmakamet.forcert@gmail.com

CEPF Regional Implementation Team contact details:

1. Zola Sangga
National Country Coordinator
PNG Office
IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)
c/-Conservation Environment Protection Authority
Dynasty Tower A, 5th Floor, Savannah Heights
Port Moresby, NCD
Mobile: 79037000
Email: zola.sangga@ext.iucn.org

2. Helen Pippard
Project Manager
Oceania Regional Office
IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)
5 Ma'afu Street
Suva, Fiji
Tel: +679 331 9084
Fax: +679 310 0128
Mobile: +679 946 7511
Email address: Helen.PIPPARD@iucn.org

F. Implementation Arrangements

Compliance with the above described process is already completed integrated into the FORCERT PPoC process. The only additional activity will be the communication on the Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism as described above.