

**Social Assessment**

**08/05/19**

**CEPF Grant GA19/02**

**Mai-Maasina Green Belt**

*Developing the Mai-Maasina Green Belt on Malaita.*

**Malaita, Solomon Islands**

**Grant Summary**

1. Grantee organization.
  - a. Mai-Maasina Green Belt
2. Grant title.
  - a. Developing the Mai-Maasina Green Belt on Malaita.
3. Grant number
  - a. GA19/02
4. Grant amount (US dollars).
  - a. \$20,000
5. Proposed dates of grant.
  - a. August 2019-August 2020
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken.
  - a. Malaita, Solomon Islands
7. Date of preparation of this document.
  - a. 08/05/19
8. **Indigenous People affected:** This section will describe the Indigenous People in the project area.

Please add brief info for the other areas

The project area is 100% inhabited by indigenous people who have rights and ownership over all resources in the area. This project will also be 100% led by these indigenous people.

Malaita is one of the largest islands in Solomon Islands, and is known also as “Big Malaita” or Marapaina. Other islands include South Malaita Island also called “Small Malaita” or “Maramasika”. The Population is 137,596 in 1999 national census. There has been no detailed researches carried out in Malaita so far, however, in terms of forest type

- |    |   |           |
|----|---|-----------|
| a) | Montane-----                              | 6612 ha   |
| b) | Hill-----                                 | 354544 ha |
| c) | Lowland-----                              | 20144 ha  |
| d) | Freshwater and riverine-----              | 10705ha   |
| e) | Saline swamp-----                         | 9992ha    |
| f) | Grass land and other non-forest area----- | 4016ha    |

Mai Maasina Green Belt will be based at ‘Aena’ura tribal land, an indigenous land. Decision making regarding land matters is done by ‘Arahanimane council of chief’ the culturally recognized body in the whole of West Are’ are that deals with land issues. Any project or activity undertaken by Mai Maasina that seems contradictory to the cultural values and norms of the Are’ are culture will be referred to the Arahanimane council of chiefs. All tribal land groups speak the same language and are inter –related in terms of ownership of the said tribal lands, a common analogy in Are’ are culture.

Are’are is located more than 80 kilometers south of Auki, the capital of Malaita province. The most efficient mode of transportation is by public motor vehicle. Apart from the leatherback turtle, the area is home for the endemic Malaita Myzomela and Malaita white eye birds. There’s

also an endemic bird species known as Malaita fantail which has not been found since 1982 research.

**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.

Our proposed strategy is simple: to engage experts from within and outside our core team to focus on strengthening key aspects of the MMGB organization in consultation with the communities that we represent. We will then hold a one-week workshop to meet with representatives from each community to approve and pass these key documents and to also discuss challenges, explore opportunities, and strengthen networks and relationships. This methodology will allow us to:

- Formulate a five-year strategic plan
- Establish financial and organizational policies
- Compose an awareness factsheet for use by Malaitan communities
- Explore longer term sustainable pathways for the organization

The importance of these documents and policies are to help guide the organization and individuals. We have our vision and destination but these are the guides that will help us reach these destinations. In the future we hope to see MMGB run as an on ground NGO with full time staff and manned office and resources.

Our constitution requires a board and we are by definition interim board members, we hope to be able to have our first board election during an AGM which will be part of our workshop activity. We hope and plan that the MMGB will have staff in the future and grow as sustainable arms of the organization grow to support its core objectives. We will discuss and plan all this during our meetings, workshop and community consultations. We also hope to involve women as part of MMGB and we are currently scouting out possible women to encourage them to take up leadership roles.

We plan to have our core team of 5 members do an initial community consultation visit to all our 10 target communities prior to our key workshop and documentation drafting. Post workshop we plan to engage an consultant expert to assist us in developing a feasibility study of alternative sustainable livelihood projects for our target communities and to also develop a business plan based on the most feasible alternatives identified. These will help us to work toward achieving our vision for Malaitan environmental action. We will hire 2 staff: A coordinator and admin/finance to be responsible for policy and plan documentation.

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

We see no negative impacts on indigenous people. There will be positive impacts through the empowering of our people and communities to better manage and steward their resources. We anticipate that communities will become more aware and better understand principles of

conservation and sustainable development. Working together, we will develop shared, guiding principles for environmental management on the island, and targets for communities to work towards.

Short-term impacts of the MMGB are a renewed stand against the logging industry in communities that wish to take this stand. We see communities who are better equipped with knowledge and resources and also a network that is able to support them. A long term impact would be the Malaita region as a whole taking notice of this initiative and seeing a viable road to development that keeps a level of intactness to the environment.

**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.

We will only work with communities who have requested us. As part of the initial stages of the project, community awareness consultations will be carried out in the Mai Maasina Green Belt area, to explain the project to communities and gain their support.

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

We will ensure that all activities and outcomes are carried out in a way that is culturally appropriate and respectable to local people.

Land boundary disputes are one of the issues that can be quite unpredictable and may surface any time, especially as the project area covers a number of tribal lands (how many?) Carrying out community consultations and awareness from the project outset, and during the duration of the project should ensure that key land owners and communities are aware and involved in the project as appropriate.

**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.

We will use the current monitoring and evaluation templates provided by IUCN.

**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.

- The email and telephone contact information Mai-Maasina Green Belt : [edgarjmp@gmail.com](mailto:edgarjmp@gmail.com); +677 7446093
- The email and telephone for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team: [helen.pippard@iucn.org](mailto:helen.pippard@iucn.org); [cepfeastmelanesia@iucn.org](mailto:cepfeastmelanesia@iucn.org); +679 3319084
- The address and telephone for the local World Bank office: Solomon Islands, Honiara World Bank Office Mud Alley, Tel : +677 21444
- The email of the CEPF Executive Director: [cepfexecutive@conservation.org](mailto:cepfexecutive@conservation.org)

During consultations, the stakeholders will be informed of the objectives of the project and the existence of the grievance mechanism by word of mouth and contact details to report a grievance will be given to participants and other stakeholders.

Grievances or any issues related specifically to the management of the project from any stakeholder will be discussed with MMGB Executive. Any possible land issues will be discussed with MMGB Trustees or in extreme cases forwarded to Arahanimane Council of Chief. Arahanimane Council of Chief is the ultimate traditional body responsible for solving land matters in West Are'Are region.

Any grievances raised with the project team or third-party contact will be communicated to the CEPF Regional Implementation Team at IUCN within 15 days, together with a plan for remedial action (if any required). 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](mailto: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.

We will adhere to the grievance mechanism stated above.

**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.

There are no dedicated costs toward compliance with safeguards but we will take into account the principles in all our actions.