

Social Assessment

Date 28/06/2018

CEPF Grant GA18/06

Grantee:

Gizo Women in Business Development Incorporated (GWIBDI)

Project Title

Enhancing alternative livelihood through bee keeping on Kolombangara Island.

Project Location

South Kolombangara island, Western Province, Solomon Islands

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: Gizo Women in Business
2. Grant title: Enhancing alternative livelihood through bee keeping on Kolombangara Island.
3. Grant number : GA18/06
4. Grant amount (US dollars):
5. Proposed dates of grant:
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Kolombangara Island, Solomon Islands
7. Date of preparation of this document: 28th June 2018

8. Indigenous People affected: This section will describe the Indigenous People in the project area.

The following communities of Kolombangara will be affected by the project: Vavanga, Pine, Hunda, Vancouver, and Ringi. These villages are situated along the southern coast of Kolombagara island in the Western Province, Solomon Islands. Residents of these communities are descendents of the following tribes of Kolombangara; Leanabako tribe, Viuru tribe, Lolobo tribe, Tusa tribe and Ngedoana tribe. Only Ringi station is situated in the alienated land whilst all the other communities involved are within the customary land boundary. Three quarters of the island of Kolombangara is alienated and is under lease to the Kolombangara Forest Products Limited (KFPL), a forestry company.

All the training and implementation of the proposed bee keeping project will be carried out in four communities in the customary land, and therefore their resources will be used during the training and implementation of the project. Therefore any remuneration regarding services provided for the project will be distributed fairly amongst the communities. At present, the womens groups in Kolombangara island have an existing committee who will be working with Gizo Women in Business incorporated (GWIBDI) to ensure that the distribution of benefits are fairly carried out.

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.

The goal of this project is to establish four honey bee apiaries in four communities on South Kolombangara island, with the emphasis of conserving their natural environment which will provide the basis for a nectar source for the foraging bees. As part of our implementation strategy and the philosophy of the Women in Business Development model, we find that when women take the leading approach we win the respect and support of male leaders and family members and thus we can work together in achieving our goals of conserving our environment.

We will conduct three bee keeping training workshops for the four communities in the customary land, including participants from Ringi station. Participants are financial members of the Dughore Women Association which is the local womens group on Kolombangara island, and who partner with Gizo Women in Business Development Incorporated. The workshop sites will be Pine, Hunda and Vancouver villages. They have the basic infrastructures to host the training workshops.

Gizo Women in Business Development incorporated have established a partnership with the Solomon Islands Small Business Enterprises Center (SISBEC) in implementing a bee keeping project on another island - Simbo - in the Western Province. GWIDBI is working alongside some Divisions of the Provincial Government such as Agriculture, Tourism and the Women Division. The Ministry of Agriculture is interested in developing the honey industry in the Solomon Islands, thus they are willing to provide technical assistance to the program in the near future.

It is anticipated that when the four apiaries are well established, they will become the centre of learning for other nearby communities who are interested to conserve their environment and want to use bee keeping as their livelihood activity. The bee keeping project as an alternative livelihood will certainly highlight the importance of conserving our natural rainforest as the main source of our very existence.

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

Positive project impacts:

- Creating a sense of ownership to take care of the natural environment.
- Positively linking the environment with a livelihood which is also in harmony with its surroundings such as bees being active pollinating agents for fruit trees and all other flowering plants to ensure the continuation of the forest.
- Empowering women and youth to actively participate in conservation activities including the livelihood initiative.
- Incorporating gender issues into the project, thereby ensuring that females and males are proactive in decision making and taking the lead to conserve natural resources.

Negative project impacts:

- High expectation of monetary benefits may divert the project from its desired approach to conserve the environment.
- Very high demand for honey products both locally and nationally may create selfish and jealous attitudes amongst the communities.
- Conflict of interest may arise between the members of the womens group and non members over the conserving of the environment.
- Some conservative ideas on culture and tradition may deem the women taking the leadership role in this initiative as a threat to the male dominated environment although the society is matrilineal.

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.

Meetings were held at two different locations on the following dates: 3rd November 2017 and 8th February 2018 at Ringi station and Vancouver village respectively. The meeting involved the women leaders of other communities, executive and members of the Dughore Women Association and Elders of the communities and church leaders.

During the meetings we discussed the opportunity to source funding to support the livelihood projects for the communities and the conservation of the environment. It was agreed that bee keeping will be the livelihood activity to be established as it contributes to the enhancement of the natural forest at the same time as providing monetary benefit to the communities.

During the meeting at Ringi, the President of the Dughore Women Association, Gei Magu, thanked the Director of GWIBDI, Esther Tali Suti for taking the initiative in putting together the proposal for women members, and assured the Director that her committee and membership as a whole will work together to make the project successful. At the meeting at Vancouver village the women group leader Mrs. Nerolyn Philip highlighted the fact that her community had already started the work of cleaning their environment and urged the Director of GWIBDI to continue to make the program for conserving the environment as

she saw the urgency of this activity. Nerolyn pointed out that the program will not only enhance the environment but will also teach the younger generation to have respect and concern for their surroundings which is vital for a having a healthy family and community. The communities are organizing themselves prior to the implementation of the bee keeping project. Under our partnership, other activities are already taking place such as general cleaning up of the environment from non-biodegradable substances such as plastics, tins and bottles and beautification of the homes and the setting up of women saving clubs.

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

Communication: As part of our consultation with the communities, we engaged with the House of Chiefs for each community including the Church leaders and village elders. Therefore we have informed these levels of governance about the aims and objectives of the program and thus we have been given their support as we have involved them in our initial consultations. Healthy and positive communication will help to establish a much stronger bond between the community and GWIBDI. Communication also involves listening and learning to appreciate each others diversity.

Good relationship: We will always maintain a cordial relationship with the people of the communities besides the womens group that we are working with. For all the activities that we will be carrying out in the communities we need to consult the leaders first as part of our respect and inclusive participation so that we can establish a stronger and meaningful partnership existing between our organization and the community. Where services are provided, a clear understanding must exist between the parties so that benefits are distributed fairly.

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.

Monitoring and evaluation will be done quarterly from the project implementation date. Staff from GWIBDI will ensure that communities are consulted on how the project is going and developing whenever a community is visited. And concerns or recommendations will be taken into account and this safeguard plan will be amended if required.

Contact details for project personnel will be made known.

In addition, after 6 months, a more detailed survey will be carried out by a field officer of GWIBDI.

The monitoring questions in this survey will be based on the following thematic areas:

- Capacity building
- Governance and sustainability
- Impact of the project (Positive and negative aspects)

Questions will include:

- ✓ How would you rate your knowledge about bee keeping in the last 6 months?
- ✓ How often have GWIBDI members come to visit the project sites and meet with project members?
- ✓ How often have the women management committee held meetings with the members to discuss the project?
- ✓ How capable is the management committee to manage the apiary after the project ends?
- ✓ In what ways has the project benefited the community in the last 6 months?
- ✓ In what ways has the project negatively affected the community in the last 6 months?

We decided to do a six months survey to monitor and evaluate our project because it will take some time for the bee hives to perform and so as our trainings to be done. Results from these surveys will be communicated back to the communities.

The organization will use the quarterly monitoring and outcomes of the surveys to closely monitor issues arising from the project in the communities or utilizing opportunities to maximize the benefits in the communities. Where necessary adjustments will be done accordingly to ensure the project runs smoothly and be able to deliver its outcomes. The final report will form the organization's social safeguard compliance for working with the communities.

These activities are included in the project workplan for CEPF/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.

Information about the project purpose, activities, timeline and key contacts (including for grievances) will be shared with the Kolombangara communities through project consultations led by GWIBDI. These will be in the form of face to face meetings and the existence of a grievance mechanism will be communicated in the form of an information document to be made available amongst community members. Project reference documents will also be shared.

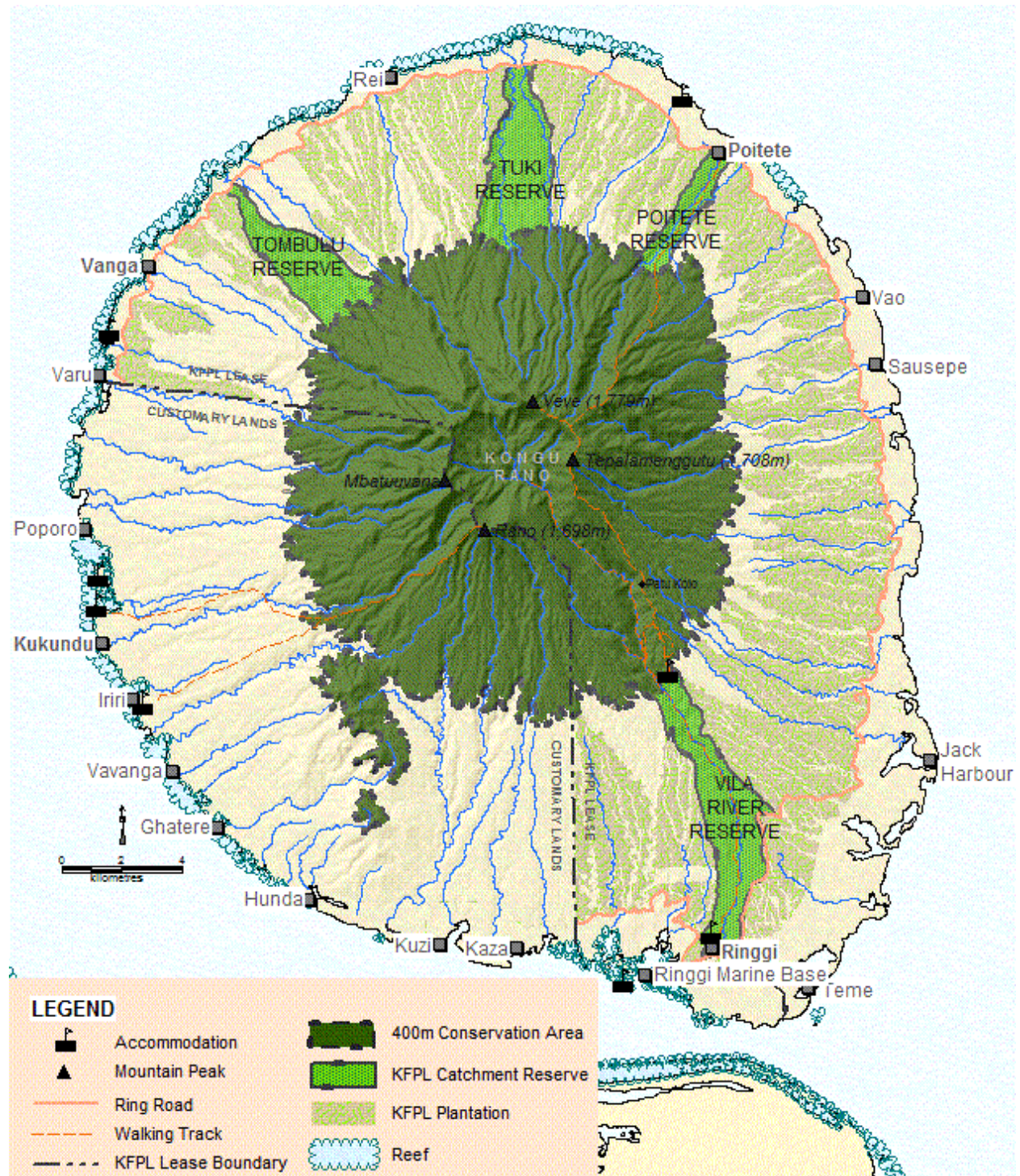
- Email and telephone contact information for the grantee organization:
Esther Suti, (677 774 5247); esthertalisuti@gmail.com
- Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team
Helen Pippard, helen.pippard@iucn.org; +679 331 9084; +679 9467511
- Email and telephone contact information for the local World Bank office:
World Bank Office Mud Alley, Honiara, Solomon Islands, Tel : +677 21444
- The email of the CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org

As a first line of communication, community members will be informed to first submit any complaints to GWIBDI through discussion with the management committee of the Dughore Women Association. Dughore Women Association will record the complaint and pass it on to Gizo Women in Business Development Incorporation. The project manager will be the initial recipient of any grievance and 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

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 is no budget allocation for the safeguard policy. However the survey and processing of the results will be done by our staff and included in the project workplan.

16. **Map of the area:** Please insert a map of the area where your target communities are located.



Map © KIBCA – www.kolombangara.org