

Social Assessment

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

8. Indigenous People affected:

NB: In Papua New Guinea (PNG) the term “Indigenous People” is not used as its inhabitants, apart from a very small percentage of recent immigrants, are all indigenous. Instead the term “customary landowners” is used. The land of all communities FORCERT works with in the Cape Saint George area is under customary landownership with the landowning clans involved, as recognized by the PNG Constitution.

There are 6 language groups in the Konoagil LLG which Siar-Lak, Kandas, Konomala, Warwar Feni, Label and Sursurunga. There are two main tribes in the Cape Saint George KBA, Mabaum & Marmar through which marriages are being exchanged.

Under these two tribes there are major clans and subclan (*bikpela pisin & liklik pisin*), which in Kait are; Kamlapar, Kamrai, Mongnon, Silbat, Kuur, Koroi, Marnai, Boiboi, Leo, Kaptu, Limut, and Konobua. The larger of these clans are also found in neighbouring villages, but there also are other additional clans there. In Kait there are currently 73 households, with a total population of 384 people.

The customary landowning communities face strong threats of unsustainable developments (logging, mining, oil palm) that will have a very serious impact on the biodiversity of the Cape Saint George KBA, which 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.

9. Summary of the proposed project:

The invitation of the Cape Saint George communities 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.

10. Potential impacts:

Positive impact:

- Increased community organisational and leadership capacity
- Understanding and appreciation of the need for sustainable land and resource use planning and conservation and its link to sustainable livelihood options.
- Identification of High Conservation Values and related HCV areas and inclusion of these areas in communities sustainable land use plans.
- Established community conservation rules & fees and community conservation committees.
- Sustainable land use plan, including agreed user zones for gardening, cash crops, conservation areas, and other identified High Conservation Values and HCV areas.
- Increased awareness with community members of their Human Rights and other laws relating to natural resources use and empowerment allowing them to respond to issues and queries, also leading to further strengthening of the sustainable land use and conservation practices of the community

Possible negative impact:

- Increase in internal conflicts in the communities, either between different clans within one community, or between neighbouring communities. This potential negative impact will be mitigated through ensuring inclusive and transparent public community meetings at every FORCERT community visit, plus informal information gathering on potential conflict issues by the FORCERT community facilitators in dedicated additional days during each community visit. Particular attention will be given to political orientation of community leaders and other key contact persons in the community, as New Ireland is known for the big influence of political orientation, which can divide communities and clans. Extra efforts will be made to ensure the partnership work with FORCERT and all project activities are seen as being neutral and not in any way linked to any political party.

11. Participatory preparation:

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.

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.

12. Mitigation strategies:

All FORCERT's community level activities take place on traditionally owned customary land, as in PNG 97% of the land is owned by customary landowners. FORCERT's activities are implemented under a partnership relationship with the community. We work to empower communities and we build and strengthen community ownership of their process of change. We facilitate, support and guide, while the community leads. Therefore, there are no foreseen adverse impacts of these activities.

The community develops their own sustainable land use plan, including designation for protected areas, and sets their own community conservation rules, which may specify restrictions in hunting, fishing and collecting. They also develop their own committee to oversee and enforce these rules.

The implementation of sustainable land use plans together with community conservation rules in other FORCERT partner communities has shown to lead to culturally appropriate benefits, with reports on very rapid positive effects on species occurrence and numbers, many of those species being High Conservation Value species as identified by the community.

13. Monitoring and evaluation:

Social assessment and impact monitoring is an integral part of the FORCERT Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) system, with baseline information gathered at Stages 1 and 2 of our Participatory Process of Change (PPoC), using the Community baseline & situational change monitoring matrix (V2.1-Nov-18) for each of our partner communities, and annual monitoring after that.

Additional to that FORCERT facilitates development of a community MEL cycle, specific to each partner community, ie adapted to their local context, indicators and capacity. Although this MEL cycle development is marked as Stage 7 of the PPoC, its development is more or less independent from the other PPoC Steps and will already start during Stage 3. Community Organising, and progress during this and the following Stages, guided by the progress made and pace set by the community.

The outcomes of safeguard policy compliance monitoring will be reported to CEPF and/or the Regional Implementation Team in our six-monthly monitoring reports.

14. Grievance 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 or the CEPF Regional Implementation Team.

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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 version of this grievance mechanism will be made available upon at the beginning of the project to all stakeholders through the village councilor of each partner community.

15. Budget:

The dedicated costs related to compliance with this safeguard policy will be included in the budget for the project activities related to field visits and monitoring & evaluation.