

Social Assessment

03/05/ 2018

CEPF Grant: GA18-03

Rotokas Ecotourism

*Clanship and resource mapping within customary lands of the Kunua Plains and Mount Balbi
KBA*

Bougainville, Papua New Guinea

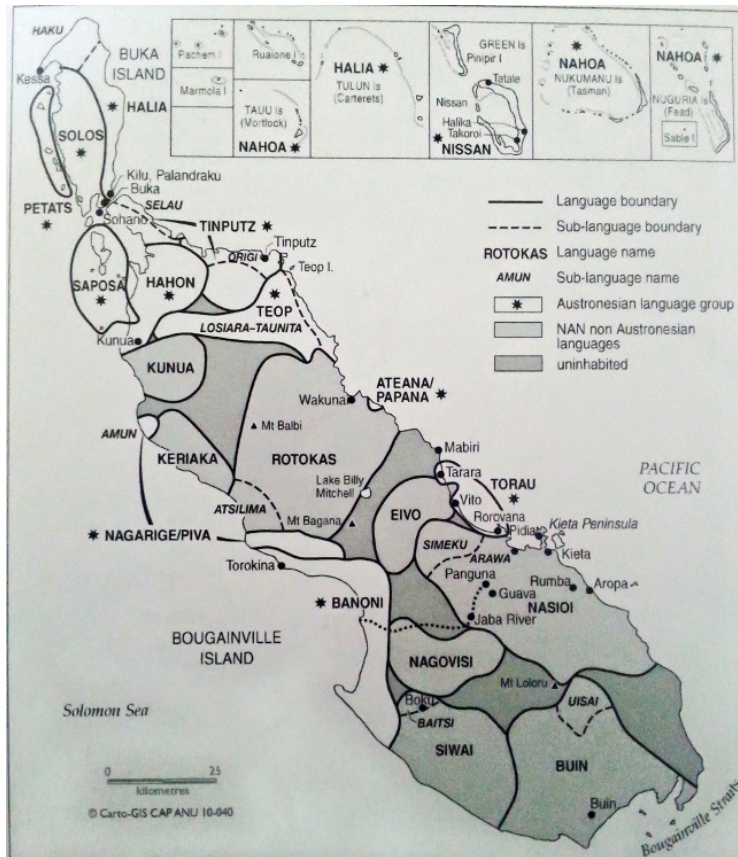
Grant Summary

1. **Grantee organization:** Rotokas Ecotourism
2. **Grant title:** Clanship and resource mapping within customary lands of the Kunua Plains and Mount Balbi KBA
3. **Grant number:** GA18-03
4. **Grant amount (US dollars):** \$15,000
5. **Proposed dates of grant:** 1 June 2018 – 31 May 2019
6. **Countries or territories where project will be undertaken:** Bougainville, Papua New Guinea
7. **Date of preparation of this document.**

8. Indigenous People affected:

The Rotokas language area of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB) extends fully across Central Bougainville (Figure 1) and is primarily found in the Wakunai, Torokina and Kunua districts.

Figure 1: Languages of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.



The Rotokas, Kunua, Torokina and Keriaka clans are generally found in Wakunai, Kunua, and in south Kunua and Torokina districts, respectively. The National Statistics Office estimated the populations of Wakunai (15,960 people), Torokina (4,376 people), and Kunua (16,236 people) districts (Table 1).

Table 1: Population and Growth Rates of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB) by Districts, National Statistics Office, 2012.

	Growth Rate	2000 Census	2011 Census	2015 Projected	2020 Projected
ARoB (Total)	2.68%	175,160	234,280	263,722	310,632
North Bougainville (Subtotal)	2.75%	73,091	98,458	111,583	132,414
Tinputz District	3.92%	9,767	14,908	17,399	21,117
Kunua District	3.80%	9,089	13,700	16,236	20,425
Selau/Suir District	3.96%	9,446	14,477	16,967	20,758
Buka District	2.34%	36,676	47,285	52,867	61,946
Nissan District	0.31%	5,725	5,923	6,011	6,134
Attols District	-0.89%	2,388	2,165	2,102	2,035
Central Bougainville (Subtotal)	3.70%	40,444	60,311	70,502	87,956
Wakunai District	4.32%	10,023	15,960	20,075	28,147
Kieta District	2.60%	18,530	24,586	27,645	32,353
Panguna District	3.93%	11,891	19,765	22,782	27,457
South Bougainville (Subtotal)	1.86%	61,625	75,511	81,637	90,263
Buin District	2.32%	26,469	34,074	37,368	41,950
Siwai District	1.16%	13,724	15,582	16,368	17,449
Bana District	1.91%	17,442	21,479	23,375	25,144
Torokina District	0.84%	3,990	4,376	4,525	4,720

9. Summary of the proposed project:

Our goal, which is a top priority identified by indigenous communities in the Kunua Plains and Mount Balbi Key Biodiversity Area, is the formal mapping of the clanship boundaries, Sacred Areas, Traditional Use Areas, and important biodiversity habitat features and areas. The chiefs have started the process of organizing themselves locally and opening communications with adjacent communities to identify these areas.

Objective 1: Train three (3) teams (comprised of RET leadership and 2-3 community members each from Rotokas, Keriaka, Torokina and Kunua) on methods using GPS units to map clanship boundaries, Sacred Areas, Traditional Use Areas, and important biodiversity habitat features and areas in the Rotokas, Keriaka, Torokina and Kunua areas. District maps obtained from the Bougainville Bureau for the Environment will be used to work with each team and provide them specific details on where they will be mapping within their respective areas. Teams will establish an initial schedule for mapping, including regular check-ins with RET to download the geospatial and descriptive data on the features being mapped, resolve any concerns identified by the communities, and coordinate on the next stage of mapping. Special plans will be established to ensure the teams coordinate along the boundaries to help ensure complete coverage while minimizing redundant efforts.

UPDATE Q3 2018

Objective 2: Complete in-field mapping of clanship boundaries, Sacred Areas, Traditional Use Areas, and important biodiversity habitat features and areas in the Rotokas, Keriaka, Torokina and Kunua areas. Through consultations and targeted meetings, teams will ensure local communities are aware of the work in the area to minimize confusion and, as needed, to help locate clanship boundaries, Sacred Areas, Traditional Use Areas, and important biodiversity habitat features and areas.

Objective 3: We will produce a map of the KBA that shows the clanship boundaries, Sacred Areas, Traditional Use Areas, and important biodiversity habitat features and areas in the Rotokas, Keriaka, Torokina and Kunua areas. The data from the three (3) teams will be consolidated and a series of DRAFT maps will be produced for each of the clanship boundaries, Sacred Areas, Traditional Use Areas, and important biodiversity habitat features and areas. These draft maps will be reviewed with the chiefs and communities to ensure they accurately represent the combined knowledge of the people and the agreements of the chiefs.

10. Potential impacts:

The vision for our project was developed in consultation with the communities and at their request to help them proactively resolve challenges that they are currently facing. Two periods of colonialism, World War II, and their civil war has negatively impacted the local indigenous culture. Following and respecting traditions of protecting the forests and biodiversity has been lost over the years and resulted in the degradation of the forests. People clear forests and build new hamlets in sacred areas, often because people generally do not know where sacred areas and clan boundaries are located. Chiefs have sent hunters into other clan areas as well.

Positive Impacts: There are several direct and indirect positive impacts that will come from this initiative:

- a) Community empowerment will come as the people are able to proactively lead and participate in a priority that they identified;
- b) The social mapping (sacred areas, clan/community boundaries) and resource mapping (forest, caves, biodiversity areas, etc.) will also empower them to manage their community members to protect the environment while limiting negative impacts of forest clearing for new villages and agriculture; and
- c) The mapped habitat and biodiversity resources will also provide important information that can be integrated into local tourism and other potential livelihood initiatives.

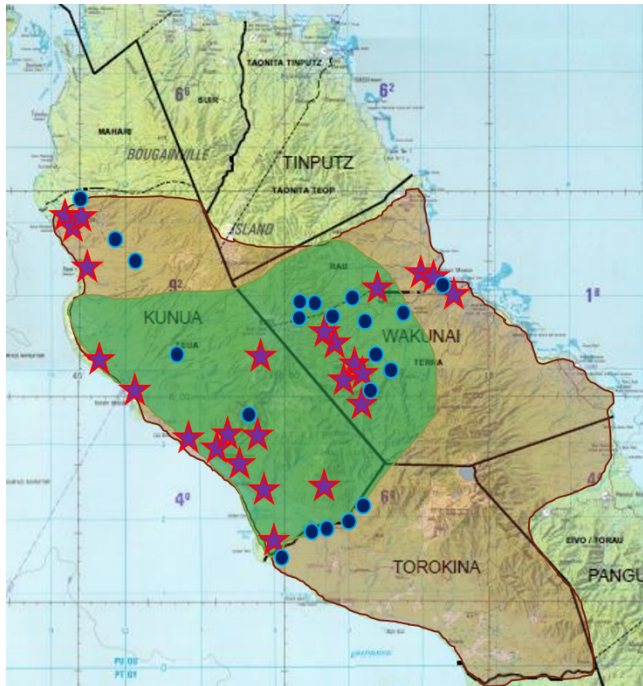
Negative Impacts: Based on our communications with the communities during 50+ consultations, we do not anticipate any significant negative impacts.

- a) If the project does not move forward, the community may lose faith as one of their top priorities to help empower them to manage their environment was not implemented with them; and
- b) Some community members may not be supportive of following community/chief guidance to protect sacred areas and other important areas in the environment through limiting hunting and clearing of forests.

Independent of our work and to promote cultural, forest, and biodiversity conservation, the clans are exploring imposing restrictions the locations of hamlets and villages on themselves. This may result in the involuntary restriction or resettlement of some community members from areas of high cultural and/or biodiversity value.

11. Participatory preparation:

Since 2015, over 50 community consultations have been implemented by the Rotokas Ecotourism team to promote biodiversity conservation through empowering communities (see below). Consultations varied among the communities, but primarily included extensive discussions with 1) chiefs, 2) full communities, 3) women groups, 4) educators, 5) schools and 6) government departments. The vision and priorities of the communities were shared and concerns openly discussed. All aspects of our broader initiative have been discussed and mutual priorities and broader approaches agreed upon. Fundamental requirements for any project includes: 1) showing respect for the communities and culture, 2) training community members and including them in the projects, and 3) sharing the data in usable formats as the data and outcomes of the analyses belong to the clans. Further, all conflicts and grievances must be resolved following traditional practices under the authority of the chiefs.



Kunua Plains & Mount Balbi Key Biodiversity Area (shaded green area)

Rotokas, Kunua, and Keriaka Indigenous People lands (shaded red area)

50+ Consultations Completed (stars: ★)

Communities prioritized for additional consultations (dots: ●)

12. Mitigation strategies:

As stated above, we do not anticipate significant adverse impacts as this initiative represents a priority identified by the communities and is based on transparency and trust established during 50+ consultations. However, the RET is committed to avoiding conflict and to proactively resolving issues in a timely manner by working with the communities following traditional practices.

To limit the chance of issues developing, and to be able to proactively resolve any that develop in a timely manner, we will recruit 2-3 trusted members of the communities in the Rotokas, Kunua, Torokina and Keriaka districts. The teams will: 1) be trained and will conduct the field mapping in their region; 2) coordinate with community leaders as the work is conducted in their areas to ensure local knowledge informs the work and to avoid new concerns; 3) maintain transparency with the communities on all of the work done under this initiative; and 4) represent the interests of their communities with the RET team. We have agreed with communities that sensitive knowledge held by the clans will not be shared externally but may be included in this project as it is the foundation for empowering local communities with knowledge of their sacred areas and environment.

We anticipate that the local team leaders will avoid conflicts through their regular communication with each community during the mapping. If an issue is identified, the work will be suspended until it is fully resolved with the communities and with RET leadership. Significant issues will be reported to CEPF for awareness and, as needed, on the resolution.

Involuntary Resettlement: This potential impact is independent of our work but is an action some clans/communities are exploring to promote cultural, forest, and biodiversity conservation. While respecting clan authority and as appropriate, RET will participate in the community consultations to promote ideas that ensure the environmental and cultural protection is achieved and that the families that may be relocated are cared for and have greater access to community services (e.g., schools, health care). For example, in community conversations to date, clans have explored offering relocated families incentives like land near established communities for their homes and farming.

13. Monitoring and evaluation:

Implementation of our collaborative initiative will continue as established during the project development stage and will follow traditional practices of consulting with the chiefs and local communities. These consultations will ensure the project is implemented in a culturally sensitive manner, that we maintain transparency with the clans on our progress, and that any concerns with the communities are identified early and proactively resolved.

- Given our field teams are from the local communities, we anticipate being in regular contact with the communities, allowing for any grievances to be identified and resolved while they are small.
- Notices containing the Grievance Mechanism contact details of the RET lead, the CEPF RIT, CEPF Secretariat and the World Bank will be put up during consultations.
- Formal consultations at each community are another standard activity and we will share progress and follow traditional practices to identify and resolve any emerging grievances.
- At least monthly, the field teams will report to the RET team on their progress and any routine concerns from the communities. Field teams will be directed to immediately report significant issues that are encountered so that the expertise of RET can be engaged to help address a grievance and to ensure reporting to CEPF and the RIT.
- Grievances that are significant, or have the potential to be significant, will be immediately reported to CEPF and the RIT.

14. Grievance mechanism

The project was developed with and will be implemented with local indigenous communities. The project objectives will routinely be shared with the communities in their local language (Rotokas, Kunua, Torokina, Keriaka), Pigeon, and/or English during consultations. We will seek to hear grievances and are committed to following traditional grievance resolution by working with the chiefs.

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.

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.”

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