

SOCIAL ASSESSMENT – INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Strengthening the Governance and Capacity of Kahua Association for Biodiversity Conservation

Indigenous Peoples in the Project Area

Makira – Ulawa

Makira Island and its surrounding satellite islands are a critical biodiversity hotspot, having one of the highest rates of endemism in the entire Solomon Archipelago. This unique island group comprises of a vast range of flora, fauna and habitat ranging from rainforests, mangroves and wetland ecosystems.

Kahua Region comprises of approximately 23 strong communities that consist of a number of main and sub tribes. Recording genealogies was a past project of the Association where actual recordings of tribes are yet to be done. The Association intends to provide outcomes of this at a community gathering to be tagged to an awareness activity under this Grant. These communities speak the same dialect and have a social structure in place where decisions are made by the Kahua Council of Chiefs.

Kahua Association is an established Community Based Association along the East Coast of Makira that comprises of about 100 communities spread along the coastline and up along river systems into the interior of the Island. Although the association has not been active since 2010, our recent collaboration with SICCP in Honiara is timely as it has broadened the horizon of opportunities and new partnerships through confirmation of for an MoU signing with SICCP.

Early in 2015, SICCP in collaboration with BirdLife International and Kahua Association carried out a CEPF Project titled “In Search of the Makira Moorhen”. The overall objective of this Project was to search for the “Kia” or Makira Moorhen (*Pareudiastes silvestris*) known to exist only on Makira Island however there have been no confirmed sightings since the 1950s' but stories of sightings from trusted sources in recent years. The most recent sightings of the species by western scientists have been 1929 – around Hunogaraha in the Central Mountains of Makira and 1956 – below Wuranakumasi on Naghasi Ridge in the Kahua District. Informal reports in the late 1990s come from Marunga on the Weather coast where dogs caught a bird in the Ravo headwaters and 2005 when hunters reported observing a 'kia' around the Pihuru Basin.

Potential Positive and Negative Impacts

Positive:

Succeeding this Grant, an added value was the SICCP - KA MoU endorsed at Kahua Association AGM in November 2015. KA is referred to as the Governing Body of East and West Wainoni communities however since 2010, the Association's operation has been stagnant. A positive approach will be to have an

Administrator employed through this Grant and having a physical office set up in Kirakira. Communities raised in their recent AGM that they fully support the revival of Kahua Association and will work together with their Executive to enable activities on ground that will benefit the communities.

Negative:

The negative impacts are likely to be minor, if they occur. This Project will only last for one year, where most the activities are happening at the Provincial Capital – Kirakira so lesser impact will that be to the daily functions of communities.

Employment opportunities of this Project will be limited; therefore disagreements amongst employee, households will be possible. The Kahua Executive was elected at an Annual General Meeting in November 2016. This Executive comprises of 7 members representatives of the East and West regions of Kahua. This governing body is in place to do most decision-making where there is minor involvement with the entire communities but only with the Chief or Elders of each community.

CONSULTATIONS WITH AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Consultations have been conducted with communities of Kahua Association in a recent engagement with SICCP under a one-year Project “*In Search of the Makira Moorhen*”. Though, two major activities of this Project were Biological Surveys for the Makira Moorhen, an expected outcome was to revive Kahua Association. Three Awareness meetings and an Annual General Meeting were conducted throughout 2015, where community representatives that include, elders, chiefs, women and youths were present to revisit Kahua Association and its sole purpose of establishment in 2007.

The reformation of the Executive Committee as its governing body, and spreading the word within the region that Kahua Association is revived there is general consensus from the Kahua populous that a Grant as such in place to rebuild Kahua’s governance is a positive step.

The set up of an office in Kirakira, Makira-Ulawa Province provincial capital and an Administrator in place have been introduced at the November consultation and communities are happy for this Project to be underway and look forward to working together to achieving the Mission and Vision of this Organisation.

MEASURES TO AVOID ADVERSE IMPACTS AND PROVIDE CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE BENEFITS

Kahua Association considers ongoing support and mentorship by the Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP) would be the favorable approach to avoid adverse impacts.

Kahua Communities have been made familiar to SICCP's recent engagement in the bird surveys and as a Partner Organizations within SICCP Eastern network the partnership fostered to date allows for crossing learning approaches that where applicable can be done within the Kahua region.

MONITORING

At the beginning and end of this Project, informal discussion will be conducted with communities of Kahua Association to monitor their local opinion, positive and negative outcomes of the Project. Executive Meetings held through the year and an AGM to ensure that there are ongoing discussions on the progress of the Project and should there be issues raised throughout the year the approach to solve them will be discussed then.

GRIEVANCE MECHANISMS

An office set up in Kirakira for the purpose of this Project provides that avenue for community leaders to access the Administrator and share their Grievances. Likewise, a meeting proposed for Chiefs from the respective regions gives that opportunity for leaders to share with the Executive on grievances by community representatives that might arise over the course of the year.

Any grievances raised with the project team or third party contact will be documented on paper and communicated to the CEPF Secretariat and the Regional Implementation Team at IUCN within 15 days, together with a plan for remedial action (if any required). The Regional Implementation Team can be contacted via phone on +679-331-9084 or email on cepfeastmelanesia@iucn.org and lysa.wini@iucn.org or via post on c/- CEPF Regional Implementation Team, PMB 5 Ma'afu St, Suva, Fiji.

MAP OF THE AREA OF WORK

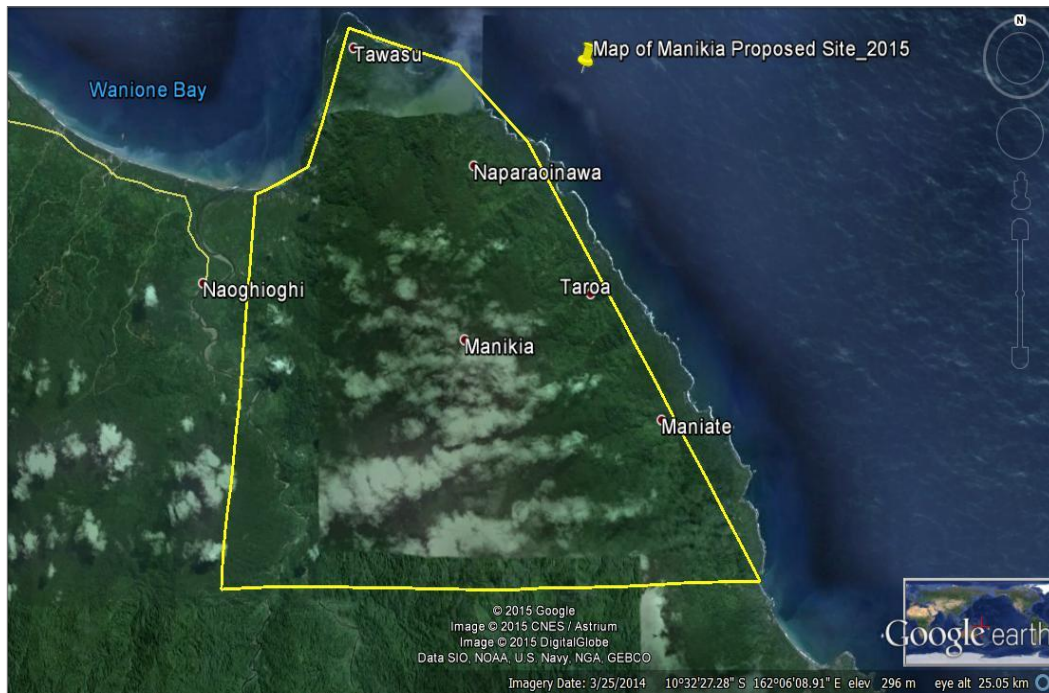


Figure. 1 May of Kahua Region, where the Grant activities will be undertaken

As shown in the above Figure (1) is a display of the Kahua region where the Grant will be undertaken. As labeled in yellow was were the boundaries of which a previous Project “In Search of the Makira Moorhen” was conducted in 2015 – 2016. Though the search was in the allocated yellow shape, Kahua region comprises of communities from the West – Wainoni Bay around the Peninsula and to the furthest East – Pihuru village.