

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
Project Title:	Development of the regional framework (action plan) for marine turtle conservation and capacity building in turtle work
Date of Report:	
Report Author and Contact Information	Mr. Lui Bell Marine Species Adviser Tel: +685 21929 Ext 282 or Direct +685 66281 Fax: +685 20231 Email: LuiB@sprep.org

CEPF Region: Polynesia-Micronesia

Strategic Direction: 3. Build awareness and participation of local leaders and community members in the implementation of protection and recovery plans for threatened species

Grant Amount: \$19,800

Project Dates: 1 February 2012 – 31 July 2012

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

- **SPREP:**
 - Performance of all arrangement (invitation, logistics, programme etc) required for the meeting including leading in the conduct of the review meeting.
 - Preparation and presentation on:
 - Overview of implementation of the regional marine turtle action plan 2008-2012.
 - Marine turtle migration in the Pacific Islands region (flipper and satellite tagging), Threats and Challenges
 - Status of marine turtles' protection in the Pacific Islands region.
 - Development of presentation and conduct of the session devoted to building capacity on turtle nesting monitoring methodologies, taking into consideration the resources available, through presentations on the topic.
 - Compilation of the results of the deliberations and arrange them into the action plan format as the first draft.
 - Finalization and submission of the revised action plan to the SPREP Meeting of Officials for endorsement.
- **Participants:**
 - Presented on national effort for the implementation of the current action plan, issues, lessons learnt etc
 - Actively contributed in the review of each of the 9 themes (focus areas) of the Action Plan and corresponding priority actions through working groups and at plenary sessions. This included discussion, identification and prioritizing areas and actions to be incorporated.
 - Provided additional review on the draft Action Plan circulated by SPREP after the review meeting.
 - Participated at the session on building capacity on turtle nesting monitoring methodologies, taking into consideration the resources available. This session was

- conducted mainly through presentations on the topic but sufficient time was allocated for detail discussion.
- One of the participants (Dr Milani Chaloupka, Ecological Modelling Services Pty Ltd) was also a resource person who presented on *Diagnosing sea turtle status and trends: integrating demography and abundance*.
 - **In-country official/technical contacts:**
 - Reviewed the draft revised action plan before finalization and submission to the SPREP Meeting of Officials in September for endorsement.
 - **SPREP Meeting of Officials:**
 - Endorsed the revised regional marine turtle action plan to guide effort in the region for the next five years (2013-2017).

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

This project dealt with all marine turtle species found in the Pacific Islands region where the most commonly found species are hawksbill and green turtles. The Pacific is also one of the main remaining turtle nesting areas for leatherback turtles. The hawksbill and leatherback turtles are currently listed by IUCN as critically endangered while the green is listed as endangered. This project falls under the Strategic Direction 3, Building awareness and participation of local leaders and community members in the implementation of protection and recovery plans for threatened species. The result of the development of the regional action plan will strengthen leadership, commitment and effectiveness of local conservation organizations by developing peer-learning networks and promoting exchanges. Raising awareness and involvement of communities in conservation effort will be a focus for the implementation of the revised regional marine turtle action plan.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project against the expected results detailed in the approved proposal.

1. Regional Meeting: the regional meeting was the main activity of the project and for the process to revise the regional marine turtle action plan.

The main objectives of the meeting were:

- to develop a new regional Marine Turtle Action Plan, providing priority actions for marine turtle conservation work in the Pacific Islands region to guide regional and national activities for the next 5 years (2013-2017)".
- to review the status of the implementation and lessons learned of the regional Marine Turtle Action Plan (MTAP) 2008-2012.

The meeting was attended by 34 representatives from 18 SPREP member countries and territories and 8 collaborating partners including SPREP.

In addition to the regional meeting, the whole process also involved in the review included:

- Establishing technical working groups from the meeting participants to progress the regional action plan write-up after the meeting.
- Circulation (electronically) by SPREP to all participants at the meeting for final comments.
- Circulation (electronically) by SPREP to all members and collaborating partners for national review before finalization.

- Finalization, translation into French and submission by SPREP to the SPREP Meeting of Officials in September 2012 for endorsement.

The meeting was vital for the development of the revised marine turtle action plan which was endorsed by the SPREP Meeting of Officials in September 2012. Some of the major considerations in the revised action plan include:

- New directions based on lessons learnt and achievements of the current action plan;
- Strengthening of theme areas e.g. addition of management/recovery plans to the theme 'Legislation and Policy' and
- Revision of specific actions, increased emphasis to accommodate major (global) events e.g. climate change and in line with existing strategies including SPREP's Strategic Plan, Oceanscape, as well as addressing issues highlighted in (harmonize with) relevant international conventions, e.g. CMS, CITES, CBD and AICHI targets.

The endorsed marine turtle action plan (**Appendix 1**) will be printed and distributed to all member countries and territories, partners and collaborators within and beyond the Pacific Islands region. Members and collaborators will be able to use the action plan to formulate their respective national turtle action plan as well as using it to prioritize their work.

2. Capacity building on turtle nesting monitoring methodologies

During the above meeting, a session was devoted to building capacity on turtle nesting monitoring methodologies. The methodologies highlighted took into consideration the problem of available resources that is always faced by Pacific Islands. All of the participants to the meeting attended the session as it was slotted in as part of the meeting agenda. The presentation provided options in obtaining data on turtle nesting activities based on two types of turtle nesting monitoring methodologies: (i) Day-time turtle nest/track monitoring survey, and (ii). Night-time turtle nesting survey (encountering the nester). Details on the following areas were included:

- Monitoring frequency (for meaningful results and to capture accurate data);
- Conducting turtle nesting monitoring surveys (what to do and look for);
- Identifying turtle species from turtle tracks;
- Identifying a "successful nest" as opposed to "false" beach crawls;
- Identifying turtle nesting activity;
- Tagging and taking measurements on nesters;
- Recording information/data.

The presentation was made available to all participants.

3. CITES Oceania Capacity Building Workshop

Through other funding, some participants to the meeting to review the regional marine turtle action plan were able to also attend the CITES Oceania workshop which covered the following topics:

- Improved and sustainable wildlife management in countries and a more effective regulation of international wildlife trade;
- Strengthened institutional capacity in CITES Parties achieved by improving knowledge of CITES and CITES-related legislation;
- Illegal (i.e. detrimental) wildlife trade is prevented/reduced;
- Development of networks that enhance regional cooperation, coordination and communication are created; and
- Livelihoods of local communities and rural poor that are highly dependent on wildlife resources are sustained and improved.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:

Species Conserved:

Corridors Created:

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

- The process in the development of the draft revised marine turtle action plan flowed smoothly and the action plan was finalized on time for translation and submission for endorsement. This can be attributed to having the right technical representatives attending the meeting.
- The contents of the revised action plan accommodate new directions based on lessons learnt, strengthening specific actions and consideration of major global events and in line with relevant strategies and international conventions.
- The participation of the vast majority of members as well as quite a number partners/collaborators working on marine turtles in the region is a contributing factor in the production of a more inclusive revised action plan and on a timely basis.
- The revised action plan for the next 5 years (2013-2017) was readily endorsed by the SPREP Meeting of Officials in September 2012.
- Participation of representatives from most of SPREP member countries and territories, as well as partners working on marine turtles in the region at the capacity building presentation on marine turtle nesting monitoring (survey).

Long-term:

- The presentation on marine turtle nesting monitoring (survey) will form the basis for a manual on turtle nesting monitoring by communities and Island nationals.
- The revised marine turtle action plan will provide guidelines for Island countries and territories on priority actions for turtle work as well as on the development of their own national marine turtle action plan.
- The action plan is a regional endorsed document and can thus provide leverage for funding proposals by member countries and territories and other organizations.
- The action plan places high priority on improved involvement of communities, improved information/data and improved protection at the local level

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

nil

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

- Circulation of the invitation, with sufficient lead time for national officials to do proper consultation, helps stakeholders make a decision on the most relevant representative. Provision of clear and sufficient information also helps in the selection process.
- "Piggybacking" with other related meetings helps minimize costs.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

- Discussion in small working groups provides the opportunity for every participant to share.
- Providing a presentation by an 'expert' on a specific topic before discussion provides good introduction for participants.
- Having community representatives present on their work encourages others.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
NZAid		US\$10,894.72	
WWF		US\$5,177.60	
CMS		US\$8,872.54	
CITES		US\$14,224.68	

***Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- C** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

SPREP has a regional marine species programme of which marine turtle is a major component. SPREP will provide direct assistance for the implementation of the action plan and also seek other assistance where necessary for national implementation of the action plan. In addition, SPREP will collaborate with partners in the implementation of the action plan. The endorsed action plan is for 5 years. The contributions from other donors towards financing the review of the action plan indicate the commitment and value by partners of the regional action plan.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

The project did not involve activities that were likely to have adverse impacts on the environment or on local communities.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

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*****If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages*****

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	nr			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	nr			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	nr			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	nr			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	nr			

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table.

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under **Community Characteristics** and **Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit**, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit													
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Increased Income due to:				Improved food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services									
Total																					

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the **Community Characteristic** and **Socioeconomic Benefit**:

