

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Palau Conservation Society
Project Title:	Threatened Species Awareness and Capacity Building in Palau
Date of Report:	February 28 th 2013
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CEPF Region: Polynesia- Micronesia, Site 144- Upland Forest, Babeldaob Island, Republic of Palau

Strategic Direction: 2. Strengthen the conservation status and management of 60 key biodiversity areas.

Grant Amount: 19,700

Project Dates: January 2012 to January 2013

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

The Palau Conservation Society (PCS) built the capacity of local communities to develop and implement conservation outreach projects.

Ngchesar State Government- conservation officers from the state worked with PCS to develop an outreach project to raise the awareness of their community with respect to biodiversity in the state and in Palau in general with a specific focus on the Micronesian Imperial Pigeon and the Hawksbill Turtle.

Aimeliik State Government- conservation officers and board from the state worked with PCS to develop an outreach project to raise the awareness of their community with respect to biodiversity in the state and in Palau in general with a specific focus on the Micronesian Imperial Pigeon and the Hawksbill Turtle.

Ngardmau State Government - conservation officers from the state worked with PCS to develop an outreach project to strengthen leadership support for biodiversity conservation in the state and in Palau in general with a specific focus on the Micronesian Imperial Pigeon and the Hawksbill Turtle.

Belau National Museum (BNM) – Partner with PCS in developing outreach material for biodiversity conservation outreach.

Koror State Government- Partner with PCS in developing outreach material for biodiversity conservation outreach.

Conservation Impacts

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

This project contributes to CEPF's Strategic Direction 3 which is to "*Build awareness and participation of local leaders and community members in the implementation of protection and recovery plans for threatened species*". This project aimed to raise the environmental awareness of communities about species and sites of global conservation concern through social marketing and participatory planning and management approaches.

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

This project had two overarching goals, the first was to reduce threats to "at-risk" species in the states of Ngchesar, Ngardmau, Aimeliik and Ngaraard, and eventually throughout Palau; and secondly to increase the capacity of conservation officers in those 4 states to engage in biodiversity conservation work in their protected areas and communities. It was designed to take advantage of the energy and momentum generated by Palau's Protected Areas Network Initiative. Previous to this, the four states in which the project was located had developed protected areas management plans with assistance from PCS. All these management plans had a communication and outreach strategy to engage the community and build public support for the protected areas and for biodiversity conservation. As such, this project was able to maximize its impact by ensuring that biodiversity conservation outreach would be sustained in the four communities even after the project had ended.

Initially, PCS proposed that it would work with four states to develop and conduct biodiversity outreach to raise awareness of and improve the conservation status of at-risk species. Instead of working with four states we ended up working with three states, Aimeliik, Ngardmau and Ngchesar because at that time Ngaraard had not hired a protected area coordinator. Additionally, we modified the project species awareness raising component to focus on two species, the Micronesian Imperial Pigeon and Hawksbill Turtle. The project focused on these two species because of declines in their populations despite protected status. In implementing this project, PCS partnered with the Belau National Museum's Natural History Department that implements Palau's National Program for Monitoring Forest and Coastal Birds, and Koror State Government that conducted a hawksbill turtle nest recovery survey, to develop outreach materials based on the research findings of projects that they were implementing. Finally, we requested and were granted a one month no-cost extension to accommodate delays in project schedule associated with Typhoon Bopha.

Because successful implementation of this project was dependent on other factors besides PCS actions, the project was delayed for several months. The Protected Areas Network Fund did not award funds to the sites until May of 2012, and therefore state based conservation teams within the target communities were not established until June of 2012. The first half of 2012 was dedicated to working with partners to complete projects, refine messages and develop communication products that would be used in community meetings but would also be used throughout Palau.

Work with the target communities began in June of 2012. PCS worked with conservation officers from Ngardmau, Ngchesar and Aimeliik to develop an outreach project focused on building awareness of the community's protected areas, importance of biodiversity and specifically the conservation status of the Micronesian Imperial Pigeon, *ieb* or *belochel*, and hawksbill turtle, *ngasech el uel*. We worked with the communities to develop and implement a community assessment and analyzed the results of the survey that was conducted as part of the assessment. The survey provided a profile of each participating community and showed the level of awareness they had regarding their protected areas, biodiversity conservation and the status of the Micronesian Imperial Pigeon and the Hawksbill Turtle.

After the analysis had been conducted and findings documented, the state conservation officer developed an outreach project guided by the findings of the survey and mentored by PCS.

In Aimeliik and Ngchesar, PCS helped conservation officers to develop presentations that were subsequently presented at a community meeting in their state. In Ngardmau, we assisted conservation officers to develop a presentation that was subsequently delivered to the Governor, legislators and traditional leadership. At all the meetings, Yalap Yalap, PCS's education coordinator presented a short update on the status of the Imperial pigeon and hawksbill turtle. (See attachments for some of the outreach materials that were developed and used in the implementation of this project.)



Ngchesar Conservation Officer conducting community outreach meeting. The officer is reporting on their progress in implementing the objectives of the state's protected area management plan. This management plan was developed via funding support from CEPF in a project titled "Management planning for the Mesekelat Watershed Conservation Area, Babeldaob."

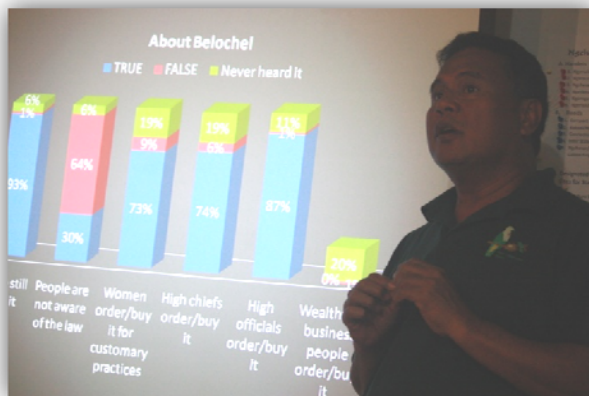
Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: n/a

Species Conserved: Micronesian Imperial Pigeon and Hawksbill Turtle

Corridors Created: n/a

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



In the short term, this project built awareness of the conservation status of the Micronesian Imperial Pigeon and the Hawksbill Turtle. The pigeon presentation showed community members that if trends in poaching continued then Palauans could expect to see the extinction of the Micronesian Imperial Pigeon. This keystone species of Palau's forests is also a culturally valuable resource. Poaching of hawksbill turtle nests were also highlighted at these meetings. Showing community members the linkages between the decline in hawksbill turtle populations and the availability and

quality of “toluk” turtle shells used in certain cultural practices. This project called for behavior changes and community enforcement so that poaching of these species would decrease and/or stop and thereby prevent extinctions so that Palauans will continue to benefit from the existence of these species. This project built capacity for local conservation officers to engage in biodiversity conservation outreach, and therefore will allow for prolonged engagements with communities so that awareness outreach can occur even after the project ends.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

One unexpected but positive impact is that the participating conservation officers reached out to their colleagues from other communities so their colleagues joined the community outreach to learn. It was gratifying to realize the level of ownership they had for this project. They were proactive in their learning, and in fact, we have entered into a mentorship relationship with the conservation officers of two of the communities that we worked with.

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.

- Because the conservation officers of Palau established an alliance it has allowed them to get acquainted and support each other.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings). This project was successful because it built on previous and existing projects at PCS and in Palau. It was designed to complement and enhance outcomes of the management planning work that we had as well as some of the work that we were engaged in with partners to conduct scientific studies of key species. Those factors resulted in communities who were willing and ready to implement and learn about their biodiversity as well as the availability of findings that would go into creating compelling biodiversity messages.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings) We learned that there needs to be a lot of flexibility in project design. Initially we proposed to work with 4 communities but ended up working in 3 communities because of issues within local governments beyond PCS control. Fortunately, we were able to account for this by focusing on communication outreach development and also incorporating some of the outreach into our national programs. This meant that we featured the work of the conservation officers of those three communities on our radio program and on our weekly update television program. In this way we were able to extend the reach of the awareness beyond those three communities.

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
David and Lucile Packard Foundation	Counterpart funding	\$4,000	
PCS	In kind	\$8,300	
RARE	counterpart	\$3,000	

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***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.

This project can be replicated in other communities quite easily. During the Ngchesar community meeting, conservation officers from another state came to show support for their colleagues (Ngchesar conservation officers) who were conducting the meeting. These officers were also there to learn because they needed to conduct outreach projects to their community regarding their plan.



Conservation officers from Ngarchelong State attended the meeting. They intend to do something similar and are looking to their colleagues in Ngchesar to assist them in replicating similar efforts in their community.

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.

Safeguard policy assessments were not created and none were implemented.

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.	yes	1035 Ha	3	This project built the capacity of conservation officers managing three protected area systems to be able to effectively develop and implement biodiversity conservation outreach programs. Thus enabling them to work in their communities to ensure compliance of conservation regulations and species protection laws.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	no	n/a	n/a	n/a
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.	yes	11,600 Ha	3 communities	The states of Ngardmau, Ngchesar and Aimeliik are located on the island of Babeldaob which is a key biodiversity area. This project increased the awareness of people living in the states about the importance of biodiversity and the ecosystems in which they rely. A 2012 study by Birdlife International ranked forests in Palau as 2 nd in the world for its importance to birds. One of the project's focus was on birds and the forests that they inhabit.
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	yes	11,600 Ha	3 communities	This project built awareness for species whose range extends beyond protected area boundaries.
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	no	N/a	n/a	n/a

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

