

CEPF Final Project Completion Report – EMI Small Grants

Please complete all fields and respond to all questions below.

Background Information

Organization Legal Name	Wai-Hau conservation Foundation Inc.
Project Title	Building Capacity in monitoring and management of the Leatherback turtles in Are 'are"
Date of Report	2 nd March 2018
Report Author	Vahid Namu, Felix Naitoro and Ben Namu
Author Contact Information	naitorof@gmail.com , bnamo@merd.gov.sb , vahidnamo@gmail.com
CEPF Region	East Melanesian Islands
Strategic Direction	4.1
Grant Amount	USD\$15,491
Project Dates	2016-2017

1. Implementation Partners for this Project

(Please list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project)

i. **Ministry of Environment and Conservation**

Our first Awareness was conducted by the ministry of environment and conservation prior to our consultation to inform communities on conservation especially on the leather back turtle species.

ii. **Marine Research Foundation**

Training of rangers on handling leather back turtles, pit tags, tagging needles supply of equipment, medical kit and leatherback turtle protocols.

iii. **Solomon Islands Rangers Association**

Solomon Islands Rangers Association was involved in the Supply of equipment for our Rangers work and formalization of a MOU with the Queensland Rangers Association for further rangers training in the future

iv. **Zaira Conservation Association**

The look and learn for Wai-Hau rangers was conducted at Zaira. Amongst other things, they provided first hand training to Wai-Hau Rangers in their relocation of leather Back nests from natural and human threats model. Wai-Hau Rangers were also able to learn about the sea grass implementation at Zaira and nearby communities.

v. **SICCP**

Provided briefing on the importance of look and learn trip and what is expected of Wai-Hau Rangers during and after the look and learn from SICCP's experience and engagement with Kahua Conservation Association in Makira Province. More

importantly, SICCP provided needed logistical support in terms of transportation and resource personnel at the time of the trip.

Conservation Impacts

2. Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of CEPF's Ecosystem Profile for the East Melanesian Islands. For example, you may refer to the Strategic Directions that your project has contributed to.

The project has contributed to the implementation of CEPF's ecosystem profile for the East Melanesian Islands under Strategic Direction 4.1 and also touching on 3.2. Wai-Hau was able to implement SD 3.2 on the basis of the 'Leatherback turtle species' which is regarded as endangered under the IUCN Red List.

The project successfully undertook capacity building for rangers through a look and learn trip. Project and financial management training were also undertaken for WaiHau staff and rangers.

The project's overall aim and objective is to increase the recovery of the leather back turtle species population in Are 'are –Malaita province. Thus, this was achieved through building of an hatchery to relocate the eggs and protect them from beach erosion, and human and animal poaching. Data collected through this project is available and will be used to support our future planned activity in creating a species management plan.

During the project, new sites around Malaita were also identified hence upscaling recovery efforts. This is to expand on the monitoring and recovery of the species to other parts of Malaita where the species is also potentially nesting. Through the 'Look and learn trainings', Wai-Hau Rangers are now able to train rangers from other new sites in Malaita province or other parts of Solomon Islands in the global effort to protect and revive the endangered species population. We have also gone into partnership with other donors and local stakeholders especially in the effort to strategically advocate in bringing all concerned conservation groups under one common platform in protecting the species.

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

We achieved more than 80% of our workplan. Around 20% was not fully implemented due to unavailability of professionals and other reduced actual costs of items versus original budget. Nevertheless, other significant implementation such as the MYOB that is not completed during the project cycle is currently being pursued at our own resources and timing. On a general note, despite being a first timer, we believe that we have achieved great results.

4. Please describe any successes and/or challenges faced towards achieving the expected short-term and long-term impacts of the project work.

Successes

- Through the 'Look and Learn trip' we developed a partnership with Zaira and the Solomon Islands community conservation Partnership (SICCP). SICCP has provided logistical support for the look and learn trip. New hatchery techniques were learned through this trip which

the rangers found very useful and enhanced their ranger skills. As a result of this exchange, there is a noticeable increase in the number of nesting sites that are now protected compared to the past decades. One of our future planned activity is to create a database that would give a more accurate and reliable information on monitoring the species. The database will capture scientific aspects of the monitoring activity, for example location of nests, number of eggs, leatherback turtle measurements, number of hatchlings from the hatchery and in the future migration once we engage in the tagging process etc. From this information we will be able to share with key stakeholders such as the provincial and national governments and other stakeholders to develop national policy for the sustainability of broader leatherback turtle efforts.

- Training of management staff was done. Going forward, trained staff will take on the responsibility to do report writing and other project requirements
- Continuous awareness through billboards has triggered new interested conservation groups both in the protection of the leatherback species and the terrestrial areas being formalized and the need to upscale new leatherback sites being identified. The main awareness displayed on the billboards is “Do Not Kill” the leather back turtles protected under national laws and international treaties/regulatory frameworks enables people to realize the vulnerability thus the need to support Wai-Hau’s effort to protecting the species in Are ‘are and Malaita as a whole.
- A species Management plan which will align with the National government’s policy and support the process towards implementation of a national species policy, will be further developed under a new grant. Information and data collected from the current grant will form the basis for the development of the Wai-Hau Conservation Foundation species management plan.
- A partnership was developed with the Malaita Provincial government and the Ministry of the provincial Government through the implementation of Wai-Hau Conservation Research Centre - we hope if fully completed and facilitated this will definitely support the effective monitoring and recovery efforts of the species. This includes satellite tagging, proper data management and other scientific researches. Initial discussions were held with TNC and Anarvon on the way forward including learning from similar experiences from Anarvon Marine Park and other pacific Islands countries and costing side of this proposed implementation which has been quite informative for a start.

Challenges

- Lack of full time staff. Budget allocation for project officials was minimal and other supporting activities were not implemented due to the need for our volunteer staff to balance other family needs. Wai-Hau is currently managed by its trust board members. Some are permanent employees in other organizations. There is no support towards its overhead cost for managing the whole organization and specific projects that could engage these professionals and capacity to fully run manage the whole project not only from CEPF but other subsequent projects as well. In most cases, activities are implemented when our volunteer staff have free time and are not engaged in their obligational duties. However, we believe through this small grant we have started to build their capacity and in the future we can be able to manage this well through the partnership with the provincial and the national government in terms of budgetary support.
- The organization has also received funding to implement other significant projects; Global Green Grant (Forest inventory) and the GEF project for a species survey. These projects also

have the similar timeline to our CEPF project; hence it challenged our capacity when implementing the activities of these projects with the limited number of rangers and technical personal that we have.

- Our involvement in the implementation of Wai-Hau conservation research building to ensure that the contractor, Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS), Malaita Province fully implement the project according to their time line and contractual specifications and other contractual requirements. This required frequent travel to and from Auki and Honiara which took much of our time to focus specifically on this project.
- Receiving a strong interest and invitations from wider communities for awareness to be conducted by Wai-Hau. Wai-Hau was heavily involved as the focal point for a lot of awareness programs in Malaita, engaging most of our time and resources. Awareness was prioritized on the understanding that conservation is every ones business and supporting new conservation groups will also have a positive impact on the leatherback turtle project in a Melanesian setting like Malaita.
- Weather conditions- The third sign board was not installed due to bad weather (rainy and cyclone season), coastal erosion which is inevitable. However it is expected that this will be installed in 2018 using existing Wai-Hau conservation resources.
- The closure of ANZ banking service in Auki hindering access of funds. It is a risky practice to keep big cash at home especially in the village. Banking related costs were not factored in the initial budget due to its unforeseen nature so on many occasions, travels for banking was based on the implementation of the other projects. This is permanent and we are looking at changing bank but will also consider the lengthy process and costs of changing new bank account as well. On the same note, we are unsure whether the current service by BSP will also continue in the near future in Auki. Changing bank account at this point in time is also uncertain for that matter.
- Despite financial support, rangers are not permanent staff. Most are selected from other communities on an ad hoc basis. Although they are members of SIRA, professional rangers training for Wai-Hau rangers residing at Waisurione was not done by SIRA. Therefore, passion and interests was not quite there for most rangers picked from other surrounding communities. Their focus was more on the financial benefits. Nevertheless, we came up with a strategy that we will explore more in 2018, that we will now employ permanent rangers who will also be part of the Solomon Islands Rangers Association (SIRA). Then we can coordinate better rangers activities and focused trainings rather than refreshers every season for non-permanent rangers.
- Previously, Wai-Hau was only a piloted site under the MRF prior to 2016 under this project. MRF support was based primarily on species protocols and scientific knowledge as opposed to project management. There was minimal project management experience gained from the previous project. Under the previous project with MRF, Wai-Hau was only used a pilot site. MRF actually manages the whole project implementation. There was no corporate skills and knowledge transferred to us. This project was a new learning process for us as an institution but we took the risk in implementing it with zero experience compared to other conservation groups in the Solomon Islands.

- With no support to our technical personnel from the government sector, which we heavily depended on, our time lines can only be met on the availability of their time and other resources. This has been a real challenge for us as well.

5. Were there any unexpected impacts of your project (positive or negative)?

Positive

- Men, women and school students were attracted to engage and participate in the project as rangers.
- Creation of the Mai-Maasina Green Belt initiative. This aims to collate collective resource management to protect the forest from logging along the Wairaha basin which has a direct impact on the breeding of the leather backs along the Wai-hau beach.
- Growing interest from emerging significant environmental and cultural conservation groups in Are' are and Malaita as a whole with the intention to engage in conservation and biodiversity in the Solomon Islands and the East Melanesia.
- Received institutional support from the Provincial and the National government for the need to engage in more scientific research on Malaita Province.
- Wai-Hau is recognized and identified as a priority specific marine site in Solomon Islands by the National government through the Ministry of Environment and Conservation and other stakeholders. Work is ongoing to map Wai-Hau specific marine site with further consultations with the Ministry of Environment and Conservation to formalize this milestone. This will partly enable the sustainability of Wai-Hau Conservations recovery efforts of the leatherback turtle species in Are 'are and Solomon Islands at large.
- The project also became the focal point for the expansion of other terrestrial conservation initiatives such as the Mai-Ma'asina Green Belt initiative recently highlighted by Radio New Zealand and ABC Radio through the Pacific Beat program early this year 2018.

Negative

- Despite awareness attempts, we are still faced with the challenge of altering the mindset of our people away from money driven intentions, and more towards conserving and earning a living through conservation initiatives. This challenge creates certain elements of criticism and negativity towards the activities of this project compared to the quick case obtained from logging.

6. If you did not complete any project components or activities, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?

- Other project components or activities were not completed and this had an overall impact. The Secretarial training was not done by the assistant project manager and this has affected the project in the reporting process. The project manager (Felix Naitoro) and treasurer Ben Namo thus were responsible for compiling the final reports including the quarterly reports.
- MYOB was only 80 % complete due to the non-availability of technical people, hence no standard financial report was developed yet. But this does not affect the project continuity enormously and we are still working on accomplishing this activity. Wai-Hau is undertaking this with its resources

Products/Deliverables

7. Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Wai-Hau reporting template to monitor progressive implementation in local currency. Monetary items were itemized in local currency under the expenditure categories before it was transferred to the CEPF reporting template. This gives us a better understanding of expenditures in local cost versus the US dollar currency to at least properly monitor project expenditures. We hope to further improve on this in the next project cycle.

Rangers monitoring data sheet.

Ranger’s salary sheet. On the rangers’ salary sheets, the dates, and timing in which rangers were engaged in that week were recorded based on the rates applied, their salaries were calculated. This has given us a true and fair costing of the salaries paid to rangers.

Hatchery (relocation of eggs). Beach erosion due to high seas, sea level rise and animal poaching were common trials. From the look and learn trip, we were able to erect the hatchery which prove to be effective. The hatchery will be fenced with the new support in 2018. This is an important area worth prioritising.

CEPF Global Monitoring Data

Respond to the questions and complete the tables below. **If a question is not relevant to your project, please make an entry of 0 (zero) or n/a (not applicable).**

8. Did your organization complete the **CEPF Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT)** at the beginning and end of your project?
(Please submit the final CSTT document to IUCN Oceania if you have not already done so).

	Date	Composite Score
Baseline CSTT	15/10/2016	26/100
Final CSTT	13/12/2017	58/100

9. Please list any **Vulnerable, Endangered, or Critically Endangered species** conserved due to your project.

Leatherback turtle and Olive Ridley Turtle



10. Hectares Under Improved Management

Project Results	Hectares*	Comments
11. Did your project strengthen the management of an existing protected area?	n/a	List the name of each protected area N/A
12. Did your project create a new protected area or expand an existing protected area?	n/a	List the name of each protected area, the date of proclamation, and the type of proclamation (e.g., legal declaration, community agreement, stewardship agreement) N/A
13. Did your project strengthen the management of a key biodiversity area named in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile (hectares may be the same as questions above)	n/a	List the name of each key biodiversity area N/A

* Include total hectares from project inception to completion

14. In relation to the questions above on protected areas, did your project complete a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), or facilitate the completion of a METT by protected area authorities? If so, complete the table below. (Note that there will often be more than one METT for an individual protected area.)

Not Applicable to this project.

Protected area	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score

15. Direct Beneficiaries: Training and Education

Did your project provide training or education for . . .	Male	Female	Total	Brief Description
16. Adults for community leadership or resource management positions	8	0	8	Rangers look and learn and training for management position. Women were involved in the rangers programme itself but didn't receive formal training
17. Adults for livelihoods or increased income	0	0	0	No trainings had been done for this

18. School-aged children	0	0	0	Something we can explore in future projects
19. Other	0	0	0	n/a

20. Please list the name and approximate population size of any “community” that benefited from the project.

Community name	Population size	Surrounding district	Surrounding province	Country
Hauhui community	300	West Are'Are	Malaita province	Solomon Islands
Wairaha community	250	West Are'Are	Malaita Province	Solomon Islands
Waisurione community	130	West Are'Are	Malaita province	Solomon Islands
Waisisi community	500	West Are'Are	Malaita province	Solomon Islands

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

-This project contributed to a women's savings scheme (Rokotaniken Association Members), school fees and household basic necessities. Families have experienced improvements in their livelihoods. This project was a bridge to other basic necessities such as a water and sanitation project to be undertaken in 2018. The Rokotaniken covers the whole of West Are'are women. So hopefully once other new sites are identified under the new project, this can be replicated in other communities.

- Cultural and traditional obligations are gradually revived. Communities have shown interests thus are reviving and preserving their cultural and traditional norms and values in at Wai-Hau site and other communities in the highlands of Are 'are.

Lessons Learned

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

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

Successes

- The utilizing of local expertise/experts as project managers and implementers who are connected to the tribal land with some form of formal qualifications but most importantly with the traditional and cultural knowledge about land matters on project sites. Therefore communicate with people especially in the Melanesian setting like Malaita province was very effective. It also helps to develop the passion, create ownership and build the capacity for the sustainability of the project which hopefully will be sustained beyond the donor's project timeframe.
- Proper project planning by the host communities that not only focusses on the species but other significant projects that support the species recovery in other areas. Species management is every ones business.
- Continuous support in terms of mentoring provided by CEPF. As a newly established organization, helped a lot in the process.
- Our partnership on both the organizational and personal level with other organizations for example ESSI, and the Ministry of Environment who have contributed a lot on technical advices and information throughout the project.
- The greatest success is local people take ownership of the project. It is important that at the initial stages of the project, local people must take ownership of the project. It is the people's project that will have a positive impact on the lives of the local people.

Shortcoming

- Support in terms of training and capacity building of different requirements for the various stages for the whole project for example from the LOI stage to the final report stages was not made clear at the project design stage so that CBOs can clearly

understand what needs to go into the LOI and progressively transpire into the quarterly and especially the final report.

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

Success

- There were continuous consultation/awareness with government agencies and other stakeholders on matters arising that could have detrimental impact on the project implementation. For example, at the start of the project, the Ministry of Fisheries under its FADs project has installed FADs or fishing rafts outside of Wai-Hau which obviously is an inevitable natural threat to the leatherback turtle juveniles. At that point it was beyond our project scope. But with quick and proper consultation with the MFMR personnel, the FADs were placed at the points that we believed there was a win win situation for the local fishermen and the project. They have been moved more than a kilometer away from the Wai-Hau leatherback turtle catchment/breeding areas to Heo and Kiu villages.
- Trial and error of the relocation of eggs /nest versus its natural habitual process. A method that is successful and is used to date.
- Constant awareness to the people through the billboards and through school awareness talks.
- Continuous support and communications by CEPF to us.

Shortcomings

- Wai-Hau does not have any permanent staff.
- No support to government personnel who were engaged in the project. In a country like Solomon Islands there is a gap in capacity in terms of project implementations, and linkages between donors and government agencies and policies which are important for organizations such as Wai-Hau or any other CBOs
- External resource expert such as MYOB expert was not available on timing that is conducive to implement the MYOB activity resulting only in 80 percent being completed.

24. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

Balancing of the species management/conservation versus human daily needs is very critical. In a Melanesian society like Malaita province where people depend heavily on their natural resources, cultures and land, species conservation approach undertaken must be inclusive. Communities must be able to have a broader conservation view and undertake a ridge to reef approach. In the view of the leatherback turtle, if the forest inland is not protected from logging industry, it could have a detrimental impact on the breeding ground of the species on the coastal areas. This is where the set up like the **Mai-Ma'asina Green belt** initiative within a particular locality is very important in managing the broader resources and species in the context of Solomon Islands.

Involving and including more women in conservation initiatives, activities and decision making at the top level. A gender balance involvement must be a priority.

Conservation organizations (CBOs) must not isolate themselves from the wider communities. They must be part of the broader communities and support other communities in development areas that are not contradictory to environmental conservation and engage in community consultation by sharing experiences and information to promote confidence and ownership of the project by the wider surrounding communities and influence sustainable development.

Sustainability/Replication

25. Please summarize the success or challenges in ensuring that the project will be sustained or replicated in the future.

In overall, the project was successful although there were challenges and shortcomings faced during its implementation. However, those lessons are taken on board as a learning process that can be overcome if the project is replicated. Success and shortcomings were seen as opportunities for further improvements. There is now an established partnership with both the national and a provincial government which is important for the sustainability of the project in the next phase.

26. Please summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability of your project work.

- Continuous consultation/ awareness with the surrounding communities on new information on the project progressive work plan, timeline and the management plan.
- Fencing of the hatchery where relocated eggs are kept from children and animals. On the same note, there was an intention to do regular cleanups of debris from logging along the Wairaha river along the nesting sites.
- Erection of huts at the southern and northern ends of the 4 kilometer coastline for our ranger activities during the nights
- Mapping of Wai-Hau specific marine area to feed into the National governments policy on specific marine sites around the country. This will also feed into our management plan thus align with relevant regulatory frameworks such as the Fisheries Act and Regulations.

Safeguards

Please provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies for this project.

(See final safe guard document attached)

Additional Comments/Recommendations

27. Please use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF.

Recommendations

- A need for a cohesive support from IUCN/CEPF and institutions to engage more in scientific research in the recovery of the species.
- Expansion of the monitoring and recovery work must be expanded to the identified breeding sites around Malaita province.
- Part of the Strengthening and capacity building, IUCN/CEPF monitoring staff should be at the project sites to see the progress of the work and setting clear directions each quarter would be beneficial.
- Set up of a CEPF national office space in Honiara where all grantees can use especially during the reporting stages since grantees report direct to IUCN/CEPF. At the same time with the increasing number of grantees in East Melanesia, we can also share experiences, information and other technical knowledge with other grantees around the country to help the national CEPF office and new grantees. We too can also learn from other grantees that also undertake recovery of the leather back species or other species on regular basis throughout the project calendar year.

Additional Funding

Please provide:

28. details of any additional funding that supported this project

- No additional funding has been secured to support the project so far.

29. details of any further funding secured for this project, your organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF's investment in this project

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Malaita Province through the Provincial government Institutional strengthening program (PGISP)	B	SBD \$750,000.00	This was for the implementation of Wai-Hau Conservation Research center to be utilized for the management and the leatherback turtle recovery efforts in the long term thus promotes Malaita province commitment to support leatherback turtle recovery and management and the broader environmental and sustainable development such as the Mai-Ma'asina Green Belt initiative in Solomon Islands and across the Pacific region.

* Categorize the type of funding as:

A *Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this 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 funded project)*
- C Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

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 website, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below if different from what has already been provided:

Name: Felix Naitoro
Organization: Wai-Hau Conservation Foundation Inc.
Mailing address: C/- P.O Box 1595
Telephone number: 7673459
E-mail address: naitorof@gmail.com