

## CEPF Final Project Completion Report

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	BirdLife International
<b>Project Title:</b>	Preparing and Implementing a Management Plan for Megapodes on Tongoa, Vanuatu
<b>Grant Number:</b>	65966
<b>CEPF Region:</b>	East Melanesian Islands
<b>Strategic Direction:</b>	3 Safeguard priority globally threatened species by addressing major threats and information gaps
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$78,750.00
<b>Project Dates:</b>	June 01, 2016 - June 30, 2018
<b>Date of Report:</b>	January 31, 2019

### Implementation Partners

List each partner and explain how they were involved in the project

**Vanuatu Environment Advocacy Network.** National NGO, based in Port Vila, Provided the knowledge and expertise to work efficiently with the local communities, and develop the necessary governance for these communities. Undertook the day-to-day operations required, in country, to ensure that the project was completed successfully. Showcased the project at various meetings, workshops and government events in country.

**Vanuatu Environment Science Society.** National NGO, based in Port Vila. Provided the local expertise to undertake questionnaires, in the local dialect, with members of the Kurumambe village and present the findings in a logical manner. Also undertook the first assessment of the 137,771 images captured by the trail cameras, identifying the species captured, etc, etc. Led the maintenance of the cameras on site, changing batteries, checking the memory cards and transferring information. Provided the first set of feedbacks from the images to the communities on each visit. Showcased the project at various meetings, workshops and government events in the country.

### Conservation Impacts

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

Tabu, to exclude people from visiting the cliff-side site, was successful, thanks to a combination of a carrot (payment to community youths as rangers of the site) and a stick (fine of 20,000Vatu for anyone caught entering the site) approach.

The number of burrows at the site estimated to be c300 actively used.

Use of burrows by birds confirmed, with 77 laying attempts in 2157 days of observations - or 1 every 28 days of observations.

Vanuatu Scrubfowl are primarily daytime birds at Kurumambe, Tongoa - a surprising result, previous studies have indicated that megapodes are crepuscular.

Primary predator at Kurumambe, Tongoa, is feral cat - of which there were over 1,000 images from all of the burrows at the site. Cats were crepuscular.

Rats were recorded at relatively low numbers, and the vast majority of images suggested that the main rat on site was Pacific - *Rattus exulans* - although at least one image appeared to be of a larger species. Species is difficult to ascertain from black and white images, all rats were recorded during the hours of darkness.

Measures of success, in terms of increase in scrubfowl numbers, were difficult to ascertain.

Community perception was that both a) the number of chicks that left the burrows was unusually high, chicks were seen leaving burrows by the rangers, and chicks were reported to be much more frequently reported from the gardens at the top of the cliff and b) the number of chorusing birds at and pre-dawn was higher than in previous years.

The community plan to modify the tabu such that they can access the site for 2 weeks every 4 months. It is assumed that incubation period is 60 days - so a 4 month no-access period will ensure that half the eggs laid will hatch successfully. The 2 week access period will allow eggs to be harvested, and will potentially produce a surplus that can be sold at the island market. In addition the rangers will get a chance to garden the entrances to the burrows and, so, make the sites more attractive to the scrubfowl. This is supported by a) Traditional Ecological Knowledge from both the Kurumambe community and harvesters from other islands in Vanuatu and b) photographic evidence of vegetation growing up and swamping both the pathways and the entrances to the sites.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>To increase the chances of survival of priority species in the Tongoa/Laika Priority Site by developing Resource Management Plans that reduce pressure and/or establish sustainable levels of harvesting now and into the future.</p>	<p>A resource management plan for eggs of the Megapode is being developed - using the information collected from the current study, and combined with research undertaken elsewhere on sustainable harvesting of Megapodes. The community are interested in harvesting for a purpose - ie harvesting in a 2 week period and using this period to develop a festival, or equivalent, to encourage visitors to the island. If however income is generated then the community need to decide who gains from that income - the last meeting in June raised the issue that the tabu area is owned by a number of individuals in the community. Should the income go to the landowners, to the community as a whole, or to the individuals who harvest the eggs. Previously the latter was the situation</p>

	- although the scale was very low. If, however, eggs harvested are then sold as part of an event then maybe there should be more recollection of the landowners rights. These discussions were started at the last meeting in Kurumambe - we hope to be able to resolve these, and come to a positive conclusion at the next meeting with the conservation committee and the community as a whole.
--	--

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
The Kurumambe community establish a management system to sustainably harvest the eggs of the Vanuatu Megapode. Respect for tabu as a management tool, and traditional ecological knowledge as a basis for natural resource management is strengthened among the Kurumambe community. Develop an improved understanding of the ecology (including threats) and population dynamics of Vanuatu Megapode and their response to egg harvesting	The tabu was in place, enforced and followed throughout the course of the project. The Kurumambe community provided staff to act as temporary rangers to help enforce the tabu. The cameras monitored nesting burrows at 10 locations, split between two parts of the tabu area. The number of scrubfowl visiting burrows varied - although, surprisingly, scrubfowl were present during all hours of daytime. The lack of harvesting during the tabu, and lack of access, may have resulted in an accumulation of vegetation around some of the burrows - enforcing some Traditional Knowledge concepts that burrows are more frequently used when they are regularly dug out, and gardened, by harvesters. This will be trialled in a following project. We noted that cats were regular attendees at many of the burrows - and that cats are known to be significant predators of scrubfowl and, in particular, their chicks. The community plan to introduce a new tabu, that allows harvesting and gardening for 2 weeks every 4 months. However, some of the details around this need to be resolved.

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

**We have successfully used findings from both the Traditional Ecological Knowledge questionnaire, and the Scientific Knowledge derived from the trail cameras, to determine an effective resource management plan that should both ensure that the scrubfowl population will at least maintain its current levels, and that will provide a small but viable harvest of eggs both for immediate consumption and for sale in the market. We are not sure, at this stage, what scale the sale of eggs might be, or the benefactors from this sale. This will all be addressed in continued discussions about the details of the resource plan.**

**By working closely with the community and discussing our findings, our results and our conclusions we hope to have provided them with the knowledge to apply these findings in the future and so modify/manipulate their management plans based on their continued monitoring of the birds. In addition, we hope that aspects of this resource management plan will be relevant to their future harvesting of other species - such as the Koroliko (Wedge-tailed shearwater) which nest on the island**



of Laika and are subject to intensive harvesting for chicks. Clearly, both VEAN and BirdLife will be available to help with further discussions on effective measures in future years.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The growth of herbs/weeds during the course of the project, we assume due to the decision by rangers to avoid walking in front of the cameras. the cameras were set to monitor activity at burrows - so these burrows became overgrown - which in turn resulted in a reduction of use by the scrubfowl. We hadn't anticipated that the rangers would change their behaviour, or that this behaviour change would result in a negative change in the small scale environment.

The very presence of the cameras at the site were both a serious deterrent to would-be invaders of the site, and a serious reason for protecting the site and ensuring that there were no intruders. By removing the cameras at the end of the project we removed the main deterrent. We will need to discuss whether returning cameras solely to deter intruders would be an effective approach.

The fact that the birds were active primarily by day was a significant surprise. This opens up the possibility of being able to show the birds to visitors. We will need to consider whether a combination of an effective track to the burrows, combined with a form of hide, might be an opportunity.

## Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
2	Support the Kurumambe community to develop a Resource Management Plan to enable sustainable long-term harvesting of Malau eggs.	2.1	Project team will liaise with Malau Committee, to develop a Basic tabu that restricts access to some, or all, of the Malau burrows for some, or all, of the year from the outset of the project.	A complete tabu across the whole site has been maintained for the duration of the project. We are now discussing the next phase - where a partial tabu is established, although the issue of effective enforcement has been raised by the local landowners. VEAN continues to discuss this with the community - and we hope to formally complete the agreement as a matter of urgency at the next scheduled visit to Tongoa in March 2019.
2	Support the Kurumambe community to develop a Resource Management Plan to enable sustainable long-term harvesting of Malau eggs.	2.2	Project team and Malau Committee agree on a modified tabu that takes into account findings from observations at the site, the targets to be achieved prior to modifying the tabu and the review period for the continuation of the project	We discussed with the community the next steps - particularly now that the cameras have been removed and we are no longer funding the rangers to monitor the site. The communities response was to maintain a complete tabu for 4 months of the year. Then open the whole site for 2 weeks, during which time eggs could be harvested and the pathways and entrances to the burrows, should be 'gardened' to ensure optimal conditions for the birds to lay. It was suggested that this tabu would require local legislation in order to be effective. Previous discussions have been against the involvement of government, and national legislation, such as designating the site as a community conservation areas. This concern may provide an opportunity to bring this aspect of long term conservation back to the table. In addition, the cliff landowners indicated that if there was funding to be made from harvesting and selling the eggs, then they, as landowners, should receive the funds. This needs further and careful consideration - it may result in a livelihood opportunity for some of the youths in the community. VEAN and the Conservation Committee are discussing, and we hope to formalise the process in March 2019.
1	To establish and	1.1	Membership	Kurumambe Conservation Committee established, as a

	empower a Local CSO, focussed on delivering environmental benefits for both the island biodiversity and the island community.		list of a Community-based 'Malau' committee centred on Kurumambe village that provides locally-based oversight of the project directs future monitoring and proposed future tabu for the sustainable harvesting of the Malau population	subgroup of the Kurumambe Development Committee. There are 8 representatives on the KCC, 3 of whom are women. Elder Roy is the Chair of the Committee. The committee oversaw the assignment of Rangers to monitor and maintain the strict, no entry, tabu to the site. The rangers operated from November 2016 until February 2018. KCC are assessing the next steps - and how to monitor and enforce a new tabu for the site. (See attachment SR number 2).
1	To establish and empower a Local CSO, focussed on delivering environmental benefits for both the island biodiversity and the island community.	1.2	Membership list, highlighting representation from multiple communities on Tongoa, and 'Articles of Association' of CSO that will be established to develop an island-wide programme of resource management.	We changed our approach to this deliverable. The view on the island was that the most effective means of encouraging long term financial investment was to develop an ecotourism programme. Accordingly, we have liaised with Morsen Makau, District Administrator for Morua, Tongoa regarding the best approach to encouraging an island-wide representation. He recommended working with and through the Tongoa Tourist Association to ensure the most effective way of developing community interest on the island. Following Cyclone Pam the District has been focused 100% on recovering agriculture, and on improving quality of life, health and, in particular, water availability and quality for the villages on the island. He felt strongly that the next step, to bring in revenue to the island, would be through the tourism association. Kurumambe Development Association (the parent body of the Conservation Committee) are currently not a part of the Tourist Association. We raised this point with the community on our last evening in the village in June 2018, and hope to pursue this opportunity when we next visit the site in September (sadly abandoned due to inclement weather meaning that the flights to Tongoa were cancelled. This is a high priority for the next planned visit in March 2019.
1	To establish and empower a Local	1.3	Plan of action developed by	VEAN is working with Kurumambe Conservation Committee to develop a GEF Small Grant proposal to a)

	CSO, focussed on delivering environmental benefits for both the island biodiversity and the island community.		CSO, including a funding plan, to enable sustainable management of wild resources on and around the island of Tongoa.	continue to support the Namalao population b) develop ecotourism for the community, but also the whole island, that will provide benefit to the Kurumambe community by showcasing the Namalao project and the outcomes from that project c) develop other ecotourism opportunities both within the community and through the island in order to raise the interest of the island for tourists to visit d) develop a reforestation plan that will both develop resources for the communities and showcase community solutions that use natural resources, e) develop the agriculture systems on the island to highlight the complex garden systems that the communities use to minimise the impact of extreme weather events. VEAN and KCC are currently developing a plan that will be endorsed on the next visit to the island in March 2019.
2	Support the Kurumambe community to develop a Resource Management Plan to enable sustainable long-term harvesting of Malau eggs.	2.3	A full Resource Management Plan, agreed jointly by all parties is prepared, which will address all findings and consider management alternatives that might improve population numbers and survival rates of Malau on the island	The approach taken, no harvesting and no access, was for the duration of the project was successful. A followup plan, to continue post project, is currently in preparation - the landowners interjection at the last meeting means that we need to consider next steps. The proposal, to open up the burrows for just 2 weeks every 4 months, was from the local community and was well-received by all present. However, there were a number of important persons, such as the Chairman of the Conservation Committee, who weren't present. We need to work through the implications of relatively high numbers of eggs harvested over a short time window 3 or 4 times a year and whether that could generate funds, and whether those funds can be pushed back into the Conservation Committee or used to fund the rangers, etc. This needs more discussion, the concept was first proposed on our last day in the village. VEAN continue to negotiate with the community with a view to agreement on the visit in March 2019. We have maintained an informal, written, Community Conservation Plan, (attachment SR number 10) which has captured the agreements and decisions to date. We will finalise this just as soon as we have agreed with the community the next steps. Management planning is a process not an event.
3	Collect information on the current use by Malau of the colony at	3.1	A Report comparing Traditional Ecological Knowledge of	This report has been drafted and is with BirdLife. Initial findings from the report were presented to the conservation committee - who made recommendations regarding the level of harvesting reported by one or two of the individuals. This modified, downwards, the overall

	Kurumambe.		Communities on Tongoa with SEK (based on studies of other megapode species and/or at other sites) will be published by the project team.	level of harvesting on the site. The findings were considered to mirror effectively the views of the committee on Namalao biology and how it might impact on the harvesting of eggs. (See attachment SR Number 7 for further details).
3	Collect information on the current use by Malau of the colony at Kurumambe.	3.2	Project team will publish a report in association with the local malau committee, highlighting survey findings to assess the current Malau population using the colony at Kurumambe, and implications for the development of a sustainable harvesting plan	We have number-crunched the findings from the 138,000 images captured over a total of 2157 days of effectively operating trail cameras and are drafting a paper for peer review. From this we were able to identify 1115 separate occasions of Namalao presence near the burrows (assuming that a gap of 10 minutes between successive images indicated a new occurrence). Many of these were just feeding individuals as they passed the site, but 71 sets of images indicated that the bird was present for a period in excess of 10 minutes (ranging from 10 minutes to 4 hours and 10 minutes for one bird at one burrow), and so likely to be digging and laying an egg at the burrow. The cliffs at Kurumambe remain the only known colony location for Namalao on Tongoa. (see Attachment SR number 5 for further details)
4	Transfer knowledge to other sites on Vanuatu where the Malau may be harvested in a sustainable manner.	4.1	The project team will publish a report on options available, measures that would need to be undertaken and	This report is in prep, scheduled for mid March 2019, but the thinking is now largely complete. The options for management of colonies has been increased, following discussions with the community at Tongoa, while the monitoring that will be required to determine effectiveness of controls on harvesting, is still in need of some further investigation. Here two alternative options have been published - but neither have appeared to be entirely effective. We plan to trial a new method, that uses acoustic recorders, on our next visit in September



			information required to enable other communities to understand how they might best manage their Malau populations in a sustainable manner.	(delayed to March 2019). This will allow us to collect data regularly on the number and frequency of calls from the cliff. We had thought that this would not be effective at a colony site - it had not been effective in 2001 when we tried to monitor the communal site at Buwoma Beach, Ambrym. However, the community at Kurumambe assure us that the birds call regularly at or just before dawn, and that the number of calling birds has increased during the 18 months of this project.
4	Transfer knowledge to other sites on Vanuatu where the Malau may be harvested in a sustainable manner.	4.2	Findings from the project are disseminated to government staff and other stakeholders via a training workshop	BirdLife and VEAN have met, regularly, with the Vanuatu government to discuss ongoing results of this project. We met with the Environment Department team in Port Vila in June 2018 to discuss this and other actual, and potential, projects. VEAN and VESS have showcased the findings from the project at various events in Port Vila including the Global Environment Day workshop (see attachment). VEAN have highlighted the results at Tongoa, and how they might be extrapolated to other parts of Vanuatu. The community at West Ambrym have expressed interest in being closely involved in future conservation at this KBA, while VEAN has been liaising with communities on the west coast of Santo (in or adjacent to the Santo Mountain Range Priority KBA) and developing links and contacts with people there who have shown an interest in developing conservation plans for the Namalao. (see attachment SR number 8 for presentation used by VEAN to government and SR Number 4 for general public awareness)
4	Transfer knowledge to other sites on Vanuatu where the Malau may be harvested in a sustainable manner.	4.3	VEAN and VESS to develop an appropriate means of presenting the findings, and showcasing the best practice from the study, to other communities within Vanuatu.	Both VEAN and VESS have successfully presented the findings to other communities, when in face-to-face meetings. This has generated some considerable interest in developing further conservation plans around Vanuatu. We have published an article on Namalao in the Island Life magazine, which has just been printed, and hope that that might generate some more responses. We will also use the article to undertake some more facebook awareness-raising through both organisations facebook pages. As mentioned earlier, VESS presented an update of the findings from the project at the World Environment Day event in Port Vila earlier in 2018 (see attachment SR Number 1). VEAN established links with community on West Ambrym (a KBA where scrubfowl is a trigger species) and discussions here indicated a willingness to

				consider conservation actions (see attachment SR number 3 for further details).
5	Vanuatu Environment Advocacy Network to develop Civil Society Network on Tongoa	5.1	BirdLife to award a subgrant to VEAN pending an agreed Terms and Conditions,	Terms and Conditions agreed, subgrant awarded to VEAN and grant has been monitored effectively throughout the project. Financial aspects of the grant were reviewed by Mere Ledua, the finance officer at BirdLife, and recommendations about further development of the capacity of VEAN were suggested. We hope to develop another subgrant with VEAN in the next couple of days.
5	Vanuatu Environment Advocacy Network to develop Civil Society Network on Tongoa	5.2	VEAN to co-ordinate the establishment and 'articles of association' of the Malau committee, with the community at Kurumambe.	Liaison between VEAN and the conservation committee was maintained for the duration of the project - and provided the basis for much of the work that was successfully undertaken. VEAN consider that the use of representatives from Kurumambe at other community workshops is a great opportunity. The presence of Roy Harry, chair of the Kurumambe Conservation Committee, in Ambrym was particularly helpful. This cross-pollination approach will be developed whenever possible in future projects. Neither organisation felt it was appropriate to develop 'articles of association' - maintaining a dialogue and providing the opportunity to jointly discuss next steps felt to be a more appropriate and culturally relevant approach. VEAN office is always open for any representatives whenever they visit Port Vila, while regular visits to the community to meet and liaise with the Committee are an essential part of building trust between the two organisations.
5	Vanuatu Environment Advocacy Network to develop Civil Society Network on Tongoa	5.3	VEAN to help to establish an island-wide Civil Society Organisation, with equal opportunity for representation of all communities, with the aim of promoting sustainable natural resource management on Tongoa.	VEAN are working closely with the SHEFA tourism authority, based in Port Vila, to introduce the concept of enhanced ecotourism to the island. BirdLife and VEAN held a meeting with the District Administrator for Tongoa who recommended working through the Tongoa tourist board. This appears to be the best approach to developing an island-wide community approach that uses the tourism industry to help promote the natural resource management on the island. We need to impress on the Tongoa Development Committee that this is an effective way of progressing the situation. Showcasing how the communities live and work in harmony with their environment is the ultimate aim of the ecotourism market. We have been in discussions with Dr Maelle Calandra - who lived with the community at Kurumamber as part of her PhD and who was present on the island again in June 2018. Maelle has collected some very interesting information on the use of village gardens

				before and after Cyclone Pam, highlighting the extent to which the extreme event has changed the rotations used. Bringing this to life as part of the ecotourism programme would be an interesting additional component of the tourism possibilities on the island.
6	Vanuatu Environment Science Society to collect traditional knowledge and assist with collection of research information.	6.1	BirdLife to develop a subgrant in conjunction with VESS to provide funding for 1 person to assist for the surveys on Tongoa,	BirdLife and VESS developed a subgrant, primarily to ensure that a VESS employee Toara Andrew Morris, would be available for survey work on the island, and for analysis of data. Andrew has proven to be essential for the completion of the project, having lead on the TEK component of the project, and having analysed the 137,771 images that the trial cameras have recorded. Andrew also worked with ELMA on Efate, coordinating a bird survey in the centre of Efate, using a PPT presentation that BirdLife prepared that showcased the likely species involved. Andrew is now at USP, Fiji, completing his BSc in Environmental Science. Nevertheless he still managed to analyse the 15,000 images that came back on the 25th April. Many thanks to Andrew, I hope his studies go well and that he returns to Vanuatu and brings a level of enthusiasm and assurance to further work in the country. I wholeheartedly recommend him for survey work in the future. VESS have also contributed significantly to presenting initial findings from the project and showcasing this at various government meetings - as part of their globally important species project (see attachment).
6	Vanuatu Environment Science Society to collect traditional knowledge and assist with collection of research information.	6.2	VESS and BirdLife representative s develop a questionnaire to collate traditional ecological knowledge from residents of Kurumambe and other villages on Tongoa, and draft a report comparing TEK with known scientific information	This was led by Toara Andrew Morris, following discussions between BirdLife Andrew and VEAN. Initial results were reported to BirdLife. We are close to developing a final version that fully captures, in a rigorous manner, the findings from that survey and how it might impact on conservation actions planned for the next stage of the project (see attachment SR number 6 for further details).

			for this and other species	
7	Ensure Compliance with CEPF Social Safeguard Policies.	7.1	Safeguard monitoring conducted and report submitted to CEPF every six months	As recommended, we ensured that the community at Kurumambe were able, if necessary, to raise issues regarding the project with Lai Sakita of VEAN. In addition we spent some time in the village every three months - and were available to discuss any potential problems regarding the project. Once again, we were underwhelmed, indeed, once again, the community advocated a more restrictive future tabu than we initially proposed. The one area that we hadn't expected, and that had not been addressed until our last visit, was the extent to which the landowners of the cliff (I hadn't previously been aware that the cliff was owned by individuals) wished to assert their claim to any benefits coming from the colony. This was not addressed as a complaint about the project to date, indeed the landowners were thankful that the project had provided rangers to monitor the site, the issue was about future opportunities as a result of the tabu. This opportunity much however be weighed against the implications of how to enforce the tabu in the absence of a) cameras recording peoples presence, b rangers patrolling the site at regular intervals and c) the threat of a significant fine should the tabu be broken. Community are more worried about invasions from other villages than internally.

Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

**We have attached a basic powerpoint document to showcase the main findings from the camera activities. We also have an illustrated version that may be more interesting (although at 23MBytes its a big cumbersome to attach).**

**We have attached some posters that VESS used as part of its threatened species publication.**

**We have attached a form that the community used to indicate the monthly activities of the Rangers.**

**We have attached a draft document that compares Traditional and scientific knowledge of scrubfowl on Tongoa. This needs further work which we hope to complete before the end of the year, and get ready for publication in a local journal.**

**We have attached the questionnaire used to obtain information on traditional ecological knowledge from the community at Kurumambe, Tongoa.**

## 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:

- Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

**1. We anticipated that we would propose and enforce a partial tabu/ban on the harvesting of eggs from the burrows. When we arrived, however, the community proposed and agreed to a complete ban on harvesting for the duration of the project. This was successful. However, discussions about the next steps regarding the tabu after the proposal were slow in forming. It wasn't until our very last meeting, in June 2018, that the community discussed alternative options to the ones that we had proposed. These alternative options provided a rather more interesting development and consideration of the next steps for the community - but needed more consideration before we could formally agree to a means of managing the resource into the future. Unfortunately we have been unable to visit Tongoa since that June meeting and, while VEAN are in regular contact with the Conservation Committee, we await the next visit to confirm and formalise the plans. Note that the community do not need or require a formal plan in writing in order to undertake the proposed conservation actions, while disseminating information to the broader community is most effectively achieved through community meetings, and visual presentations. There is little required, at this level for formal reports and papers. However, we are in the process of preparing a Community Conservation Plan (see attachment SR number 10). We need to agree and confirm the next steps with the community and then incorporate that into the CCP. We have presented the results collected through the survey that outlines the evidence base that forms the background to the improved knowledge incorporated by the committee to plan, monitor and manage the resource in a sustainable manner. We will, at some stage in the near future - currently planned for late March 2019, complete a peer-reviewed paper that explains the results.**

**2. Implementation of the project in Kurumambe emphasised the need to maintain a continual dialogue with the local community undertaking the conservation actions. We were successful in achieving this, but we found that new issues and questions were raised, and potential solutions proposed, on each session. We anticipated that our main challenge would be proposing solutions that would obtain no 'ownership' from within the community. This was unfounded in this situation - the community representatives frequently recommended solutions that were more amenable to scrubfowl conservation than our original suggestions.**

**2. The use of trail cameras was less successful than anticipated - as the cameras failed to detect chicks leaving the burrows, but were repeatedly triggered by the movement of vegetation - including vines growing up the trunks used to locate the cameras.**

**3. Working closely with VEAN and VESS on this project has developed both organisations capacity to participate fully in conservation discussions about sustainable harvesting, in general, and specifically for Scrubfowl populations.**


## **Sustainability / Replication**

Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

- 1. The community are keen to maintain a tabu to protect the site. They are concerned, however, that the lack of rangers and the lack of continuous observations will make policing the site as ineffective as prior to the current project. We have identified two potential mechanisms for raising funds sustainably, maybe to fund the continuation of the rangering. These are the development of an ecotourism opportunity, and the sale of scrubfowl eggs at the local market on the infrequent occasions when the eggs are harvested under the new tabu system. We are planning to input a proposal to GEF Small Grants to enable us to monitor the success, or otherwise of these and other funding opportunities for the Kurumambe community.**
- 2. The presence of the cameras is perceived to be a major deterrent to potential trespassers to the site. We need to decide whether we can justify the continued use/presence of the cameras on site - more as a deterrent than as a scientific tool to monitor the birds.**
- 3. The fact that the scrubfowl were active during daylight hours, and that birds were visiting some of the burrows at least daily, is a boost to the potential ecotourism opportunities. In addition the burrow with most activity happened to be the one closest to the entrance to the area on the Western cliff of the site. The community have improved the path to these burrows, with the view to enabling tourists to get some views. We should consider whether a screening or hide is appropriate, or even feasible, to overlook the burrows at this location.**
- 4. At all stages we have worked closely with the community to discuss implications of findings, and what they might mean in terms of future management of the resource. The community have been very keen to ensure that this is effective, and clearly discuss possibilities, together with some concerns on each of the visits. The continual feedback and ownership and understanding of the results by the community is an excellent sign that they are keen to continue with a form of monitored management. We have reported the results and findings, through visuals and presentations as opposed to formal reports, as this is a more effective means of transferring knowledge, both to the local community and when we have met other stakeholders. We are attempting to modify, or maybe update traditional ecological knowledge among the communities - an approach that does not rely on the written form so much as discussion, agreement and local decision-making. We have continued to trial and modify our approach in order to best fit. Preparing a formal, peer-reviewed style of report has taken a secondary role to date - but is currently being drafted to capture the information collected through the project..**
- 5. A reduction in capacity within the BirdLife office meant that more of the fieldwork than planned was undertaken by the Regional Programme Coordinator. This left less time for preparing reports and papers toward the end of the project - some of which remain incomplete. Priority has focussed on ensuring that findings are relayed back to the community at Kurumambe, to other communities on Tongoa and also to the communities on West Ambrym (the other KBA where Vanuatu Scrubfowl is a trigger species do to a congregatory nesting ground). In addition the findings are available in an accessible, pdf, format and have been disseminated in Vanuatu by both VESS and VEAN, and overseas by BirdLife. Work continues on completing the remaining reports and papers.**

## **Safeguards**

If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards



Addressed under Final Deliverable 7.1. We received no complaints, or concerns about the project, although there were concerns about the longer term ability to police the tabu and maintain suitable control over access to the cliff face. One issue to address is the presence of cats in the area. Cats are known to be significant predators of scrubfowl chicks (based on research in Australia) and were the most commonly recorded predator on the camera traps. We also noted that the entrances to burrows, and the pathways to burrows, became overgrown and, so, unsuitable for scrubfowl. We plan to address this by including a 'gardening' component in the 2 weeks open access to the site. The community at Kurumambe are rather more concerned about invasion by members of neighbouring villages. The presence of cameras had been a significant deterrent, it turns out. We'll need to consider whether redeploying the cameras purely as a deterrent might be an effective mechanism. This is another potential measure that we will need to discuss with the conservation committee.

## Additional Comments/Recommendations

Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

I would like to congratulate Toara Andrew Morris, who has been the VESS representative on the team. Andrew completed the foundation environment sciences course at USP Vanuatu two or three years ago, and has subsequently been applying for, and failing to get, a scholarship to complete the degree at USP Laucala campus in Fiji. Finally, after much dogged determination, Andrew has been successful, and started on the 2 year course here in Fiji in February this year. While I was disappointed to lose him from the current project I feel sure that the expertise and knowledge that he will gain by completing the course will stand him, and environment conservation in Vanuatu, in good stead for the next few decades. In addition to working on this scrubfowl project I liaised with Andrew over a survey of the ELMA (Efate Land Management Area) project - where he coordinated a bird survey in north west Efate. The ELMA initiative is seeking to establish a Community Conservation Area under the *Environmental Protection and Conservation Act CAP 283* to protect these significant resources. I look forward, very much, to working with him once he has completed the course. As it happens he was able to complete the image assessment for the last 6 months of trail camera work, during a semester break from the university.

## Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

**Total additional funding (US\$)**

**Type of funding**

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of the following categories:

- 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)*

**VEAN received funding through the GEF Small Grants project, which was used to maintain an office space for CSO members to use when in Port Vila (Project co-funding A) (c5k).**

**Both VEAN and VESS received CEPF small grant funding to develop capacity and to promote threatened species, respectively (20k each - probably not included here?).**

**BirdLife International received funds to monitor IBAs across the region - and collate that within the World Bird/Biodiversity Database (C). Tongoa, Vanuatu contributes to this list of sites (150k).**

**VEAN and Kurumambe Conservation Committee have initiated the process to apply for funds to the GEF Small Grants programme in Vanuatu (B) (c50k)**

## **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](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

1. Please include your full contact details (Name, Organization, Mailing address, Telephone number, E-mail address) below

**Mark O'Brien, BirdLife International Pacific Partnership Secretariat, PO Box 18332, Suva, Fiji. +679 331 3492, [mark.obrien@birdlife.org](mailto:mark.obrien@birdlife.org)**