

CEPF Final Project Completion Report – EMI Small Grants

Please complete all fields and respond to all questions below.

Background Information

Organization Legal Name	Solomon Islands Rangers Association (SIRA)
Project Title	Launching Solomon Islands Rangers Association to the wider Solomon Islands
Date of Report	31 st December 2017
Report Author	Albert Chris Kwatela
Author Contact Information	akwatela@gmail.com
CEPF Region	East Melanesian Islands
Strategic Direction	Strategic Direction 4.1 Investment Priorities:
Grant Amount	\$7932
Project Dates	October 2016 - December 2017

1. Implementation Partners for this Project
(please list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project)

Two major partners assisted in the facilitation of this project namely.

- i. The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
TNC has been one of the main partners of SIRA through the ranger's work on Arnavon Marine National Park in Choiseul/Isabel province. TNC provided assistance in training of rangers; facilitate meeting and workshop venues in Honiara for no costs during the course of this project.
- ii. Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP)
SICCP has assisted SIRA by housing it for the past 2-3 years since its establishment. SICCP also played an active role in bringing in rangers from its partner community organisations to Honiara for scoping, establishment in 2015 and the strategic meeting funded by this project in 2016. In 2017, four (4) rangers meetings were hosted by SICCP in collaboration with other stakeholders. SIRA was one of the key role players of these trainings. SICCP at the same time participated in the meetings, as well providing views for strategic directions. SICCP also assisted in communicating to ranger members of the social and environmental issues on the ground in the wider Solomon Islands.

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.

SIRA has contributed towards CEPF's Ecosystem profile under Strategic Direction 4.1; Strengthening the capacity of local and national civil society organizations in financial management, project management and organizational governance. SIRA was first established in 2015 by ranger members from community based organisations to provide a platform for networking, training and development of ranger skills to assist community based organisation. The formation of SIRA was a result of collaboration between the following government ministries: Environment Climate Change and Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM), Forestry and Research and Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) and NGO partners.

They saw the need for the coining of an association to hold rangers across Solomon Islands together. It was envisioned for the association to be membership based and function as the leading association communicating and supporting the efforts displayed by rangers in conservation, and in protected areas and resources management. However, the association is relatively new with very low capacity in management required assistance to help strengthen the organisation's capacity. Therefore, this project through CEPF helped to support and builds the institutional capacity of the association. Through this project, important documents were developed - a draft strategic plan, financial policy and communication plan for the association. These documents produced will assist SIRA to function more efficiently and assist it to strategize in supporting its ranger members.

Further to this, rangers play great roles in carrying out field duties; biodiversity monitoring, patrolling and collecting data. Their work is vital to conservation efforts, but they face the challenge of having very limited support towards building their capacity and enhancing their skills and knowledge. However, lack capacity on certain levels, but they strive, to learn by doing. Most rangers around the country engage in assisting researchers and scientists in their field work in the biodiversity hot spots. Places like Tetepare, Kolombangara (KIBCA), Zaira, Waihau and Arnavon Island. These places located in most remote areas that last pristine rain forest, wildlife and marine ecosystem are abundant in the country. Many have integrated their traditional knowledge with modern scientific methods of resources management, which is another important tool that most local rangers within the country obtained. Most locally managed and protected areas invented. These areas are known as biodiversity hot spots/priority areas existed in some of the world's remarkable geographical location, the East Melanesian Islands. For instance Tetepare Island in Western Province established TDA run by board, field coordinators and rangers on site and Arnavon National Marine Park in Isabel located in some of the uninhabited remote areas in Solomon Islands. Only rangers and field officers come for short time on duty patrolling and monitoring. Many of these rangers are member to SIRA and their efforts are regarded and considered important that must be empowered and supported by SIRA. Whilst keeping biodiversity- turtles and forest, SIRA must ensure that rangers are protected as well.

So, this project help SIRA to be institutional strengthened first before it can operates as an independent body collaborating with nature parks and the people who look after the nature.

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

The expected result from this project was to have 3 major documents prepared for SIRA. The documents are; the strategic plan, financial policy and communication plan for the next three to five years. These documents are vital to the association's functions as it will act as a road map to guide SIRA to function as an independent body in providing support to its ranger members. Thus strategically it identifies the capacity needs and customizes to the associations future interventions.

Through the implementation of this project, SIRA brought together rangers, champions and some reps from community based organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and government ministries to develop the documents. Many of the ideas incorporated and captured in the documents prepared are in regards to the current issues experienced by rangers.

From this grant, SIRA has gained from institutional strengthening mechanisms provided from the development of the draft strategic planning document. From the documents produced, the association is determined to implement its strategies and plan of action accordingly:

- a. Provide capacity building support and relevant skillset training to its members
- b. Communicate efficiently within the network on current issues, updates and opportunities for ranger associations.
- c. Promote professionalism and link rangers to government, institutions and partners both regional and international.

Here are some other activities achieved during the course of the project. SIRA have launched its assistance through the facilitation of rangers training, awareness and communications.

a) Training

On June 2016 SIRA collaborated with the University of Queensland (UQ) and went to Waihau in Malaita to do the biodiversity, community-based management and conservation training and capacity building in leadership. The association's president, Albert Kwatelaie assisted Dr. Patrick Pikacha from UQ in this trip. Upon returning to Honiara, SIRA and UQ with support from SICCP, hosted training for rangers in Honiara. This brought together rangers from Makira, Arnavon Islands and around Guadalcanal. Though it was not budgeted for under this project but it is an indication of strengthening SIRA's institutional capacity in together with its partners in providing trainings for its ranger members. Also this way it promoted SIRA to other interested partners to become a part of SIRA.

b) Awareness & Communication.

SIRA has demonstrated awareness and communication materials during two major events in Honiara. SIRA produced information posters and brochures that informed our audience on the type of work that rangers are engaged in, and also how interested partners can become a part of SIRA:

1. During World Environment day celebration hosted from 5th -8th June 2017 by the Ministry of Environment Climate Change & Disaster Management (MECDM) in

Collaboration with Ministry of Fisheries and Resources Management (MFMR) and NGOs and private sectors.

2. During the first National Resource Management Symposium in October 2017, hosted in Honiara with collaboration of many stakeholders.

During these two national events the coordinator successfully developed these communication awareness tools with the assistance of ranger members and executive members. As a result we received more expression of interest for membership. We also managed to conduct trainings and awareness sessions for our members who were present during the two events in Honiara.

- c) SICCP supported SIRA with the drafting of our finance policy & communication plan. SIRA has benefited from its partnership with SICCP as they supported SIRA for the past two-three years. Despite the challenges we faced, capacity wise, through our partnership with SICCP, we were housed under their office and they assisted in developing SIRA's draft finance policy and communication plan. Further to this, SICCP assisted SIRA in registering it under the charity and trustable act, helping SIRA to open its own bank account and also included SIRA in ranger trainings and look and learn trips to SICCP's partner sites.

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

SIRA has developed the required documents for its institutional capacity in project management, finance and capacity developments. However, there were many challenges that the association has learned from and will use to build from after the project has ended. A lesson we learned from was that setting up of an association such as SIRA was challenging as it had the executive members and project coordinator scattered over the provinces. This not only made it challenging financially but also had an effect on the progress of the project where our planned activities did not happen for some of the quarters. Additionally, SIRA has executive members that work on a voluntary basis, hence only work part time on SIRA matters. This has challenged SIRA a lot during the course of the project as communication was not maintained as desired and as a result some activities were either delayed or not implemented.

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

Apart from the challenges in maintaining communication within the organization and implementing its activities, there was no severe negative issue experienced in this project (highlighted above). On a positive note, as a result of this project, SIRA has grown and gained membership across the wider Solomon Islands region. The number of members still continues to grow as more communities are looking to engage in conservation efforts and have their rangers become members of SIRA. The association has also received feedback from other stakeholders that would like to see SIRA strengthened and operate on its own. This would mean that SIRA would have to engage permanent staff to work full time on SIRA matters and seek extra funding so that SIRA can implement its planned actions.

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

In the quarters where no activities were implemented, SIRA had to re- strategize and the activities that were not implemented were moved to take place in the following quarter where it was successfully implemented. Also due to the limitation of funds and the high cost of bringing in our members from the provinces to Honiara, SIRA made use of other opportunities that brought its members to Honiara to hold some of its trainings and awareness programs.

In this manner, SIRA managed to complete the outstanding activities.

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.

During the implementation of this project, posters, and factsheets about SIRA were produced which informed its audience about what the association is about. In addition, documents that would be used to enhance the institutional capacity of SIRA were developed. (Find attached)

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	17/09/2016	21.5/100
Final CSTT	31/12/2017	81/100

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

Questions 9-20.

This project focused on Institutional capacity building for rangers association to develop strategic plans, finance policy & communication plan and also to increase the awareness of SIRA. Therefore, this is not applicable to this project.

10. Hectares Under Improved Management

Project Results	Hectares*	Comments
11. Did your project strengthen the management of an existing protected area?		<i>List the name of each protected area</i>

12. Did your project create a new protected area or expand an existing protected area?		<i>List the name of each protected area, the date of proclamation, and the type of proclamation (e.g., legal declaration, community agreement, stewardship agreement)</i>
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)		<i>List the name of each key biodiversity area</i>

** 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.)*

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.

There is no training sponsored under this project directly but through other supports made by partners and collaboration with stakeholders such as USP & SICCP a training impact was made for SIRA part-time coordinator and executive members plus a champion on PICCC training in 2016-2017. Also in partnership with University of Queensland Australia, training on biodiversity and leadership for community rangers and leaders was hosted in Waisuri'one, WAIHAU 2016. This was total of 15 participants represented various neighboring communities in West Kwaio & West Are'Are in Malaita province.

<i>Did your project provide training or education for . . .</i>	Male	Female	Total	Brief Description
16. Adults for community leadership or resource management positions				
17. Adults for livelihoods or increased income				
18. School-aged children				
19. Other				

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
Zaira	13 (rangers)	Lupa Vangunu District	Western Province	Solomon Islands
Tawatana	10 (rangers)	Arosi District	Makira Province	Solomon Islands
Tetepare	20 (rangers)	Rendova District	Western Province	Solomon Islands
Vavanga/Ghatere	6 (rangers)	South East Kolombagara	Western Province	Solomon Islands
Arnavon Island	15 (rangers)	Kia & Wagena District	Isabel/Choiseul Province	Solomon Islands
Waihau	10 (rangers)	West Areare District	Malaita Province	Solomon Islands

21. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Using the communities listed above; please complete the table below, inserting the name of the communities in the left column, and placing an X in all relevant boxes in the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit.

Community Name	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 line	Other	Increased income due to:				Increased 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,	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance	Other (please provide details below)
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services									
Zaira	X	X	X						X				X	X				X	X		
Tawatana	X	X	X						X				X	X				X	X	X	
Tetepare	X	X	X						X	X			X	X				X	X	X	
Vavanga/Ghatere	X	X	X						X				X	X				X	X	X	
Arnavon Island	X	X	X						X	X	X		X	X				X	X	X	
Waihau	X	X	X						X				X	X				X	X	X	

Others in the table on question 21 above: These communities with their resource management activities integrated with other economic activities have provides them some form of income that supports some of their basic daily needs and wants. For example, rangers involving in tour guiding or assisting researchers as part-time or fulltime, the employment they have put food on the table for the family at the end of the day. Rangers have strong involvement in patrolling and monitoring. People in the village indicate respect towards the work of rangers in the context of Solomon Islands.

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*)

The progress of the project was very slow at the start in 2016 due to unclear roles to the project contact person for SIRA, also due to other commitments in his full time paid job. There was no bank account at that time as well for the funds to be kept and no employment of coordinator. Also SICCP hold up first disbursement of SIRA's fund from CEPF because SIRA do not have Bank Account. These have slowed the progress of the project. However when it started to clear and understood by executive and review of SIRA's LOI, implementation was on. First meeting for the drafting of the strategic plan 2017-2020 held in Honiara in March 2017 and employment of the part-time coordinator happened and registration and bank account was eventuated. Through collaboration, seeking advises from stakeholders and partners, SIRA managed to overcome this and progress on till the end of the project in December 31st 2017.

Another aspects we seen as success as by the bringing together of ranger members, champions and community representatives in October 2017 for the National Symposium has helped the successful conduction of the awareness component of this project.

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

During the implementation of the project, the successful development of the draft strategic plan and financial policy and communication plan has contributed to the strengthening of the association's institutional capacity. Prior to the project, SIRA did not have these important documents in place which would assist it in its management and overall running. SIRA looks to further finalize these documents by having its key partners and rangers to review it before it is finalize it so that it can be used to govern SIRA's operations.

Further to this, the challenges faced by SIRA during the implementation of the project makes it vital for it to employ a coordinator and executive members that are engaged full time on SIRA matters. SIRA has the potential to be established as an individual entity to work alongside the

relevant government line ministries and non-governmental organizations to execute its activities.

Additionally, maintaining good communication links between the project coordinator, executive members and partners is crucial to the better functioning of the association. The challenge of having a part time coordinator working on this project has led to some of the setbacks faced during its implementation. The current interim-coordinator based in Western province where access to the internet and phone reception is unreliable, and the plausible means of passing on information is via boat, which contributes to additional time needed to pass on important information across. This makes communicating about issues regarding SIRA challenging

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

Not applicable

Sustainability/Replication

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

SIRA has the potential to be both sustained as there is a growing number of community based organizations interested in pursuing conservation efforts, hence registering their rangers under SIRA. SIRA will now continue to collaborate with relevant line government ministries and other regional ranger partners in the Pacific for assistance to support full time positions for the association.

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

None at this point of time

Safeguards

Please provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies for this project. This may be attached in the form of an updated Social Safeguards document.

Please see Social Safeguard document attached.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

[Under this project Solomon Islands Rangers Association \(SIRA\) has achieved the following things. Strategic Plan 2017-2020 document, two draft finance policy and communication plan, registered as a non-profitable organization under the charitable trust act of the Solomon Islands](#)

and have its own bank accounts. These will help the association progress on to attain what has been stated in the vision and mission with the strategies in place.

Since the project brought SIRA to a certain level in internal capacity strengthening of the association, one of the strategic directions would be assisting and providing more practical/field activities with the rangers in the communities identified and listed above. Field practical activities examples are provided and documented in the Ranger Field Guides produced by University of Queensland, Australia. Field guide was developed but demonstrations and assessing the ranger members doing these not yet done. Thus, SIRA is planning to do that in collaboration with supporting stakeholders.

SIRA have potential to grow and gain further support. However, the current executive members feels that, SIRA have some negative records on this projects which determine limited or no any future supported for SIRA again from CEPF in the future. However SIRA will do its best to find some sources to raise funds for its independent and full operational association. SIRA plan to employ full time coordinators, managers, have own office and provide proper reporting system to the donors.

Lastly but not the least, SIRA will finalize the draft documents and endorse them for implementation in its next sitting and training that will be provided by SICCP and SIELA in the coming month. The approved copies of these will be sent to CEPF team afterwards.

End.

Additional Funding

Please provide:

28. details of any additional funding that supported this project

Not Applicable

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

There were no further funding secured for this organization.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

* 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.cepfn.org, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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

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