

CEPF Final Project Completion Report – EMI Small Grants

Please complete all fields and respond to all questions below.

Background Information

Organization Legal Name	Arnavon Community Marine Conservation Area
Project Title	Training for ACMCA to ratify Protected Areas Act 2010 in Arnavons
Date of Report	8 th February 2018
Report Author	Mr. Henry Kaniki
Author Contact Information	arnavoncoordinator@gmail.com
CEPF Region	East Melanesian Islands
Strategic Direction	Strategic Direction 2: Integrate biodiversity conservation into local land use and development planning.
Grant Amount	USD\$19,950
Project Dates	April 2016 – March 2017

1. Implementation Partners for this Project

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

Partners	Activities (Involvement in this Project)
Rano & Company Legal Firm	This local legal firm was identified as one of the primary partners for implementing the project. The organization with the help of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) contracted the company to undertake ACMCA to a process of registering under the PA Act 2010.. According to Mr. David Lidimani of Rano & Company Legal Firm, ACMCA will need to undertake a review of its management plan, setting of governance structure and establish financial mechanisms at the national level for the organization. In carrying out the activities there will be community group meetings in each community, and national stakeholders meeting to be organized in ACMCA Honiara office to ensure that strong participation of key stakeholders is achieved.
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	TNC is an international conservation organization who has its field office in Honiara that over time has gained highest recognition in the country for being an outstanding NGO with capacity in developing local communities' capacity in conservation efforts. For more than 22 years, TNC has been working across Isabel and Choiseul Provinces and its initial project in establishing Arnavon Community Marine Conservation Area (ACMCA) which became the first community based organization in the country. The organization will also play a primary role in implementing this project with a focus on scientific perspectives and providing other financial support for logistics and relevant capacity building trainings (Board Meetings, Leadership training and Rangers annual meetings). In terms of participation, ACMCA office in Honiara (post of project

	coordinator) is housed in TNC's office, thus both organizations collaborate on a daily basis.
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) & Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR)	MECDM and MFMR are to important partners in this project. ACMCA has worked closely with relevant departments from these two government line ministries in ensuring that the enforcement of the Protected Areas Act is recognized nationally and effectively implemented. Members of these two ministries are also part of Arnavon Board of Management.

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.

ACMCA contributed to CEPF's Ecosystem Profile under Strategic Direction 2; Integrate biodiversity conservation into local land use and development planning and Investment Priorities 2.2; Provide legal training and support to communities for effective enforcement of environmental protection regulations.

In implementing this project, Arnavon rangers are empowered and better informed of their rights and responsibilities. They are now better equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to conduct their duties after the declaration of the National Marine Park. As a result of the ranger training, the rangers have also noted the change in perception from surrounding communities towards their work. Prior to the training and declaration of the marine park, the surrounding communities often disregarded the roles that rangers played on Arnavons. However, this old perception has changed through the implementation of this project, as the rangers effectively conduct their duties with legal power they poses in enforcing the management plan of the marine park and the Protected Areas Act 2010. This change in perception has made the communities respect the work that rangers do on Arnavons, and since the marine park's declaration, rangers have recorded a steady increase in the number of nesting turtles on the island.

Malaita Premier encourages Arnavon Island marine park

BY LINTON AARON NIA
PREMIER of Malaita travelled a long way to the family of Isabel and Choiseul provinces to offer their support for Arnavon Island Marine Park.
 The Arnavon Community Marine Conservatory Area is now situated in the state of Arnavon Community Marine Park.
 Manetoli said the future of Arnavon can be secured if the three communities involved believe in strong management and partnership based on voluntary leadership and cooperation.

It also acts as a link of cooperation in Solomon Islands, and it is on this path the government is involved and involved.
 Arnavon park, Premier Manetoli said in a declaration. He said this will ensure protection of information for Arnavon Community Marine Park, and the future of the park.
 "Use the Arnavon Park as a conservatory or protected area, to ensure the community for future, present and future."
 "It is the way the long term sustainable of the Arnavon Park is to be achieved."

He also said participation of provincial and national government in the Marine Park is required for long term sustainability of the park. He said by involving and engaging the community, the park will be protected.
 Minister for Environment, Climate Change, Habitat Management and Biodiversity, Hon James Manetoli, said the park is a model of working together and building partnership to bring effective conservation.
 "Our work does not end here, rather this is the beginning, as Arnavon is ready to welcome a new member in the way come, the future could be secure."

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Minister for Environment, Climate Change, Habitat Management and Biodiversity, Hon James Manetoli, with other officials and community members at the declaration of Arnavon Island Marine Park.



Minister Manetoli and other officials at the declaration of Arnavon Island Marine Park.



Minister for Environment, Hon James Manetoli, going with Members of the three communities of Isabel and Choiseul Province with the Arnavon community officials respecting Arnavon Island Marine Park.



Members of the Isabel Province. Group stand in photo session.



The Premier for Isabel Province Mr. James Habu and Deputy Premier for Choiseul Mr. Alpha Kimata.

Provincial leaders commend Arnavon Marine Park

BY LINTON AARON NIA
PROVINCIAL leaders have expressed the strong support and backing of the state of the Arnavon Community Marine Park declaration.
 The Provincial Government of Isabel and Choiseul Province, along with the National Government and three communities, including, Manetoli, Habu, and Kimata, the Arnavon Community Marine Conservatory Area in Arnavon Islands.
 The idea to create Marine Park, especially in a place considered by individuals and others who have had long history from their communities to create Arnavon Island Marine Park.
 Premier of Isabel Province, Mr. James Habu, said in a provincial government he is proud of the community involved in the park. He said the park is a model of working together and building partnership to bring effective conservation.
 He said that the declaration of the Arnavon Community Marine Park will encourage strong support for the park. He said the park is a model of working together and building partnership to bring effective conservation.
 "I hope it will encourage strong support for the park. He said the park is a model of working together and building partnership to bring effective conservation."

However, Hon Habu said although this is a remarkable achievement, the local officials and community members are the ones who should be commended for the park. He said the park is a model of working together and building partnership to bring effective conservation.
 Deputy Premier of Choiseul Province, Mr. Alpha Kimata, said he is proud of Arnavon Island's Marine Park for the role it is playing in the Arnavon community. He said the park is a model of working together and building partnership to bring effective conservation.
 "It is our responsibility to see such initiative achieved at the community and provincial level. We will support the Arnavon community. We have passed this for more than 20 years, Hon Habu said.
 He said that the partnership of TNC with the community for the Arnavon Marine Park is a model of working together and building partnership to bring effective conservation.
 "It is because of the strong support from the community and provincial government, we have been able to manage the park. We will support the Arnavon community. We have passed this for more than 20 years, Hon Habu said.
 Manetoli, Habu, and Kimata said the Arnavon Marine Park is a model of working together and building partnership to bring effective conservation.
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Three members of the Arnavon Community Marine Park. They are already working on the island.

Figure 1 shows an article about the marine park and support shown from Provincial Government of Isabel, Choiseul and Malaita.

During the declaration of the marine park there were some officials who came to witness the historical event. The names and position of the leaders are as follows: Hon Peter Ramohia (Premier of Malaita), Hon James Habu (Premier of Isabel), Hon Kimata (Deputy Premier of Choiseul), Hon Manetoli (Minister for Environment), Dr. Mataki (PS for Environment) and their parties, Provincial and Ministry officers for Fisheries and Environment, Police officers, NGO partners, Church leaders, Chiefs, Teachers, and youths.

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

Objective 1: Development of a simplified version of the Protected Area Act 2010, its regulation 2012 and ACMCA management plan for community level.

Outcomes1.1: A simplified version of PA Act 2010 and its regulation 2012 for community to understand is produced for ACMCA.

During the implementation of the project, it was realized that a more general version of the PA Act and regulation summary was made by the Public solicitor's office which was sufficient for the purpose of implementing the awareness activity at the national level. However there was a need to do a community version that is more relevant and contextualized to the ACMCA situation and assist the ACMCA community as part of the fulfillment of the PA Act submission requirement.

As part of the project first activity, ACMCA developed a summarized PowerPoint that is more locally focused and relevant to the ACMCA context and was used during the course of the project implementation.

This initial draft of the simplified document was part of the submission we did for the declaration of the Protected Area under the Act (PA Act 2010). It was not possible to formalize this and achieve this specific objective of a more comprehensive summary of the Act under this project's timeframe, and with the budget provided. The contract of the private lawyer was specifically for legal training only.

Outcomes1.2 Posters, Pamphlets, fact sheets are produced and available during World Environmental Day (5th June 2016 event)

Three rangers from Arnavons along with the project coordinator attended the World Environment Day in Honiara. The purpose of ACMCA joining this event was to promote the ongoing conservation work that we do at Arnavons. In particular, it was an opportunity to share with partners and public about this project. During this event, there were many organisations, line Ministries, students (High school/Primary school) that visited the ACMCA stall. The rangers implemented interacting activities which captured the interest of students and at the same time disseminating information to the audience. For instance, the rangers gave an opening awareness talk about the work we do and later on asked questions to the audience and the person with the right answer was awarded with special prizes.

In regards to the CEPF project awareness, the rangers printed out copies of the flyer and project details and shared with partners, public and relevant Government Ministries. This allows sharing of information between partners to share what we are doing in our community (Arnavon Islands - Isabel & Choiseul Province).

Outcome 1.3 ACMCA management plan is reviewed and is in line with the requirement for registration to PA Act 2010 under the MECDM.

Prior to the declaration of ACMCA to the PA Act 2010, it was a requirement that the management plan was reviewed, as it is one of the documents required for the process leading to registration under the PA Act 2010. This task was set as a high priority by ACMCA and our partner, TNC. However, due to the high cost to hire a lawyer, the grant obtained through this project was unable to cater for the legal fees to engage a lawyer. In fact, the initial project proposal did not include this budget thus was not part of this project hence through ACMCA's partnership with TNC, a legal practitioner (Mr. David Lidimani) was hired by TNC to review Arnavon's Management Plan. The major task of the private lawyer was to deliver the legal training accordance to the reviewed management plan and presenting of the final version of the document to the board during its meeting during the course of the project period.

Outcome 1.4 Simplified version (1 page summary) of the management plan is produced and made available to community and stakeholders.

During the course of the project implementation, a one page summary of the ACMP Management Plan was developed. The purpose of this was to simplify the wordy content of the management plan and put it in a way that local people can easily and readily understand the concept of the plan. During the course of the project implementation, rangers distributed the information when conducting community awareness in three main communities of Arnavons. For instance, during Field trip at Tagu Home Stay, KAWAKI Womens Network Meeting in Wagina community, and Allardyce High School field trip to Arnavons. The final product of this activity was also made available to relevant Government Ministries, and Provincial Government.

Objective 2: Conduct Protected Area Act 2010 workshop for ACMCA community facilitators, rangers and Board of directors

Outcome 2.1 One Training is delivered for ACMCA Community facilitators and ACMCA Board of Directors

During the course of the project, the ACMCA board of directors and local rangers made several visits to the Protected Area site.

Some of the main occasions that brought our key partners to the Arnavon Islands are as follows;

- Cruise ship visit to Arnavons on scheduled basis (twice a year).
- Private Donor visits to the project site.
- Guest visits to Arnavons during long holidays or weekends.
- University, High School and Primary School field trips to Arnavons.
- National workshops, trainings, board meetings etc.
- Community, youth and church groups, visiting Arnavon Islands

From the awareness sessions conducted by MECDM officers, the communities surrounding Arnavon islands became aware of what declaring Arnavon island as a marine park under the PA Act 2010 would mean for them. Through the consultation meetings held, community representatives were able to clarify their doubts regarding the process and regulations that would be put in place and covered under the Act.

As a result of this, the awareness about the legal status of ACMCA also went beyond the Arnavon boundary to Vella la Vella Island, in the Western Province. An invitation was made by a community based organisation, Sirubai Voko Tribe Association (SVTA,) to ACMCA regarding the awareness activity about the legal registration of the Protected Area from the community. Hence, in December 2017, a group of women from ACMCA community known as KAWAKI Women's Network together with rangers from Arnavons visited Pusiju community during a Beach Soccer tournament, and conducted an awareness session on how they worked towards declaring Arnavon as Marine Park under the PA Act 2010.

Outcome 2.2 One Training is delivered specifically for Rangers (appointed inspectors under the Act) and community Police officers on the following 5 topics; legal powers and jurisdictions, prescribed offences and penalties, compoundable offences and procedures for issuing infringement notices, prosecution of offenders in court, collection, handling and presentation of evidence.

There were two legal trainings conducted for rangers by the lawyer, Mr David Lidimani, at the research center on Arnavon Island. The purpose of this legal training was to assist in building the capacity of the Arnavon rangers on their role and responsibilities within the PA Act as

rangers of the marine park. A total of eleven local rangers participated and completed the training and were certificated at the end of the training and were legally recognized as rangers to carry out the enforcement task within the Arnavon Community Marine Park (ACMP).

The training included courtroom mock trials on prosecution of offenders or poachers. The topics covered during the training were as follows; (i) legal powers and jurisdiction, (ii) prescribed offences and penalties, (iii) offences subject to infringement notices, (iv) prosecution of offenders in court.

After going through each session of the training, there were exercises undertaken by the participants portraying realistic play scenarios of offences that may happen, and showing them how to conduct themselves if such a situation happened. At the end of the trainings, a formal ceremony was made to certify the rangers that have undergone training and are now capable to implement their duties on the recently declared marine park.

Among the trainees were three local Royal Solomon Island Police Officers. The officers mentioned that this training has given them the opportunity to understand other Laws besides Criminal Law. Mr. Desmond Habu added by saying that it would be good to have future collaboration with Isabel Police officers based in Buala as Arnavons is under the Jurisdiction of Isabel Province. A fellow officer, Mr. Joseph Matakai, mentioned that it is high time for the Arnavon rangers to utilize the Law and to exercise the powers under the Act to effectively protect the unique environment in this region. It would be ideal if such power to enforce national laws are shared throughout the community as Royal Police may not often have their presence in remote communities across the country.

The training facilitator took a participatory learning approach which enabled the rangers to interact with each other whilst learning new concepts in class. The workshops took several modes of presentation and dissemination of information during the training such as PowerPoint presentation, group discussion, mock sessions, individual discussions between rangers and the facilitator (lawyer). The facilitator took more time on exercises in relation to the PA Act and its regulations, hence it gave more insight knowledge to the participants. During the training, the rangers and facilitator took several monitoring patrols within the protected area during day and night so as to put into practice the knowledge gained from the training. According to on duty

rangers, that there was a big improvement in surveillance within the protected area since the declaration of the area hence nesting of turtles were increasing in numbers.

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

Success Story of the Project: In general, the ACMCA legal training project was a highlight for the conservation community across the country and region in 2017. This was a historical event that helps to shed light to conservation efforts happening in the country that often go unnoticed. The training itself was conducted as planned, although there were alterations to when it was conducted as we depended on the availability of the lawyer. However, apart from that, there were no major setbacks experienced while implementing this activity. Further to this, we received a lot of expressions of interest to share our experience by other community based organizations who envision having their area registered under the PA Act 2010. Overall, the rangers who underwent the legal training have been empowered to conduct their duties as they exercise the authority that they have under the PA Act 2010 to manage the resources within the marine park.

Issue # 2065
Rangers of Annavon National Marine Park complete legal training



Annavon Conservation Officer M. Henry Narditi and 11 rangers holding certificates received from the ACMCA legal training project. Local rangers are being empowered to manage the resources within the protected area.

The rangers will now be able to enforce the law within the park and report any illegal activities to the police.

The training was held at the Annavon National Marine Park headquarters in Annavon, Maldives. It was organized by the ACMCA and the Ministry of Environment, Urban Planning and Construction.

The training was a success and the rangers are now better equipped to manage the park. The training was held at the Annavon National Marine Park headquarters in Annavon, Maldives. It was organized by the ACMCA and the Ministry of Environment, Urban Planning and Construction.

BY LYNN AARON PILL
A 10-day legal training for rangers of the Annavon National Marine Park is completed. The rangers will now be able to enforce the law within the park and report any illegal activities to the police.

Annavon becomes safe home for marine lives



The Annavon National Marine Park is a beautiful coastal area with a wide beach and clear water. It is a safe home for many marine species.

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Issue # 2596
NEWS LOCAL
The Island News Weekly 11 May 2018

Arnavon Islands, Solomon Islands' first marine park



The Annavon National Marine Park is the first marine park in the Solomon Islands. It was officially opened in May 2018. The park covers an area of 100 square kilometers and is home to many marine species.

The park is a beautiful coastal area with a wide beach and clear water. It is a safe home for many marine species.

BY LYNN AARON PILL
The Annavon National Marine Park is the first marine park in the Solomon Islands. It was officially opened in May 2018. The park covers an area of 100 square kilometers and is home to many marine species.

Grosses traditional turtle killing re-enacted



A re-enactment of a traditional turtle killing ceremony was held at the Annavon National Marine Park. The ceremony was held to mark the opening of the park and to raise awareness of the importance of marine conservation.

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BY LYNN AARON PILL
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Figure 2 (left) shows an article about legal training for rangers. (Right) shows article about the declaration of the Marine Park.

Challenges of the Project: There were minor challenges that were experienced during the course of the project.

- **Weather conditions;** the majority of the activities were implemented at the project site (Arnavon Islands) thus the schedule of activities were subjected to weather conditions. To reach Arnavon Islands it requires travel via domestic plane from Honiara to either Kaghau (Choiseul) or Fera (Isabel), and then travel three hours by boat to Arnavons.
- **Availability of the facilitator;** The lawyer that was engaged to conduct the legal trainings for the rangers had a busy schedule. Hence we had to wait for his availability before proceeding on to implementing the trainings.
- **Under staffed;** the organization has been operating for 22 years with only 1 coordinator to manage project activities. This often poses a challenge especially when there are a lot of reports to prepare.

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

Being the first ever legal training for rangers in Solomon Islands, this project has provided a new shift for conservation in the country. During the National Resource Management Symposium held in Honiara in October 2017, the legal training for Arnavon rangers was highlighted in the project coordinator's presentation. The participants attending the event were really interested in this training, and some wanted the same for their community based organizations as well. The expression of interest from other partners regarding the legal training continues to increase and as a result there were trips being conducted by rangers in and around the Arnavon communities, as well as in Honiara, Isabel, Choiseul and Western Provinces. This has allowed ACMCA to explore more opportunities and to enhance collaboration with other local and national stakeholders. In addition, Arnavon rangers were invited to give an awareness talk on sea turtles and natural resource management at a Honiara-based school called Burns Creek Primary School.



Figure 3 shows two Arnavaon rangers representatives with Burns Creek Primary School students (Class 6) during awareness program.

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

ACMCA implemented all of the activities that were planned in the initial proposal and have achieved a national flagship milestone for Solomon Islands by declaring the first ever Marine Park in the country. Moreover, the legal power that is vested on all ACMCA rangers is living proof that enforcement of protected areas in Solomon Islands has reached another level from where it used to be (traditional practices of conservation).

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.

As part of this project the following documentations were developed:

- Reviewed version of ACMCA Management Plan 2017
- Brief summary of ACMCA Management Plan & its regulations
- Legal Training for rangers modules
- Certificates for ACMCA rangers being for successfully completing the legal trainings on PA Act 2010.
- Declaration certificate of Arnavaon Community Marine Park.
- Articles features on local media regarding trainings and workshops about this project.

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? Yes, ACMCA has completed the CSTT for both (initial and final).
(Please submit the final CSTT document to IUCN Oceania if you have not already done so).

	Date	Composite Score
Baseline CSTT	8 th February 2018	51.5/100
Final CSTT	8 th February 2018	80/100

9. Please list any **Vulnerable, Endangered, or Critically Endangered species** conserved due to your project. The threatened species that ACMCA has been working to conserve for the past two decades and which is the key focus of conservation in Arnavons Islands are the Hawksbill Turtle (Critically Endangered) and the Green Turtle (Endangered).





Figure 4 (Left) Arnavon rangers during core patrol monitoring within the Protected Area. (Right) shows a ranger during rodeo activity (tagging of foraging juvenile turtle). (Below) rangers measuring a hawksbill turtle during monitoring.

10. Hectares Under Improved Management

Project Results	Hectares*	Comments
11. Did your project strengthen the management of an existing protected area?	15200 ha	Yes, we have registered the protected area from traditionally managed to legally managed by declaring the area under the Protected Areas Act 2010 (National Act, Solomon Islands). <i>Arnavon Community Marine Park (Includes, Sikopo Is, Kerehikapa Is, Maleivona Is).</i>
12. Did your project create a new protected area or expand an existing protected area?	15200 ha 5000 ha	Yes, we have registered the protected area from traditionally managed to legally managed by declaring the area under the Protected Areas Act 2010 (National Act, Solomon Islands). <i>Arnavon Community Marine Park (Includes, Sikopo Is, Kerehikapa Is, Maleivona Is).</i> Yes, this initiative has encouraged satellite areas to continue with their existing sites within ACMCA communities.

		<i>Tagu homestay Marine & Forest Protected Area, Boeboe village, Katupika, Choiseul province.</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)	15200 ha	Yes, ACMCA which is now known as Arnavon Community Marine Park (ACMP). <i>Arnavon Islands, Isabel Province</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.) N/A*

Protected area	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score
ACMCA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

15. Direct Beneficiaries: Training and Education`

<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	0	17	11 Arnavon rangers, 2 coordinators, 3 police officers, 1 Officer from MFMR
17. Adults for livelihoods or increased income	-	-	-	-
18. School-aged children	-	-	-	-
19. Other	10	5	15	ACMCA board members

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
Kia	3000	Kia	Isabel	Solomon Islands
Wagina	2500	Wagina	Choiseul	Solomon Islands
Katupika	3000	Katupika	Choiseul	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, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance	Other (please
								Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental										
Kia	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		
Wagina		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X		
Katupika	X	X	X	X				x	x	x	x	x	x			X	x	X	x		

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

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 main success of the ACMCA project design process is that we have the long term trust with our primary partners, TNC and the Private lawyer. In fact, the project was derived from the initial work that the private lawyer implemented for ACMCA.

We also had our primary partners' input during the early development of the proposal thus there was a high chance of this project being implemented successfully as it happened.

As far as the project is concerned, our government partners have been very supportive in this project as it goes along with national interest which is to declare ACMCA as a marine park under the PA Act 2010.

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

In regards to project implementation, our primary partner (facilitator) was ***open and flexible*** to the change of schedule of the project activities which arose due to unforeseen circumstances such as bad weather, delay of funds etc. This allowed ACMCA administration to work on internal matters that would otherwise jeopardize the life of the project.

- ***Full participation during training:*** participants of the training (Arnavon rangers and board members) were readily available for the series of trainings with eagerness to learn and share new knowledge.



Figure 5 shows Arnavon rangers, police officers, fishery officer and partners during the legal training at Arnavons. Photo by Henry Kaniki

- **Financial support from Partners;** In some cases during the implementation period of this project our key partner TNC financially supported some of the activities which contributed a lot to the success of this project. For instance, during the declaration of the Protected Area, community consultation meetings and board meeting costs
- **Support from Community Leaders and organizations;** at the grass root level, there are existing governance structures that people respect and follow. In the case of the conservation work in Arnavons, the three main communities - Kia, Wagina and Katupika - play a major role in the success of this protected area. The moral support from the chiefs, elders and church leaders contributes towards the success of decades of conservation in the Arnavons. Their leaders hold together the diverse ethnic groups of people surrounding Arnavon Island working towards a common goal in conservation.

A minor challenge faced during the implementation of the project was communication. At the moment there is no mobile coverage on Arnavons. This has challenged working on Arnavons especially when it comes to implementing activities from our head office in Honiara. We however, managed to address this issue by updating our rangers about the upcoming activities ahead of schedule; thus it worked for us for this project.

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

Some of the lessons learned with this project are as follows;

- Need more attention to gender in conservation, and the inclusion of women i.e. KAWAKA Women’s Group which was not involved in the initial planning stage of the project. However, we managed to involve this group in later stage of the project as it took part in our awareness programs.
- Actively involve youths (majority population in communities surrounding Arnavons) in relevant activities i.e. integrating sports and conservation such as the beach soccer team they formed late last year- **“Team Arnavon Hawksbill”**.



Figure 6 shows Team Hawksbill during their training at Arnavon Islands to participate in Beach Soccer Tournament in Western province.

Sustainability/Replication

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

Success stories that came out as the result of this project are as follows;

- The key highlight of this project was the legal recognition of Arnavon rangers under a national law-PA Act 2017. This is a historical milestone for the organization and the nation at large.



Figure 7 shows ACMCA rangers, Police officers and facilitator after the training at Arnavons. Photo by Henry Kaniki

- Getting full support from Arnavons Women’s Network-KAWAKI Women’s Network. This is a newly established group that focuses on gender conservation in Arnavon communities. They are more vocal and play a vital role in sharing the conservation message to the wider community. In November 2017, KAWAKI group went to Australia to share the success story of women in conservation to other women groups in the Pacific. This is a bonus for ACMCA as it helped to build the capacity of members of KAWAKI women’s network, and also exposed them to an international platform where they can collaborate with other women groups who share similar goals in advancing gender conservation. As a result, more local groups (partners) within the country are becoming supportive of the ongoing initiative to protect f marine animals on Arnavons.



See the link below for more information: <http://naturesleadingwomen.org/women/solomon-islands/>

- ***ACMCA/ KAWAKI women's Network Outreach Program;***

During the course of the 1 week Beach Soccer tournament, an awareness team from Arnavon Community Marine Park- KAWAKI Women's Network and rangers took an active role in implementing awareness on protected areas from a community perspective. It was a collaborative effort between Sirubai VTA and ACMCA by linking their resource personnel for a common goal of sharing experiences in conservation and natural resource management. In particular, the team reached out with the banner of **"We are the Turtle Ambassadors for the greater Arnavons"**. All participants who came to join the tournament witnessed the historical activity organized by the two parties. The team shared experiences from Arnavons as the newly declared Marine Protected Area under the PA Act 2010. Also, the women shared similar experiences with the local women on how to establish a savings club as an alternative livelihood option. From this exchange and sharing of ideas, the women of Sirubai community are now taking steps forward to see how they can start their program with the savings club.



Figure 8 Members of KAWAKI Women’s Network and Arnavon rangers during the awareness activity at Kubolia, Vella la Vella, Western Province. Photo by SVAT

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

At the end of the project, ACMCA recognized some of the unplanned activities that eventually assisted the project to go beyond its initial objectives.

Scaling up to national level-it would be more realistic for this legal training to take place under the Solomon Islands Rangers Association (SIRA). This is a local organization that focuses on rangers, managers of protected areas, environmentalists, and conservationists in the country. This is just the beginning of the journey in formally declaring a protected area under the Protected Areas Act 2010, however moving forward into the future would need more rangers onboard and SIRA is the ideal organization to be mandated to take on this training and assist rangers from community based organizations within the country to go through this training.

Engaging of youths in the community by focusing on their interests and merging with a conservation perspective would be another ideal way to go. In fact, the idea of establishing the first ever Football team of Arnavon communities arose last year December. The purpose of this

was to get the youths involved in ACMCA activities and become the ambassador of the protected area through sports. This is one of the success stories that suddenly shifted the interest of youths from doing nothing to actively participating in conservation activities. According to the new chairman of ACMCA (Mr. Deral Daniel) this initiative was historical for the organization as youths are the highest population in the community and engaging them using their interests can contribute positively to the sustainability and ownership of the project in the future.



Figure 9 Team hawksbill from Arnavons (ACMCA) ready to participate in beach soccer in Western province (Dec 2017)

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.

See attached

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

There are many community based organisations doing great conservation work that need similar support with small grants from CEPF. For instance, Tagu Homestay Marine & Forest Protected Area in Choiseul. This is a community initiative that this has been ongoing with both terrestrial and marine conservation for the past 10 years. They lack the technical person to help them with proposal writing.

At the end of this project, ACMCA has come to realize that there is much more potential for women, youths and children to actively participate in conservation activities and take ownership of the project. This should be the way forward for sustainability of conservation in Solomon Islands as people are custodians of their land and resources- hence it would be proper that they are empowered to take on that responsibility to manage their resources sustainably. We recognize the interest of youths and members of the community in conservation; hence we try to include them in conservation activities. An example of this is involving them in awareness talks at social events such as through the beach soccer tournament that the KAWAKI women and Arnavon rangers participated in.

Additional Funding

Please provide:

28. details of any additional funding that supported this project

ACMCA received a small grant (USD 5000) from Ministry of Environment (MECMD) in support for the preparation of the declaration of the conservation area at Arnavons.

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
MECMD	A	USD 5000	This small grant was a commitment of SI Government as the Act is administer by MECMD.

** 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:

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