

## CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association(KIBCA)
<b>Project Title:</b>	Building the Capacity of the Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association: Strengthening Landholder Capacity and Conservation
<b>Date of Report:</b>	15/6/2015
<b>Report Author and Contact Information</b>	Ferguson Vaghi P o Box 199, Gizo, Western Province, Email: ferguson007@mail.com Mobile:7401198

**CEPF Region:** East Melanesian Islands

**Strategic Direction:** Strategic Direction 4. Increase local, national and regional capacity to conserve biodiversity through catalyzing civil society partnerships.

**Grant Amount:**US\$20 000.00

**Project Dates:** 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015

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

### **1.Center for Biodiversity and Conservation (CBC), American Museum of Natural History (AMNH)**

AMNH supports KIBCA in the establishment of scientific monitoring baselines for rangers or monitors. KIBCA engages AMNH staff Mr Michael esbach to develop monitoring baselines and protocols that can address broader questions about reserve design and management regimes, as well as enable regional or global comparisons across sites.

He also support KIBCA to develop baseline and establish monitoring protocols and to work with staff, rangers, and monitors.

### **2.Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP)**

#### **Strengthen local leadership and build financial capacity:**

Mrs Annie from SICCP travel to Kolombangara to work directly with KIBCA's Financial Officer Mr Adrian Ghele. They also continue to support KIBCA on a monthly mentoring phone call, and host another training session in Honiara towards the middle of the project.

#### **Improve KIBCA's communication and governance:**

SICCP Supports KIBCA through improved office on telecommunications, internet access, and incorporation of mobile phone technology. These had help us to link remote field sites on Kolombangara with both KIBCA's primary office and partner support. These had help us better communicate financial matters with SICCP in Honiara, as well as communication with international donors located outside of the Solomon

Islands to support us meeting our conservation objectives and to bring together a broader audience, communicate results and future goals, and empower the voices of community members we seek to support.

## Conservation Impacts

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

### **Project Rationale**

As with much of the developing world, Melanesian islanders are experiencing unprecedented pressure to commercially liquidate natural resources. Over the past several decades this has transformed ecologies and led to the loss of resource systems that have sustained customary landholders' subsistence and economic opportunity for generations. These losses go hand in hand with social upheaval and a weakening of overall well-being within historically robust rural communities.

On Kolombangara, a strong conservation program led by landholders has emerged to conserve the upland montane forest on Kolombangara. Creating a neutral body separate from divisive land ownership issues has been fundamental. Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association (KIBCA) is an empowered, locally-driven conservation institution leading real efforts to conserve Kolombangara Island's unique biodiversity, including its renowned endemic birds, under threat from industrial-scale logging and unsustainable land practices.

Despite these gains, KIBCA's capacity for managing and conserving this biodiversity remains low. Similarly, there is little capacity to strategize at regional levels and act locally in the context of customary land tenure practices. Gains in KIBCA's impact and actions now require capacity that is beyond current levels within the association. With core support for basic capacity building needs, we are well positioned to benefit from a set of partnerships offering capacity development training and investment. The focus of this project is to resource the basic staffing and infrastructure capacity necessary to develop and strengthen KIBCA's capacity to manage current conservation activities and expand its community-driven conservation action on Kolombangara.

### **Project Approach**

Our approach is focused on improving KIBCA's local leadership and financial capacity, improving communications and governance, and establishing monitoring protocols to better steward the management and conservation of Kolombangara Island.

#### **1. Strengthen local leadership and build financial capacity:**

We have challenges with how we manage our finances and communicate them with local and international partners. Inadequate financial accountability is the primary reason for failure of community-run projects in the Solomon Islands. To address this concern, KIBCA seeks to mentor and train current office staff responsible for the financial management and planning of KIBCA's conservation and scholarship initiatives. Building the capacity for improved transparency and financial accountability is critical to retaining support from KIBCA members, supporters, and donors.

To support KIBCA's financial capacity, a financial expert from SICCP travels to Kolombangara to work directly with KIBCA's Financial Officer. SICCP continues to support KIBCA on a monthly basis, and host another training session in Honiara.

## **2. Improvement of KIBCA's communication and governance:**

Communications and monitoring of activities and impacts are essential to both daily operations and longer-term conservation impacts. Through improved office infrastructure, particularly telecommunications, internet access, and incorporation of mobile phone technology, KIBCA was able to link with remote field sites. These tools help us facilitate better communication on financial matters with SICCP in Honiara, as well as communication with international donors located outside of the Solomon Islands.

In addition, the funding helps us to conduct Annual General Meeting (AGM) on December 18<sup>th</sup> 2014. It remains a challenge to support the number of participants who wish to attend the AGM. KIBCA was able to bring together a broader audience, communicate results and future goals, and empower the voices of community members we seek to support.

## **3. Establish monitoring protocols and capacity in partnership with AMNH:**

In partnership with AMNH, KIBCA establishes scientific monitoring baselines for rangers or monitors. KIBCA directly engage AMNH staff to develop monitoring baselines and protocols that address broader questions about reserve design and management regimes, as well as enable regional or global comparisons across sites.

AMNH staff Mr Michael Esbach travel to Kolombangara once a year to support KIBCA to establish monitoring protocols and to work with staff, rangers, and monitors.

### **Link to CEPF Investment Strategy**

KIBCA's activities thus emphasize CEPF's Strategic Direction 4.1 (*Increase local, national and regional capacity to conserve biodiversity through catalyzing civil society partnerships*). Our approach outlined above targets priority 4.1 through our efforts to improve KIBCA's core staffing, financial, governance, and monitoring capacity.

Over the longer term, this initial capacity development investment at KIBCA will impact Strategic Directions 1 and 2 through facilitation of survey and monitoring work, ongoing community engagement and awareness programs, and conservation incentive programs across sites (e.g. scholarship and livelihood programs). In addition, KIBCA will be facilitating and partnering on legal and technical training as has been done in the past, and fostering and piloting corporate engagement that draws upon experiences gained through a partnership between the Kolombangara Forest Products Limited (KFPL) corporations.

### **Project Partners and Stakeholders**

KIBCA has a set of key partners that form the basis of all of our work and capacity development efforts and opportunity, and they are:

#### **1. Center for Biodiversity and Conservation (CBC), American Museum of Natural History (AMNH)**

The CBC was created in 1993 to focus AMNH's significant scientific and educational resources on conservation policy and action on Kolombangara Island. The CBC supported KIBCA in the development of monitoring baseline and protocols on Kolombangara Islands

## **2.Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP)**

The Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP) is a centralized implementation unit created in 2007 that both supports community-level management and creates linkages among community-based partners, customary leaders, and government and other organizations. SICCP had provided core support and capacity building to KIBCA during the duration of this project.

### **Long Term Sustainability**

Building KIBCA'S financial management, communications, governance, and monitoring capacity is a core focus of KIBCA's work on Kolombangara Island over the next years. With support from CEPF, KIBCA can build core capacity critical to strengthening our ability to serve Kolombangara's indigenous landholders and respond to broader conservation partnerships and opportunities.

These gains will allow KIBCA to integrate terrestrial and marine conservation to achieve lasting biodiversity conservation across our island such as the R2R model. In particular, KIBCA seeks to formally register all lands above 400 meters as a protected area under the Solomon Islands Protected Area Act. In addition, KIBCA is dedicated to empowering communities across Kolombangara in natural resource management and improving rural livelihoods. The strengthening of KIBCA's community-driven conservation gains will serve as a model or guide for similar conservation efforts in the Solomon Islands and across Melanesia.

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

Proposed Plan	Results/Impact
SICCP financial expert to travel to Ringgi to train Financial Officer. This includes purchase and instillation of MYOB software	1.Purchased 1xMYOB software and installed in our computer 2.SICCP staff Annie did 1 MYOB training with Adrian Ghele our finance officer in Honiara and another one in Ringi. We also get continuous mentoring support from SICCP office in Honiara via phone call or emails
Financial Officer will work with SICCP on a monthly basis to review acquittals and progress with MYOB	Ongoing monthly ending support from SICCP in reviewing our financial acquittals and MYOB issues
Financial Officer will travel to SICCP office in Honiara to receive further training based weaknesses in monthly acquittals	KIBCA finance officer travelled ones to Honiara to under training and mentoring work with SICCP staff
Improve KIBCA office infrastructure (equipment purchase and installation)	1x Mac Computer was purchased
Create monitoring protocols for KIBCA rangers and monitors in collaboration with AMNH	A monitoring protocol was also designed with support from AMNH personal and a refinement follow up meeting with Communities
With support from AMNH, train KIBCA rangers and monitors in new protocols and methods	AMNH personal also trained Rangers and monitors on the new monitoring protocols
Annual General Meeting	A general Meeting was conducted on the 18 <sup>th</sup> of

	December 2014 at Ghatere Village and attended by almost 50 AGM reps and Executive Members.
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**Hectares Protected:** A total of 20 000ha montane forest & 200 hectare of Marine Parks in the North of Kolombangara was also protected during this project lifetime.

**Species Conserved:** Our Conservation program have also helps to protect a lot of unique species in the terrestrial and marine eco-system. This includes terrestrial and Marine flora & fauna and their habitat.

**Corridors Created:** We have also created a new corridor at Viuru Vavanga area, that is in the customary area south west of the Island. The total area is 500ha.

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

*The Success of the project is minimal but it contributes to our short-term and long-term impact objectives. The main challenge is transportation and our ability to pay workers to engage them on important field work.*

***Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?***

***Positive***

One major benefit of our work with communities is income generation through payment of core staff, rangers, monitors, guides, and landowners. Although villagers across our constituency live traditionally by subsistence farming, hunting, and using forest and marine resources, people need income typically for medical and school expenses, as well as manufactured materials such as clothes, fuel, soap, and batteries.

Another important benefit is through education, capacity building, and training. There is a very high participation rate in primary school in the Solomon Islands and so there is a demand for secondary schooling. We provide high school educational materials related to terrestrial biodiversity and conservation, and run a long-term scholarship program supporting up to 100 scholarships per year. Throughout this project, we hosted a number of capacity building workshops and training sessions to equip students, rangers, and monitors with techniques necessary for specific projects, but applicable to a range of other settings.

***Negative***

The main potential negative impact is the failure to meet expectations regarding livelihood opportunities and community benefits across our constituency. Unrealistic expectations could result in disengagement with the project. Throughout the project period, KIBCA had focus on ensure realistic expectations and avoiding misconceptions about the projects scope.

## Lessons Learned

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

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

- *Strengthening Livelihood Component of any project would be a good lesson learned in the design of any Conservation Project. This is especially true within Melanisia because people actually owns land. Conservation approaches sometimes deprive landholders from accessing their resources.*
- *Secondly those livelihood projects have direct connection with ecosystem to ensure that resource owners physically see the benefit of their resources.*

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

- *People are need to be reminded of the importance of their resources because they can easily be distracted by opportunities. This boils down to the point were a continuous awareness about what we doing is a pre-requisite of successful conservation*

**Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:**

- *Never make promises that you can't fulfill*

## ADDITIONAL FUNDING

**Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.**

**\*Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
  - *SICCP provides for core operation of SDB15 000 a month*
- B** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
  - *UNDP provide Conservation Management funds SDB392 000 to support KIBCA'S work on Kolombangara Island*

**C** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

- *SICCP/AMNH work to secure funding from WCS to continue with some components of the project after July 2015*

### **Sustainability/Replicability**

**Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.**

- *Logging is one pressing and ongoing challenges. There is so much interest from the marginal communities to engage on resource management or to replicate what we are trying to model at Vavanga, However, these potential communities were distracted by logging Companies.*

**Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.**

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## Safeguard Policy Assessment

**Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.**

The questions below will help CEPF to determine whether your project triggers any of the World Bank's safeguard policies. CEPF is required to assess all applications to determine if safeguards are triggered, and if so, whether or not appropriate mitigation measures are included in project design and implementation. For further information on CEPF application of safeguards please refer to [http://www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/safeguard\\_policies.aspx](http://www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/safeguard_policies.aspx).

**Environmental assessment.** Will the project have adverse impacts on the environment? If you answer yes, please provide additional information and a description of mitigating measures you will take.

Yes  
 No

**Natural habitats and forests.** Will the project cause or facilitate any significant loss or degradation of forests or other natural habitats? If you answer yes, please provide additional information and a description of mitigating measures you will take.

Yes  
 No

**Involuntary restrictions of access to resources.** Will the project introduce or strengthen involuntary restrictions of access to resources? If you answer yes, please provide additional information and a description of mitigating measures you will take.

Yes  
 No

**Indigenous peoples.** Does the project plan to work in lands or territories traditionally owned, customarily used, or occupied by indigenous peoples? If you answer yes, please provide a brief description of planned activities in these lands or territories, any adverse impacts foreseen on these indigenous peoples and any mitigating measures you will take.

Yes  
 No

KIBCA's focus is on fostering improved resource management in customary lands under sovereign control by indigenous people on Kolombangara Island, Solomon Islands. Activities include community consultations about land tenure, resource management capacity development, investment in improving local governance, and work around understanding and translating indigenous aspirations into conservation practice and development plans.

**Pest management.** Will the project involve use of herbicides, pesticides, insecticides or any other poison for the removal of invasive species? If you answer yes, please provide the name of the pesticide, herbicide, insecticide or poison you intend to use.

Yes  
 No



**Performance Tracking Report Addendum**

**CEPF Global Targets**

**(Enter Grant Term)**

**Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.  
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.**

<b>Project Results</b>	<b>Is this question relevant?</b>	<b>If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.</b>	<b>Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.</b>	<b>Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 (Attach annexes if necessary)</b>
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	Yes	20 000ha	1	Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?				Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	20 700ha	1	
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	700ha	1	
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	Yes	12 cluster of Communities	1	

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

**Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities**

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	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 rate	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
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services									
Viuru Communities		X	X							X			X	X			X	X	X	X	
Igoana Communities		X	X										X	X			X	X			
Voko Communities		X	X							X			X	X							
Kiuai Communities		X	X										X	X							
Hohiro Communities	X	X	X		X								X	X							
Epaga Communities		X	X																	X	
Kolbagara Communities		X	X															X			
Lolobo Communities		X	X												X	X					
Vavanga Communities		X	X						X	X			X	X						X	
Ngalavasa Communities		X	X		X								X	X							
Ngedoana Communities		X	X		X								X	X							
Lebako Communities		X	X		X					X	X		X	X	X			X	X		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

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

### **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

- Reporting requirement to huge compared to funding level delivered. But this is good practice for small community base organization. This will help us understand donor requirements and to ensure that reasonable deliverables is achieved per 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 Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

**Please include your full contact details below:**

Name: Ferguson Vaghi

Organization name: Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association

Mailing address: P O Box 199, Gizo, Western Province. Solomon Islands.

Tel:+6777401198

Fax: N/A

E-mail:[ferguson007@mail.com](mailto:ferguson007@mail.com)