

Annual Portfolio Overview

Polynesia-Micronesia Biodiversity Hotspot

January 2012

Introduction

The Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot includes all the islands of Micronesia, tropical Polynesia, and Fiji. Included in this enormous expanse of ocean are more than 4,500 islands, representing 11 countries, eight territories and one U.S. state (Hawaii). Despite its large marine coverage, which is four times larger than the United States, it is one of the smallest hotspots in terms of terrestrial land area, covering only 46,315 square kilometers, an area the size of Switzerland. The total population of the hotspot is approximately 3,235,250 but 65 percent of the population is found in Hawaii and Fiji. Within the hotspot, six countries and territories do not meet the criteria to be eligible for CEPF support. These include Nauru; the U.S. state of Hawaii; the U.S. territories of American Samoa and Guam; the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Tuvalu.

CEPF's \$7 million investment was launched in September 2008 with a call for proposals by Conservation International's Pacific Islands Program, which was selected as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT). This portfolio overview describes achievements that have taken place from 31st December 2010 until 31st December 2011 and builds upon the previous annual portfolio overviews from January 2010 and January 2011 as well as the proceedings of the mid-term evaluation workshop held in Suva, Fiji 6-8 June 2010.

The geographic complexity and isolated nature of Pacific Islands have led to the development of extremely high levels of endemism in this hotspot. The various mechanisms of island biogeography and evolution have been able to work particularly clearly in the Pacific free of continental influences. As a result, the hotspot is home to approximately 5,330 native vascular plant species, of which 3,074 (57 percent) are endemic; 242 breeding native bird species of which approximately 164 (68 percent) are endemic; 61 native terrestrial reptiles, of which 30 (49 percent) are endemic; 15 native mammals, all bats, 11 (73 percent) of which are endemic; and three native amphibians, all endemic. Although there are no true native freshwater fish, at least 96 marine species are found as adults in freshwater and 20 species are endemic. Knowledge of invertebrate diversity is very patchy, but for many groups that have been studied, it is high. Land snail diversity is particularly high with over 750 species in Hawaii alone and perhaps 4,000 species in the insular tropical Pacific.

Island ecosystems and species are extremely vulnerable to impacts, such as habitat destruction and invasive species, and therefore the flora and fauna of this hotspot ranks among the most endangered in the world. In fact, species extinction rates in this hotspot approach the highest in the world, especially for birds and land snails. Plant, bird, and invertebrate diversity in the hotspot are particularly high, but diversity of non-volant mammals, reptiles and amphibians is low.

The major threats to Pacific biodiversity are human-induced and include invasive species, habitat alteration and loss, destructive harvesting techniques, and over-exploitation of natural resources. The impact of extreme natural events such as cyclones, drought, and fire may also be significant at times. The future impact of climate change and sea level rise is uncertain at this stage but threaten to be devastating, especially to low lying islands and atolls which could be submerged completely. While many of the threats to native Pacific biodiversity are similar to those in other tropical regions of the world, Pacific Island biotas are particularly vulnerable because the biota evolved in the absence of mammalian predators, grazing herbivores, and many of the diseases

that evolved on larger land masses. Furthermore, the small size and isolated nature of the Pacific Islands result in increased vulnerability to disturbances that may be relatively minor on a larger land mass.

Niche for CEPF investment

Overview

The Ecosystem Profile for Polynesia Micronesia was developed in 2003 to 2004 through a consultative process lead by Conservation International's Pacific Islands Program (CI PIP) but engaged many of the key stakeholders in the hotspot. Species outcomes in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot include all those species that are globally threatened according to the 2003 IUCN Red List, the most recent Red List at the time the outcomes were defined in the profiling process for the 14 eligible countries and territories. These comprised 244 threatened species that were used to define the universe of species outcomes for this hotspot. A further prioritization identified 67 species to become the focus of CEPF's investment.

Site outcomes were determined by identifying the sites in CEPF eligible countries that contain populations of at least one globally threatened species. This analysis identified 161 sites within the hotspot, each containing at least one globally threatened species, and however, this was too vast for one fund to handle alone. Consequently, sites were prioritized based on irreplaceability, which resulted in a total of 60 top priority sites identified for CEPF support.

The appropriate niche for CEPF investment has been developed based on an analysis of three major themes: species and site outcomes; major threats to endangered species; and current environmental investments together with national and regional conservation strategies.

Major findings of this analysis include the following: our knowledge of the hotspot's biodiversity is patchy, incomplete and poorly managed; terrestrial species and site conservation is currently weakly supported; conventional forms of protected area management have been largely ineffective; and invasive species are the major threat to native biotas, but tackling invasive species is relatively poorly supported. Finally, while there are many existing regional and national conservation strategies, these strategies need much stronger support for implementation.

The niche of CEPF in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot is to catalyze civil society action to counteract threats to biodiversity, especially from invasive species, in key biodiversity areas in the hotspot. The geographic focus for CEPF intervention in the hotspot will be on CEPF eligible countries only. The three primary strategic directions are:

1. prevent, control and eradicate invasive species in key biodiversity areas;
2. strengthen the conservation status and management of 60 key biodiversity areas; and
3. build awareness and participation of local leaders and community members in the implementation of protection and recovery plans for threatened species.

By the end of December 2011 there had been five calls for proposals. These have resulted in 224 Letters of Inquiry for both large and small grants. Following a thorough transparent review but the Technical Advisory Group and other experts in the relevant fields 86 applications have been approved and 138 have been withdrawn.

Portfolio Status

During the 12 months covered by this report the portfolio of grants has blossomed with an

additional 17 large grants and 10 small grants contracted as detailed in Table 2 and split between eligible Pacific Island Countries and Overseas Territories.

With respect to addressing the targets identified in the ecosystem profile, by December 2011 CEPF has supported projects that target 21 of the 60 priority species (Appendix 2). These grants have been supported under all three strategic directions from both the large and small grant mechanisms.

Table 1: Break down of the CEPF Polynesia Micronesia portfolio by Strategic Directions for Pacific Island Countries (PICS) and Overseas Territories (OTS) from 1 May 2008 until 31 December 2011.

Strategic Direction	PICS Large Grants	OTS Large Grants	PICS Small Grants	OTS Small Grants	Totals
1. Invasive species prevention	1,853,689	225,114	234,477	19,745	2,333,025
2. Improve management of key biodiversity areas	1,097,630	72,268	82,550	35,540	1,287,988
3. Safeguard and restore threatened species	720,469	366,765	175,995	-	1,263,229
4. Regional Implementation Team	849,930				849,930
Totals	4,521,718	664,147	493,022	55,285	5,734,172

Table 2: Number of large and small grants awarded by CEPF and the RIT for Pacific Island Countries (PICS) and Overseas Territories (OTS) from 1 May 2008 until 31 December 2011.

Strategic Direction	PICS Large Grants	OTS Large Grants	PICS Small Grants	OTS Small Grants	Totals
1. Invasive species prevention	11	3	14	1	29
2. Improve management of key biodiversity areas	11	1	5	2	19
3. Safeguard and restore threatened species	7	3	9	-	19
4. Regional Implementation Team	1				1
Total	30	7	28	3	68

Table 3: Percentage of available funds for large and small grants awarded by CEPF and the RIT for Pacific Island Countries (PICS) and Overseas Territories (OTS) from 1 May 2008 until 31 December 2011

Strategic Direction	PICS Large Grants percent allocated	OTS Large Grants percent allocated	PICS Small Grants percent allocated	OTS Small Grants percent allocated	Overall percent allocated
1. Invasive species prevention	77	53	221	39	78
2. Improve management of key biodiversity areas	84	29	52	108	74
3. Safeguard and restore threatened species	76	186	87	0	90
4. Regional Implementation Team	100				100
Total	82	77	105	42	82

Coordinating CEPF Grantmaking

There are two entities that support CEPF's investment. The Regional Implementation Team is based at Conservation International's Pacific Islands Program, Apia, Samoa. This team is advised by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) which provides the RIT with technical input, detailed reviews of applications and guides the development of the grant portfolio as a whole.

The RIT team comprises:

- James Atherton, Conservation Outcomes Manager
- Leilani Duffy, Grant Manager
- Siniva Tuuau-Enosa, Grant Coordinator
- Pauline Johnston, Finance Manager

Unfortunately, James Atherton left CI PIP in November 2011. James had been the lead in developing the ecosystem profile and provided significant technical advice in his role as the conservation outcomes manager. James was instrumental in ensuring the success of the CEPF's investment and CEPF's extends its sincere thanks.

By the end of 2011, the CEPF Secretariat has undertaken four RIT Supervision Missions to the CI PIP Offices in Samoa. These occurred between:

- 20-25 May 2009
- 22-26 February 2010
- 17-21 August 2010
- 24-27 October 2011

These trips provide an important opportunity to work jointly with the RIT in reviewing the status of the portfolio, resolve any issues that have arisen and as necessary meet with grantees either in person or a conference call. The physical distance and time difference between CI's Headquarters and the Pacific Islands Program, these meetings are an important part of gauging the performance of the RIT, the development of the portfolio as a whole and to maintain the collaboration between the RIT and the Secretariat.

Technical advisory group

As well as the regional implementation team members, this advisory body comprises representatives of the following institutions:

Greg Sherley (Chairperson)	UNEP, Samoa
Michael Donoghue	Conservation International Pacific Islands Program
Easter Galuvao	SPREP, Samoa
Souad Boudjelas	Pacific Invasive Initiative, Auckland
Jean Yves-Meyer	Department of Research, Ministry of Culture, High Education and Research, French Polynesia
Mark O'Brien	Birdlife Pacific Partnership, Fiji
Marika Tuiwawa	Institute of Applied Sciences, USP, Fiji
Willy Kostka	Micronesia Conservation Trust, Pohnpei, FSM
John Watkin	CEPF – Washington DC

This entity provides the necessary technical advice and geographic coverage that is required to ensure that CEPF's investment has the greatest incremental value but also ensures that there is no duplication of activities with other on-going projects.

To date the TAG has held four meetings on the following dates:

- 6 - 7 November 2008
- 21 - 22 May 2009
- 24 - 26 May 2010
- 27 - 28 June 2011

Mid Term Review

The CEPF Mid-Term Review Conference for the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot was organized by BirdLife International held between 6 to 8 June 2011 at Novotel Hotel, Lami, Suva, Fiji. The goal of the conference was to undertake a mid-term assessment of the investment program in the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot to provide CEPF and CI Pacific Regional Implementation Team with an insight into what has been done well, areas for improvement and to identify investment gaps that must be filled with the remaining funds and time available.

Twenty seven of the 36 grantees who had been managing a project under the CEPF Polynesia Micronesia Hotspot programme and had responded to a previous questionnaire were able to attend – most non-attendees were based outside of the region, in Australia, New Zealand, USA and UK. A detailed, extensive agenda was developed for the meeting to ensure that potential grantees were well aware of the objectives and planned outcomes from the meeting. An additional bonus was that representatives from the World Bank also attended as part of their assessment of CEPF programmes.

A key message throughout the conference was that increasing the levels of communication between all organisations involved in the grant process would of benefit to all parties. Meeting face-to-face for, in many circumstances, the first time at the conference should make this easier all round. All parties are partners attempting to deliver biodiversity benefits within the region. Each partner has its own restrictions on how it can deliver these benefits. Successful projects minimise the impact of these restrictions for all partners

Any substantive programme will produce both successful and less-successful outcomes. The lessons learned from these outcomes can serve to improve future conservation measures both within the programme and also in future, up-coming, projects. However, improvements will only occur if future projects take on board the lessons learned, which in turn can only happen if those lessons learned are reported. The CI Pacific RIT took the opportunity of this conference to launch a series of ‘Lessons Learned’ reports, developed as outcomes from the programme and a CEPF large grant compiled by the Little Design Company. These findings were used as the basis of a series of group discussions at the conference that identified a number of further Lessons Learned for future reporting.

A second key area discussed by the grantees was the subject of capacity gaps. Inevitably a long list of gaps was generated, which were in turn ranked in terms of priority. It was clear that many of the gaps could be filled through communication with other grantees, and/or through projects to facilitate training for grantees. A series of potential solutions were identified and a number of subjects that might justify future projects were identified. Interestingly, it was noted that there are partnerships/networks within the Pacific that attempt to provide an opportunity for organisations to identify experts across a range of subject areas. It was clear that many of the grantees involved in the current project have not accessed these networks. A useful development might be to make some of the networks more widely available/accessible within the region.

A discussion around future opportunities for funding for biodiversity conservation preceded two short and enjoyable training sessions on fundraising and communicating projects. Both workshops could have extended for 2-3 days, so this was very much just a taster for grantees.

Key messages were transferred and enacted, in front of a panel of ‘experts’. This again generated some ideas for future projects to help enhance capacity for individual grantees and their organisations.

The responses of attendees to the conference were overwhelmingly positive and the opportunity to discuss various issues and problems face-to-face was exceedingly helpful. Suggestions as to how the exercise could be further improved would always be very useful. It is anticipated that there will be an end of programme conference to showcase the successes and to market projects to future potential donors in early 2013.

Performance Assessment

Throughout the year, grantees have undertaken a considerable range of activities through CEPF’s support. As a result, many of the performance reports have reflected the difficulties often encountered in undertaking the project activities. Grantees have reported experiencing extreme weather conditions that has prevented boats from departing or returning from remote islands, i.e. in the Cook Islands. Vessels have broken down leaving the teams stranded for indeterminate amounts of time until replacement parts and suitable mechanics are available to make repairs. Worse, one grantee reported that their main transport ship sank placed many people at risk. Throughout 2011, some islands, notably Tokelau, experienced severe drought leading to fresh water having to be shipped to the islands from New Zealand.

It is important to acknowledge that some of the 61 priority sites identified as priorities for CEPF investment occur in locations that are far too remote to undertake conservation action or those areas lack relevant organizations able to apply for funds.

Portfolio Investment Highlights by Strategic Direction

Strategic Direction 1: Prevent, control, and eradicate invasive species in key biodiversity areas

This strategic direction has projects that provide technical assistance at a regional level as well as site specific projects aimed at reducing the threat posed by invasive species of plants and animals from Palau in the West to Easter Island in the East and from Micronesia in the north to Fiji in the south of the hotspot.

At the regional scale, the Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII) has been supported to develop long-term capacity of local organizations in invasive species management. To date PII have provided technical assistance to a minimum of 17 grantees from 11 Pacific island countries on a total of 33 projects assisting in the long-term conservation of a minimum of 28 endangered species. PII’s reach will be extended further through the development of the tool kits and promoting these through the online portals, including social media sites which PII has used so effectively. CEPF’s support to PII and the Global Invasive Species Database aimed at ensuring that relevant data and technical advice on invasive species was readily available to practitioners on the ground, especially through networks such as Pacific Invasive Learning Network (PILN), Landcare Research and Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP).

One aspect that dominated the year came as a result of the participation at the midterm review by the World Bank Task Manager, Valerie Hickey, who stated that several of the projects supported under this strategic direction had to retroactively prepare Pest Management Plans (PMP) (complying with the World Bank’s Safeguard Policy) detailing which chemicals were being used in the eradication campaigns, how these chemicals are stored and handled and the protocols for disposing of chemical containers and equipment. This was a significant amount of work for the CEPF Secretariat, the RIT and the grantees themselves. These PMPs were reviewed by the World Bank and approved as satisfactory. They are available on the www.cepf.net website.

Unfortunately, during the course of 2011, CEPF received news that the restoration project on Aleipata Islands, Samoa that included the removal of rats had not been successful. There was a suggestion that rats had returned to island of Nu'utele (1.08 km²) on the debris that was washed out to sea by the massive tsunami that destroyed the village of Lalomanu opposite the islands which will be confirmed by genetic analysis of tissue samples once these have been collected. It is hoped that the smaller island of Nu'ulua (0.25 km²) is still pest free and surveys have been planned to verify this. This news is very disappointing given the significant levels of funding provided by since 2005 from both the Australian Government's Regional Natural Heritage Programme and from CEPF's full investment.

The Fijian Islands comprised almost half of the conservation outcomes listed in the Ecosystem Profile and several projects have been supported in these islands by CEPF. One priority species was the Fiji Petrel (*Pseudobulweria macgillivrayi*) which, since its discovery in 1855 the life cycle of has remained an enigma with one other specimen captured, documented and released in 1984. In a bid to resolve this, CEPF has supported the training and transport of specialist "petrel sniffer" dogs, named "Bob" and "Tar," from New Zealand. Since their arrival on the island of Gau, the dogs have acclimatized well to both their new situation and their handlers. Between the night spotlighting, radio telemetry and the dogs it is hoped that we can fill this gap in our knowledge.

Also in Fiji, the creation of a new Marine Protected Area (MPA) has, in principle, been agreed by all stakeholders including landowners, district and provincial councils for the island and seas surrounding the island of Vatu-i-Ra. The final details are being finalized and management plans developed.

The National Trust for Fiji (NTF) assisted by PII have been developing the operational plan for the restoration and rehabilitation of Monuriki Island that will the removal of a population of feral goats from the island with the support of the local communities. This process has benefitted greatly from a Resource Kit which comprehensively documents up-to-date good practice for developing and implementing eradication projects which was funded by the Packard Foundation and the NZ Aid Programme.

In Palau, BirdLife International, in conjunction with the Palau Conservation Society, have been improving the management of Kayangel Atoll, as well as removing the threat posed by invasive rats and feral cats notwithstanding the difficulties involved in undertaking this project in a difficult and remote location. BirdLife have also established a Site Support Group for Kayangel with members drawn from traditional youth club, a Community based Organization, and also the Governor, Chief Rdechor, the Speaker of the State Legislature, and the Conservation and Resource Management Planning Team. This team is the steward of the biosecurity plan ensuring that these efforts will continue in the long-term.

In Federated States of Micronesia the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) in partnership with Pohnpei State Forestry, Agriculture and the Invasive Taskforce of Pohnpei (iSTOP) was able to continue eradication plan of five target species including False Sakau, Chain of Love, Mile-a-minute, Ivy gourd, and Octopus tree, treating all active known sites of these species with herbicides were applied as needed. CSP reported that with respect to the Octopus tree, all seed bearing trees have been eradicated. However, in the course of undertaking these activities a further nine new sites of Mile-a-minute were discovered with flowers and seeds.

The situation is complicated by the fact that there is one landholder preventing the removal of the chain-of-love plant from their property, but efforts are underway to raise awareness of the threat that this opinion poses to the overall goal of the project. To this end CSP has organized and staged a summer camp in 2011 as well as a Green Road Show, Youth-to-Youth and Pakin invasive outreach. These events target several sectors of the community and will in time cause a shift in people's attitudes.

In the Cook Islands, BirdLife International has been building the capacity of the Te Ipukarea Society (TIS) through a project titled, "*Conservation in the Cooks: Setting Priorities, Building Capacities,*" with TIS becoming a national BirdLife partner. This project completed many seabird surveys and threat assessments from invasive species on the remote islands of Penrhyn and Manihiki. Unfortunately, mechanical problems with the boat meant that these assessments could not be undertaken for Suvarrow, Rakahanga, Pukapuaka and Nassau islands. To overcome this shortfall, TIS sought to recruit anecdotal data from relevant sources such as caretakers of these sites. These data will be produced as a review of the Important Bird Areas (IBAs) for the Cook Islands especially Suvarrow and Takutea. Through this assessment Penrhyn Atoll was disqualified as an IBA, underscoring the rigor of the IBA process.

TIS also assisted in the formation of Site Support Groups for Suvarrow (CLAG+) and Takutea through the Atiu Island Council. Finally, a fundraising strategy has been developed which included TIS and BirdLife submitting a joint application to the European Union to undertake invasive species work in key biodiversity areas.

In 2011 there were only two invasive species applications approved under the small grants category; Landcare Research NZ Ltd project, "An evaluation of the feasibility of eradicating invasive macaques from the Republic of Palau" and the second project awarded to SOP Manu to support the "Creation of Site Support Groups and eco-tourism activities on the KBA islands of Rimatara's and Ua Huka's to protect their unique natural heritage in French Polynesia."

The feasibility study contributes to on-going work towards removing of macaques from Palau specifically Anguar Island. The recommendation from the feasibility study has been incorporated into the Island Conservation proposal submitted to CEPF. There is strong support in Palau for this project given the adverse impact that macaques have on the livelihood of local people on the island of Anguar as well as potential spread of monkeys on neighboring islands such as Babeldaob and Peleiu if it is not controlled and eradicated. This project only took three months to be implemented and was completed by November 2011.

There were five small grants that were closed between April and December 2011, these were;

- Emergency Management of an Incursion of Mongoose on Upolu Island, Samoa by SPREP
- Native Birds and Flying Foxes: Natural Aids to Forest Restoration in Lake Ngardok Nature Reserve by Belau National Museum
- Rat eradication on Toreauta Islet (Tahanea Atoll, Tuamotu Archipelago, French Polynesia) by Simon Fraser University;
- Emergency response to introduced Green Iguanas in Fiji by Fiji Nature Conservation Trust;
- An evaluation of the feasibility of eradicating invasive macaques from the Republic of Palau by Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd.

The total value of the five closed grants is US \$77,988 these projects were implemented between 3 to 18 months. The project in French Polynesia was the only French-territory small grant completed in 2011. The two emergency grants awarded to SPREP and FNCT were for immediate actions to address emerging invasive in Samoa and Fiji. The mongoose was caught and samples taken to determine how it arrived on the island, which it was confirmed that it came through pipes that were used for building the wharf at Satitua village, Aleipata District. The success of this project is attributed to the close work collaboration between SPREP, MNRE and partners in taking immediate action to contain and removed the two mongoose before they spread out and become a serious problem.

Strategic Direction 2: Strengthen the conservation status and management of 60 key biodiversity areas

Throughout the Pacific, traditional land-tenure rights are paramount and operate alongside the local administration of these areas. These culturally-based systems need to be integrated centrally within the approaches to improve management of these priority sites. Many of the projects supported under this strategic direction are seeking to achieve just that. For example, the Fiji Nature Conservation Trust (FNCT) has been working towards the creation of the Taveuni National Park working jointly with the local community leaders and the Cakaudrove Provincial Council. Communications between all parties have been made easier with FNCT opening of a new office in the provincial office building in Somosomo on Taveuni Island. This office is underpinned with the necessary operations, financial and management policy manuals.

Also in Fiji, University of the South Pacific (USP) conducted a “Rapid Biological Assessment Survey of Southern Lau Islands” with several other collaborating organizations. The team comprised 80 individuals that undertook surveys of 14 isolated islands within 1 month. The trip was best with problems including the death of the boat’s captain shortly after departure. His body was returned to his home village on one of the Lau Islands and the second in command took over as captain.

Again the surveys had to cope with difficult conditions in trying to reach these islands and also on board the main vessel with the need to ration water as well as a restricted diet for the duration of the voyage. However, these survey data will contribute to the improved management and protection of the South Lau islands.

In Kiribati, the New England Aquarium, that is implementing the Phoenix Islands Protected Area Trust Initiative, reported that the political landscape in Kiribati has affected the progress of the grant as a result of the presidential elections and Minister Amberoti Nikora losing his seat. The impact of these events is reflected in the slow spending rate with only 38 percent of the funds used after 90 percent of the project period has passed.

In the Cook Islands, Te Ipukarea Society (TIS) through the Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA) has been undertaking a project, “The Sustainable Management of Rarotonga Flycatcher *Pomarea dimidiata* or ‘Kakerori’” as it’s is known locally which had been reduced to just 29 individuals in 1989. The control measures to reduce the predation pressure from rats during the breeding season can only be described as resulting from absolute dedication and sheer hard work by Ed Saul and Lynda Nia that has allowed the Kakerori to reproduce each year reaching 374 individuals in October 2011. Also, the importance of establishing a sub-population on the Island of Atiu and the need to reinforce this with additional individuals was also an effective demonstration of the active management by all concerned securing the future for this Globally Threatened species.

In Micronesia CEPF has been supporting The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in watershed management. Significant strides have been made in priority sites in Kosrae, Pohnpei and Palau towards increasing the understanding of the importance of appropriately managing watersheds. This has been through engaging traditional community leaders to ensure that the conservation messages have been translated appropriately and adopted by all tiers of society in these three countries.

In French Polynesia the Bristol Conservation Science Foundation (BCSF) has been preparing the site for the eventual release of the captive Partulid snails. They have built exclosures to release the snail into as well as removing exotic tree species including *Miconia calvescens* and *Spathodea companulata* from around the Reserve site as well as cutting back native and abundant *Hibiscus tileaceous* which would allow the predatory *Euglandina rosea* snail to gain entry to these exclosures. This despite the extreme weather conditions with heavy rains making access to the site very difficult. However, there have also been problems with the local partner organizations in French Polynesia which have also delayed the actual release of the snails which is now planned for sometime in 2012.

Throughout the year, four small grants were approved totaling US \$77,754. Three grants were for projects in Fiji and one grant for a project in Palau. Two of these projects focused on Fijian land snails; (1) “Catalogue and distributional database for the Fijian Land snail” and (2) “Conservation, Systematics and cultural connections of Fiji’s endemic *Placotylus* Land snail.” The other Fijian grants main objective is to support the economic valuation of biological diversity in the Sovi Basin Conservation Area.

Three small grants have been completed and closed. These are:

- 1) “Makatea, un site majeur pour l’avifaune endémique by SOP Manu
- 2) “Palau Conservation Society for the project on Management planning for the Mesekelat” Watershed conservation Area, Babeldoab,” and
- 3) “Yela Environment Landowners Authority for the project called Yela Forest Reserve: A Critical Ecosystem and Natural Habitat.”

The results of the SOP Manu project was the development of the Action Plan for the two endemic bird species and the feasibility study for the eradication of rats. In addition to the 4 deliverables of the project two were added to cover the collection of data on seabirds and evaluating the potential for the translocation of the Tahiti monarch (*Pomarea nigra*) and the Tuamotu Kingfisher. This was good indication of more work achieved within the small grants awarded.

The grant to Palau Conservation Society produced the “Management Plan for the Mesekelat Watershed Conservation Area,” in Babeldoab and this was endorsed by the national government with the Palau National Congress approving 28k for the state of Ngchesar to implement the management plan. This is a great achievement and shows how support continued even without funding from CEPF. The YELA project achieved wide public awareness on the importance of the YELA forest to the local communities surrounding this habitat but also tourists or visitors who come to Kosrae.

Strategic Direction 3: Build awareness and participation of local leaders and community members in the implementation of protection and recovery plans for threatened species.

Project supported under this Strategic Direction represented a combination of species focused research to improve the understanding and more general surveys of lesser known sites.

In Samoa CEPF has been supporting a project to assist in the recovery of two of Samoa's most threatened bird species, the Tooth-billed Pigeon (*manumea*) and the Mao (*ma'oma'o*), through ecological research to identify current threats. Through the efforts of a PhD student much new information has been learned about *ma'oma'o* including timing of breeding, the number of eggs laid, hatching and fledging intervals. These findings were made despite the fact that it proved far harder than expected to catch individuals to attach the radio transmitters. One adult caught and fitted with transmitter. The researchers also observed, firsthand, the predation by rats of one nest and attempted predation of another nest confirming this to be a significant threat.

The National Trust of Fiji (NTF) has been implementing the “Species Recovery Plan for the Fijian Crested Iguana,” which included establishing a captive breeding program and the rehabilitation of Monuriki Island with a view to reintroducing the juvenile iguanas. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the community, NTF and Kula Eco Park which is indicative of the community’s trust and commitment and pride in supporting species recovery as a national priority. The community has assisted with the removal of the goats on Monuriki.

A doctoral student at USP has been studying “Two of Fiji's endemic and rare butterflies, *Hypolimnas inopinata* and *Papilio schmeltzii*.” Through this project *H. inopinata* has been rediscovered in Navai, Ra Province where it has not been sighted since 1905. Other areas in Waisoi and Wainavadu, Namosi provinces have been identified as having good populations. However, it is a concern that the site at Waisoi, Namosi is currently an exploration site for mining and that access is not easy. More importantly, the host plant *H. inopinata* has been identified the shrub as *Elatostema numerosum* resolving the lifecycle of this species. The researcher has fostered considerable local engagement through involving the field assistants from i.e. from Navai village and Vatukarasa villages to undertake the surveys. These assistants were shown specimens of the butterfly species and became quite familiar with its identification.

In French Polynesia *Te mana o te moana* have implemented the grant titled, “Dual Research Program on Sea Turtles of the Society Archipelago.” The grantee reported that in developing a new tow board approach that they, “*have seen 290 sea turtles on the external slopes of the six islands (244 hawksbill and 46 green). We have done more of 600 kilometers in the water, traced by a boat. On the beaches of the islands, we have counted 337 tracks of green turtles (297 on Tetiaroa, 37, on Tupai, 1 on Maupiti and 2 on Maiao).*” The project has also built the capacity of 25 people from the local villages, including 7 trained as technicians to continue monitoring as well as eco-volunteers and trainers, many of whom would like to secure fulltime employment in the environmental sector.

Work by another organization in French Polynesia, Société d’Ornithologie de Polynésie Manu (SOP Manu) on the “Critically Endangered Monarch birds *Pomarea nigra* and Fatu Hiva Monarch *P. whitney*” focused on verbal communication as the best mechanism to raise awareness amongst stakeholders and change peoples’ attitudes, despite the time that this requires. The result is that the control measures have maintained the predation incidences by rats and cats to a level where the monarchs have been successful in breeding and the young fledgling and expanding their range. This is despite the predation by the Common myna and red bulbuls.

In Palau, work by a researcher from the University of Adelaide on the threatened endemic plants showed that number of endemic species known to occur in Palau increased from 130 to 135. The number of species considered data deficient for IUCN’s Red Listing Criteria went from 79 (61%) in 2009 to 69 (51%). This study has also resulted in recommendations towards improving the

assessment of plant conservation status to achieve the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Targets by 2020.

Throughout the year there were 10 small grants awarded under strategic direction totaling US \$ 194,922.

One grant was closed under Strategic Direction 3 in 2011 and this was the “Rare Plants of Tonga,” by Art Whistler. A comprehensive report was submitted with detail documentation of the rare plants of Tonga with pictures and description of their uses etc. Similar study had been conducted by Professor Art Whistler for Samoa and Tokelau with another study currently underway in Niue.

Overall, there are 11 active small grants and 5 closed grants for Strategic Direction 3, four of which were closed for the year 2010.

Collaboration with CEPF donors

In July 2011 a multi-partner expedition which covered the Palmyra Atoll, Henderson Island and the Phoenix Island Protected Area (PIPA). This was great collaborative work between a number of international organizations, regional organizations and local governments in which CEPF provided grant support to the RSPB for the Henderson rat eradication work, as well as topping up the existing grant to Pacific Expedition to continue the eradication work on the islands in PIPA. Supporting this kind of expedition was very cost effective in terms of resource sharing and according to Graham Wragg from Pacific Expedition, the July 2011 fieldwork was very pleasing because it achieved a lot with relatively little cost. The use of helicopters was essential for larger islands in PIPA and their use reduces the cost per hectare of the operation and increase the chances of successful eradication project.

Conclusion

The portfolio of grants can best be described as being on an active phase throughout 2011. Many of the grants there had been held up because of the question about the eligibility of overseas territories were finally able to be implemented fully. Several other large projects were able to undertake the key activities that had been planned for such a long time.

Much of technical advice on achieving conservation gains in tropical island situations that was previously held in academic institutions had been interpreted and made available to smaller organizations working on the ground in the Pacific Island countries and territories.

Whilst it is satisfying to see these activities being rolled out, many of the performance reports have brought home the difficulties that grantees have encountered. Undertaking surveys and eradication campaigns on remote islands that have little infrastructure is fraught with danger.

We have also all learned a considerable amount relating to the adherence of the World Bank’s Pest Management Safeguard and the need to have thought through the choice of pesticide and how these compounds will be handled and who is responsible for the management of these products.

Chart 1: Cumulative totals of Large and Small Grants in Pacific Island Country States (PICS) and Overseas Territories (OTS) May 2008 - December 2011

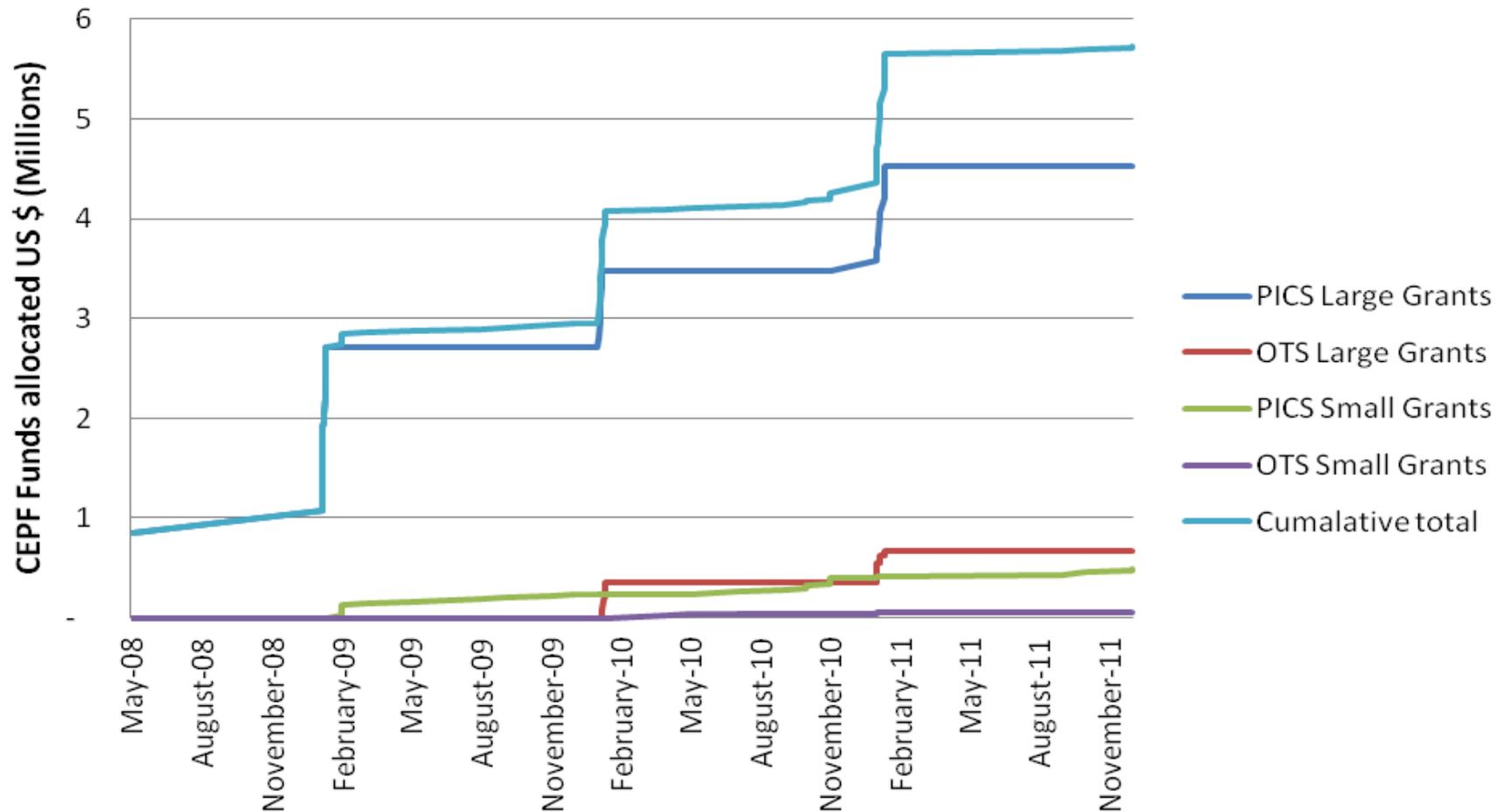


Chart 4: Approved Large Grants by Strategic Direction for the Pacific Island Countries (PICS) and Overseas Territories (OTS)

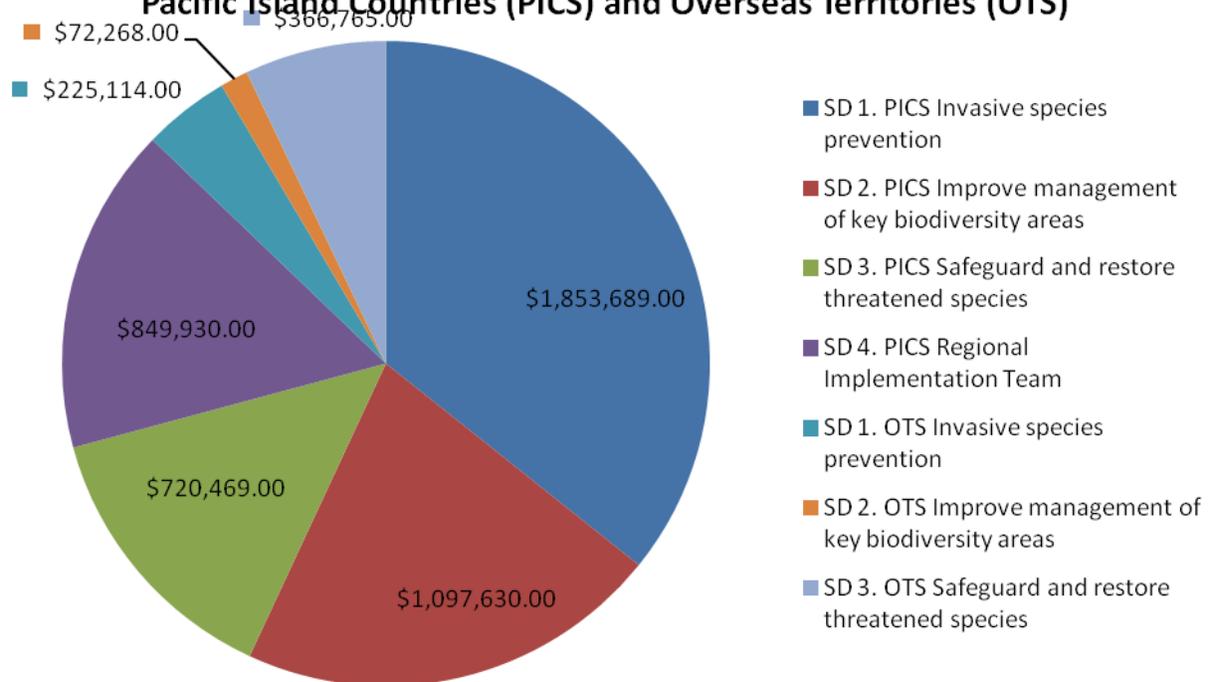
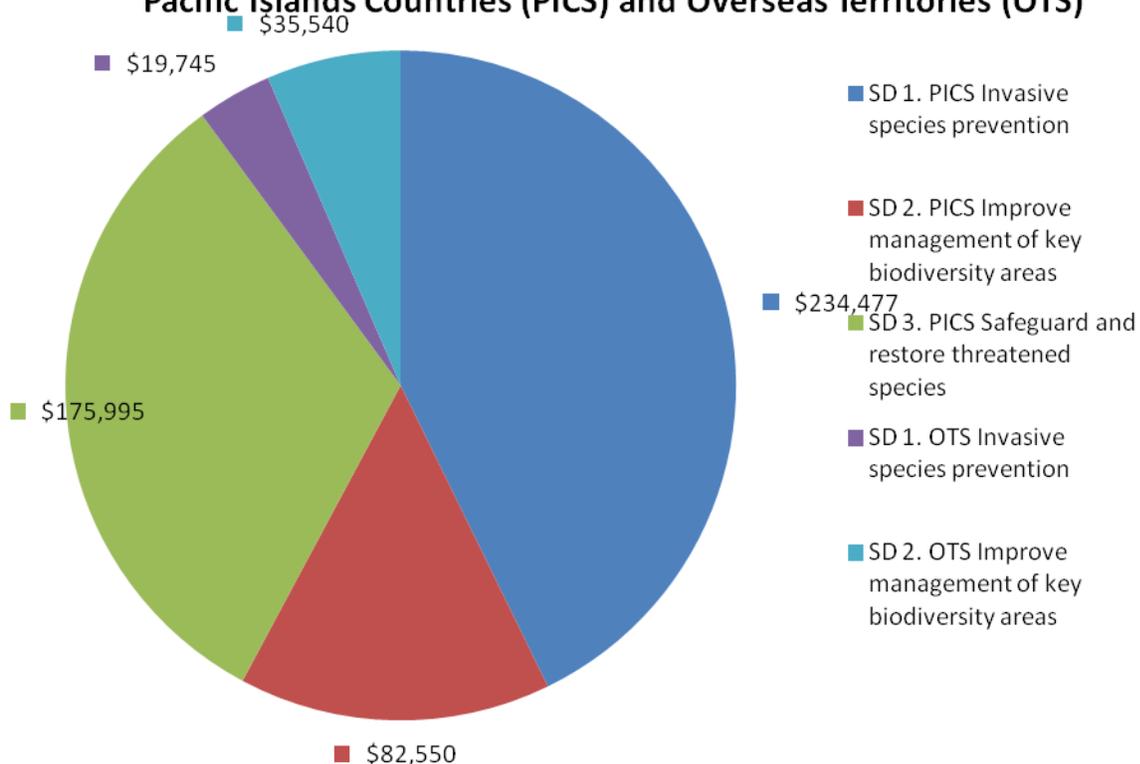


Chart 5: Approved Small Grants by Strategic Direction for the Pacific Islands Countries (PICS) and Overseas Territories (OTS)



Polynesia-Micronesia Ecosystem Profile Logical Framework updated to December 2011

Objective	Targeted Outcome Indicators	
<p>Counteract threats to biodiversity, especially from invasive species, throughout the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot focusing on key biodiversity areas.</p>	<p>NGOs and civil society actors, including the private sector, actively participate in conservation programs guided by the CEPF ecosystem profile for Polynesia Micronesia Hotspot.</p> <p>Alliances and networks among civil society groups formed to avoid duplication of effort and maximize impact in support of the CEPF ecosystem profile for Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot.</p> <p>60 priority key biodiversity areas with strengthened protection and management.</p>	<p>To date there have been 5 calls for proposals throughout the Polynesia Micronesia Hotspot (1st September 2008, 1st March 2009, 1st March 2010, 1st February 2011 and 1st September 2011).</p> <p>Total number of projects received for large and small grants 224 Total number of projects approved for large and small grants 86 Total number of projects decline for large and small grants 138</p> <p>At a regional scale, CEPF has supported the following projects to build civil society capacity and improve conservation efforts. In addition these regional grants strive to make available technical information that can be used by local and national teams addressing conservation and mitigate threats from invasive species.</p> <p>SPREP Pacific Islands Learning Network Pacific Invasives Initiative Invasive Species Management – Production of Invasive Species Resource Kits on key species Assessing the Economic Impacts of Invasive Species Training in invasive plant management Capacity building for the Management of Invasive Bird Species Priortization of invasive species Producing a series of publications on Lessons Learned</p>
<p>Intermediate Outcomes</p>	<p>Intermediate Outcome Indicators</p>	<p>Progress</p>
<p>Outcome 1: Invasive species have been prevented, controlled or eradicated from priority key biodiversity areas</p> <p>\$2,500,000</p>	<p>Number of sites containing key biodiversity areas that are free of invasive species increased</p>	<p>Projects have been implemented under strategic direction 1 that are addressing the threats from invasive species have been undertaken in the following priority KBAs</p> <p>Gau Island, Fiji (# 60), Pohnpei Central Forest, FSM (# 36), Babeldaob Upland Forest, Palau (#144), Atiu Island, Cook Islands (# 1) Monuriki Island, Fiji (# 65)</p>

	<p>Hotspot-wide strategies to prevent invasive species from establishing new areas</p> <p>Rapid response program to respond to sightings of invasive species</p> <p>Improved awareness by civil society of the threat posed by invasive species</p>	<p>In addition, CEPF has supported invasive species management projects in additional sites including:</p> <p>Aleipata Islands restoration project. Unfortunately, under the restoration of Aleipata Islands project, rats have been reported on the larger Nu'utele island. This may be a result of the debris washed on this island in the wake of the tsunami that struck Lalomanu. It is hoped that Nu'ulua island remains rat free. (KBA 156).</p> <p>The invasive crab-eating macaques around Babeldaob Island in Palau have been sterilized to prevent further population increase (KBA 146).</p> <p>Implementation of the Species Recovery Plan for the Fijian Crested Iguana on two sites Monuriki Island (KBA 65) and Yadua Taba Island (KBA 95) in Fiji to prevent invasive species occurrence in areas inhabited by the crested iguana endemic to Fiji.</p> <p>A grant was given to Eco-Oceania outside the normal call for proposal period to prepare a Biosecurity Plan for the Phoenix Islands Protected Area, Kiribati. This came about because of sightings of illegal fishing boats around the area and the possibility of a ship wrecked that can bring alien invasive species to the uninhabited islands of the PIPA, after some islands have been declared pests free and results were shown through re-vegetation growth and increase number of sea birds.</p> <p>A program of control of myna birds <i>Acridotheres tristis</i> has been initiated in a bid to boost the breeding success of the reintroduced Kuhl's lorikeet <i>Vini kuhlii</i> on Atiu Island, Cook Islands</p> <p>A grant was also given to SPREP outside of the call for proposal period to conduct an emergency investigation into the mongoose that was found near the new wharf in Aleipata District. Mongoose is an invasive species in Fiji and is not present in Samoa and this was the first time that it was found on the island. So, this emergency grant was given to contained the mongoose and conduct testing on how it reached the island, either through importation of materials from Fiji for the wharf construction or other means. The investigation was also to make sure that no mongoose population is to be established in Samoa</p> <p>The small grants mechanism has been established and is effectively a</p>
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		<p>rapid response mechanism that can provide up to US\$ 20,000 to address emergency issues, as exemplified by the community leaders and traditional landowners in establishing conservation areas on islets and to implement recovery plans for the Ratak imperial pigeon (<i>Ducula oceanica ratakensis</i>) and migratory bristle-thighed curlew (<i>Numenius tahitiensis</i>)</p> <p>Nationwide awareness programme was conducted on preventing the spread of crab-eating macaques throughout the Republic of Palau. This was well received by many stakeholders ranging from schools to communities throughout Koror State and Babeldoab State learning about the impact of macaques on neighboring state of Anguar which most of the islands livelihood had been destroyed by the macaques feeding on village crops and plantations.</p> <p>The project on the documentation of an existing invasion and preventing future introductions in the Island like Marine Lakes in Palau has provided necessary information to Koror State Department of Conservation and Law Enforcement on the magnitude of the threat to the jellyfish lake ecosystem by the invasive anemone. It also raised media awareness for visitors to the region of the threats that they may unwittingly carry from too much application of sun-tan lotion which has contributed to the existence of the invasive anemone. As well as providing further trainings to Palauan marine scientist to monitor the lake.</p>
<p>Outcome 2: The conservation status of a prioritized set of key biodiversity areas is improved</p> <p>\$1,500,000</p>	<p>Number of protected areas with strengthened protection and management.</p> <p>Number of hectares of key biodiversity areas with strengthened protection and management.</p>	<p>Site support groups have been developed for Mt. Nabukelevu and Natewa Penninsula in Fiji.</p> <p>An assessment of the potential for rehabilitating of Orona, Enderbury and Birnie Islands in the Phoenix Island Protected Area has been undertaken.</p> <p>Fund have been provided to the Line and Phoenix Islands Wildlife Conservation Unit to implement established conservation and management recommendations in a comprehensive and integrated approach to restore the ecology of the Northern Line Islands</p> <p>A grant to the Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA KBA-4) of Cook Islands to strengthen the sustainable management of the site which is the habitat for the Rarotonga flycatcher endemic to the island.</p>

	<p>Number of newly established hectares or expanded protected areas.</p>	<p>Support to a learning exchange by representatives of community groups to experience the successful community turtle monitoring program by the Vanua-Tai Resource Monitors Network. This project will allow the representatives from two Fijian communities to learn from the Vanua-Tai's long experience in turtle monitoring.</p> <p>Support has been provided to assist in the establishment of a long-term financing mechanism managed by the PIPA Trust Organization</p> <p>An assessment of the impact of climate change on the cloud forests of Fiji is being undertaken</p> <p>A rapid Biological assessment of the Southern Lau Islands, Fiji has been launched.</p> <p>Preparation for the release of captive bred land snails endemic to French Polynesia <i>Partula</i> spp has been initiated.</p> <p>Discussions have been initiated with the community land owners concerning the possible creation of Taveuni National Park, Fiji</p> <p>Preparations are underway for a Rapid Biodiversity Assessment of the upland forests of central Savii, Samoa.</p>
<p>Outcome 3: A prioritized set of threatened species are restored and have effective conservation safe guards</p> <p>\$1,150,000</p>	<p>Effective stewardship of biodiversity and ecosystem services by indigenous and local communities in enabled focal areas</p> <p>Number of projects outside protected areas that integrate biodiversity conservation in management practices</p>	<p>Research is being undertaken on the nesting sites of the little known Fiji petrel (<i>Pseudobulweria macgillivray</i> the tooth-billed pigeon (<i>Didunculus strigirostris</i>) and the ma'oma'o (<i>Gymnomyza samoensis</i>)</p> <p>CEPF is supporting the implementation of the National Trust of Fiji Crested Iguana Species Recovery Plan</p> <p>A Species Recovery Plan is being developed and implemented through a community-based approach for the Niuafou'ou megapode or Malau (<i>Megapodius pritchardii</i>) in Tonga</p>

	<p>Number of targeted communities involved in managing productive use of natural resources that show socioeconomic benefits</p> <p>Hectares in productive landscapes with improved management for biodiversity conservation or sustainable use</p>	<p>Project has been supported for the capacity building of local staff of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource Environment (MNRE) as well as communities located on the sites identified for potential sightings of the endemic Samoan Swallowtail Butterfly as a model for valuing and conserving butterflies distinctive in the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot. Core scientific monitoring and research and being undertaken to ensure the conservation of the endangered kakerori (<i>Pomarea dimidiata</i>) through to safeguard this flagship species in the Takitimu Conservation Area, Cook Islands.</p> <p>Work on assessing options for the long term survival of the remnant populations of Monarch bird species have been initiated in French Polynesia.</p> <p>Research into the presence and life cycle of two of Fiji's rarest butterfly species <i>Papilio schmeltzii</i> and <i>Hypolimnas inopinata</i>. The latter has been rediscovered in Navai, Ra Province where it has not been sighted since 1905 and the host plant <i>H. inopinata</i> has been identified the shrub as <i>Elatostema numerosum</i> completing our understanding of the lifecycle.</p>
Intermediate Outcomes	Intermediate Outcome Indicators	
<p>Outcome 4: An effective regional implementation team to coordinate the CEPF investment is established.</p> <p>\$850,000</p>	<p>Number of groups receiving grants that achieve a satisfactory score on final performance scorecard</p> <p>Number of learning exchanges and participatory assessments of portfolio-level results hosted and documented</p>	<p>The RIT was selected and contracted on 1 May 2008, and a Technical Advisory Group has been appointed providing broad technical advice and transparent review of the proposals received. The small grants has closed 13 projects which all have achieved their objectives set-out as shown in the constructive final performance reports and technical reports received from each grantees.</p> <p>Grantmaking has been initiated with two calls for proposals.</p> <p>Regional Implementation Team Manager (RITM) site visits and monitoring to selected countries in the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot.</p> <p>In mid-2009 RITM went on her first mission to Micronesia to promote the CEPF Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot and conduct awareness on CEPF and the grant making process. Stakeholder consultations were carried out in each three countries starting from Palau, FSM and Marshall Islands.</p>

		<p>The Palau Conservation Society which is a CI-Pacific partner in the country assisted the RITM in arranging the stakeholder meetings and individual meetings with each interested environmental NGO. A similar programme was conducted for FSM and Marshall Islands.</p> <p>This was the first RITM visit so it gave the new grantees for CEPF from Micronesia Region a chance to discuss their projects and for the RITM to give guidance on areas where they were not very cleared with especially the reporting part and duration of application and when they are going to receive first disbursement once the grant is officially approved.</p> <p>The RITM (Leilani Duffy) and the Conservation Outcome Manager (James Atherton) both attended the Island Species Led Action (ISLA) course coordinated by Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in Fiji for two weeks of early July 2009. This was an excellent training because it provided great information on island biodiversity and especially invasive species and their current threat in the Pacific Region, as well as looking at species that are seen as critically endangered and it look at options for species recovery activities. The course was very practical and it provided an environment for learning and sharing among Pacific conservationists around the region.</p> <p>RITM also attended the UNDP-GEF Small Grants Regional Workshop held in Samoa in August 2009 and presented on the CEPF programme for the Pacific. As well, CI-PIP had a side event during the SPREP Annual meeting 2009 and the Conservation Outcome Manager (James Atherton) presented on the work of CI in the Pacific as well as on CEPF and projects we are supporting in the region.</p> <p>In September 2009 just one week before the tsunami the RITM joined the consultant for the Aleipata Island Restoration Project with MNRE staff to conduct a post monitoring of the island after the helicopter spray rat eradication programme.</p> <p>The field monitoring was an excellent opportunity to participate first hand in the ground work being implemented by grantees. We had checked all the stations marked with baits to look for any signs of rats as well we hiked over the highest peak on the island and went down to the other side</p>
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		<p>to check on baits and replace more baits. I did not see any sign of rats except for two dead wild boar decaying and smelling bad. This was an indicator of how effective the poison had been in killing off invasive species.</p> <p>I had followed the MNRE staff who were also doing a bird count of the friendly ground dove which had just been reintroduced into the island after it was captured and relocated for 2 weeks while the eradication operation was underway. We sighted a number of friendly ground doves up on high elevation.</p> <p>The Conservation Outcomes Manager also participated in a number of grantee projects in the reporting period- including flying fox surveys, manumea-maomao bird research and trapping and tagging friendly ground doves on the Aleipata islands.</p> <p>The RITM went with the CEPF Team (Grant Director and Grant Coordinator) as well as the COM, staff from MNRE and local community members to Nuutele Island to conduct a field visit to the site (February 2010) where the rat eradication operation had taken place last year in early August 2009. The field visit included setting out baits for the rats and checking whether there were any rats eating the baits. From all the bait stations checked there was no sign of rats except for coconut crabs responsible for eating some of the baits. This was a good indicator of rats being phased out from the island, as well, there were friendly ground dove spotted near the coastal area. This is another indicator of the non presence of rats, because according to the MNRE Staff (Moe) who took us to the island, the friendly ground dove was not seen flying near the coast prior to the eradication programme because of the existence of rats.</p> <p>The COM attended selected sites to look for the <i>Gymnomyza samoensis</i> (Ma'oma'o bird) with Dr. Dave Butler the grantee for this project "Implementing the recovery plan for the tooth-billed pigeon and Ma'oma'o threatened birds in Samoa'. There were a couple of sites and the main selected site now is Vaisigano (Magiagi Forest).</p>
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		<p>The COM did site visits to a number of small grant projects in Samoa including the mongoose eradication project, the Samoa butterfly project, the rare plants of Samoa project and the Samoa flying fox project. He did not have any issues to report on any of these projects.</p> <p>The RIT had also attended a PII training workshop for the Aleipata community on Biosecurity. This was an interesting training because it brought community stakeholders from Aleipata who were involved in the protection of the island from any pest invasion. The training had boost interest from the community to practice Biosecurity measures and enforcing checking of any bags and items that are taken to the island to ensure that no pest are reintroduced again.</p> <p>RIT Coordinator went on supervision mission in Fiji and conducted a site visit to the National Trust Fiji project site on Monuriki Island with the iguana translocation to the Eco-Kula Park. This was a very interesting site visit as it shows the local community commitment into the re-establishment of the iguana population on the island as they threaten by the presents of goats. The Eco-Kula Park provided a safe haven for the regeneration of iguana until they reach a certain number then they will be returned to their original site. Apart from the project site visit, the RIT Coordinator also conducted meetings with grantees in Fiji to get an insight in the progress of their work and from what the grantees were saying their project were quite successful with local community.</p> <p>The METT tools still remains a problem for grantees in providing accurate information on data regarding hectares of land covered by project etc. This could be due to the complicated list on the METT tools and questions.</p>
Strategic Funding Summary	Amount	
Total Budget Amount	US \$6,000,000	

Approved Large Grants in Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot in 2011

Strategic Direction 1. Prevent, control, and eradicate invasive species in key biodiversity areas

Biodiversity Management and Ecotourism Development on Atiu, Cook Islands

Maintain the pristine state of Atiu Island by raising the consciousness at all levels of society about the threats of invasive species combined with restoration activities. In addition, develop multimedia materials to promote this island as a tourist destination to the benefit of the island's threatened species.

Funding: \$97,516
Grant Term: 1/1/2011 - 12/31/2012
Grantee: Cook Islands Natural Heritage Trust

Managing Invasive Species at Key Biodiversity Areas in Palau and Fiji

Improve well-being and livelihoods for communities on Kayangel atoll, Palau and Mabualau, Vatu-I-Ra and seven of the Ringgold islands by removing invasive rodents from these islands, put in place effective bio-security mechanisms to prevent recolonization and generate income through tourism and promoting artisanal crafts. In addition, assess the opportunities to declare these sites as community protected areas.

Funding: \$194,350
Grant Term: 4/1/2011 - 3/31/2013
Grantee: BirdLife International

Accelerating Invasive Species Management in the Polynesia-Micronesia Biodiversity Hotspot

Assess current gaps in technical knowledge and skills to prevent, control and remove threats posed by invasive species. Based upon this needs assessment and in partnership with the Pacific Invasive Learning Network, increase the capacity of invasive species national teams in the Pacific to improve technical knowledge and skills through targeted training and capacity building.

Funding: \$167,294
Grant Term: 12/1/2011 - 3/31/2013
Grantee: Auckland UniServices Limited

Demonstrative Pilot Actions to Fight Against Invasive Plants on Easter Island

Establish demonstration plots at Ovahe Beach and Rano Kau Crater to trial methods of mechanical removal and control of invasive plant species to ensure the long-term survival of endemic plant species. Arrest the encroachment of invasive plants at important archeological sites and raise awareness amongst the local communities and islands authorities of the real threats that native flora face from invasive plants.

Funding: \$40,068
Grant Term: 12/1/2011 - 7/31/2012

Grantee: ONF Conosur S.A.

Institutional Capacity Building for Invasive Bird Control in the Pacific

Undertake an analysis of past attempts at avian control focusing on myna birds (*Acridotheres tristis*) and compile these into a comprehensive analysis of techniques and lessons learned. Based upon this study, convene a workshop of relevant practitioners in avian control techniques and collectively develop a state-of-art tool kit that can be used in future drawing upon the approaches pioneered on Atiu in the Cook Islands.

Funding: \$74,873

Grant Term: 12/1/2011 - 12/31/2012

Grantee: Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

Valuing the Impact of Selected Invasive Species in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot

Assess the impacts of ten priority invasive species including direct effects on subsistence and commercial agriculture and forestry as well as their indirect cultural and social effects. This will provide feedback to decision makers as to whether prevention, control or eradication campaigns would be the most appropriate response.

Funding: \$189,025

Grant Term: 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012

Grantee: Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd

Strategic Direction 2. Strengthen the conservation status and management of 60 key biodiversity areas

A Pilot Study of the Impacts of Climate Change on Fiji's Cloud Forest

Establish long term ecological monitoring to inform improved management of three threatened cloud forest sites in Fiji and record a baseline dataset including the structure, composition and diversity of the plant species of these little-known forests. In addition, install data loggers to record climate conditions as a means to track changes in climate and measure the ecological response.

Funding: \$49,300

Grant Term: 1/1/2011 - 12/31/2012

Grantee: University of the South Pacific

Expansion of the Database of Invasive Species Impacts on Island Biodiversity & Ecosystems

Develop the Island Biodiversity and the threat of Invasive Species (IBIS) database, combining data on invasive species management techniques with information on threatened species, and to serve as a platform to exchange best practices in invasive species management. These data will be available on line and distributed as CD ROMs throughout the Invasive Species Specialist Group and more broadly.

Funding: \$61,589
Grant Term: 1/1/2011 - 12/31/2011
Grantee: Auckland Uniservices Limited

Convening the CEPF Mid-Term Evaluation Conference for the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot

Convene a mid-term conference of CEPF grantees in the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot to share experiences and discuss lessons learned from their respective projects as well as provide feedback on the CEPF grant management process. This will enable CEPF to evaluate areas where further funding should be targeted, as well as identify the kinds of projects that are delivering effective conservation action.

Funding: \$81,147
Grant Term: 2/1/2011 - 7/31/2011
Grantee: BirdLife International

Rapid Biological Assessment Survey of Southern Lau, Fiji

Survey the terrestrial and near-shore environments of the remote Southern Lau group of islands. These rapid assessments will update data on the distribution and state of the islands' fauna and flora paying special attention to threatened species and recording the presence of invasive species of plants and animals. These data will be used to inform the Fijian government and conservation actors of the current status of these islands and threats they face to improve the conservation and management of these islands.

Funding: \$58,000
Grant Term: 2/1/2011 - 12/31/2011
Grantee: University of the South Pacific

A Model Release for Captive Bred Polynesian Tree Snails

Conserve several species of endemic and highly threatened land snails in French Polynesia by controlling threats and establishing a sustainable management system for Tahiti island. In so doing, build the local capacity in the development of site protection and management techniques as well as raising awareness and support for conservation of threatened snails and ecosystems.

Funding: \$75,000
Grant Term: 5/1/2011 - 4/30/2012
Grantee: Bristol, Clifton and West of England Zoological Society Ltd

The Taveuni National Park – Enhanced Conservation for a Key Biodiversity Area

Initiate steps with the local communities, provisional and national authorities towards establishing Taveuni National Park and explore means to boost ecotourism benefits. At the same time reinforce

biosecurity defenses to maintain the island's pest free status.

Funding: \$143,400
Grant Term: 11/1/2011 - 12/31/2012
Grantee: Fiji Nature Conservation Trust

Protecting Kosrae's Upland Forest

In conjunction with members of the local community, undertake an in-depth botanical survey of Kosrae's upland forest and map sites that support endemic or endangered plant species as well as locations of invasive plant species. This will result in improved understanding of the functions and benefits of the watershed and provide evidence to support the gazettment of Olum Watershed as a protected area, contributing to the Micronesia Challenge.

Funding: \$67,697
Grant Term: 12/1/2011 - 11/30/2012
Grantee: Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization

Enhancing Knowledge and Understanding of the Biodiversity of Upland Central Savaii

Survey the upland forest ecosystems of Savaii Island, Samoa assessing the current status and trends of both native and invasive fauna and flora. Engage the local communities as part of the survey team to provide insights on the traditional and cultural importance of these species. Combined, these data will be used to define the most effective long-term conservation approaches.

Funding: \$169,400
Grant Term: 1/1/2012 - 8/30/2013
Grantee: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Strategic Direction 3. Build awareness and participation of local leaders and community members in the implementation of protection and recovery plans for threatened species

Save the Last Monarchs of Polynesia, Two Critically Endangered Birds, for Future Generations

Conserve the last viable populations of two Critically Endangered bird species the Tahiti Monarch *Pomarea nigra* and Fatu Hiva Monarch *Pomarea whitney* through reducing the threat from invasive mammals and rehabilitating their habitat. In the medium term, islands that are predator free will be identified and the feasibility of establishing alternative populations of both species will be assessed.

Funding: \$198,578
Grant Term: 1/1/2011 - 12/31/2012
Grantee: Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie Manu

Conservation of Fiji's Endemic and Rare Butterflies: *Hypolimnias inopinata* and *Papilio schmeltzii*

Study the life cycles as well as the status and trends of the populations of two of Fiji's largest and rarest

butterflies in order to prepare management plans for both species. At the same time raise awareness of the land owners around these strongholds and use the findings to effect policy changes and contribute to the Red List assessment of both threatened species.

Funding: \$49,300
Grant Term: 4/1/2011 - 3/31/2013
Grantee: University of the South Pacific

Petrels, Communities and Conservation

Develop the technical capacity of the Kadavu Site Support Group members neighboring the Nabukelevu priority site to spearhead the activities required for long-term petrel conservation. Develop and disseminate education materials targetting audiences at the local, national and regional levels to raise awareness of these conservation activities. Based upon these and related project activities produce six lessons learned booklets describing community conservation approaches.

Funding: \$89,777
Grant Term: 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012
Grantee: Birdlife International

Appendix 2: List CEPF's investments in Priority Key Biodiversity Areas in Polynesia Micronesia

English Language Project Title	KBA Site & Number	Approx Land Area (hectares)	US Funds Agreed	Grantee/Vendor	Country	Strategy	Project Type
Improving the Status of the Gallicolumba erythroptera, Critically Endangered Species	Rangiroa Island 117	7,900	88,187.00	French Polynesia	SOP Manu	3. Safeguard and restore threatened species	Species research and conservation
Resolving an Enigma: Conservation Management of the Fiji Petrel	Lomaiviti Group Gau Island - 60	12150	260,934.00	Fiji Nature Conservation Trust	Fiji	1. Invasive species prevention	Invasive species eradication/management
Phoenix Islands Protected Area Trust Initiative	Phoenix Islands-133	2,800	84,976.00	Kiribati	New England Aquarium	2. Improve management of key biodiversity areas	KBA management
Species Recovery Plan for the Fijian Crested Iguana	Yadua Taba Island-93	153	228,930.00	Fiji	National Trust for Fiji	3. Safeguard and restore threatened species	Species research and conservation
The Sustainable Management of Rarotonga Flycatcher and its Habitat	Takitumu Conservation Area-4	155	96,700.00	Cook Islands	Te Ipukarea Society	2. Improve management of key biodiversity areas	KBA management
Conserving the Biodiversity of the Pohnpei Watershed Forest Reserve by Managing Invasive Weeds	Pohnpei Central Forest-36	10,372	184,329.00	Conservation Society of Pohnpei	FSM	1. Invasive species prevention	KBA management

Morane, Tenararo et Vahanga, ou la nécessité de protéger un patrimoine naturel unique	Morane Island-110 (200 ha) / Tenararo Vahanga Atoll-127 (400 ha)	600	17,883.00	French Polynesia	Conservation et Restauration des Iles de Polynésie Fa'a'api	2 Improve management of KBAs	KBA management
Save the Last Monarchs of Polynesia, two critically endangered birds for future generation	Tahiti Island-124 (20,000ha) Fatu Hiva Island-99 (7,770 ha)	27,770	198,578.00	French Polynesia	SOP Manu	3. Safeguard and restore threatened species	Species research and conservation
Native Birds and Flying Foxes: Natural Aids to Forest Restoration in Lake Ngardok Nature Reserve	Babeldaob Upland Forest-144	21,000	16,963.00	Palau	Belau National Museum	1. Invasive Species	Species research and conservation
Yela Forest Reserve: A Critical Ecosystem and Natural Habitat	Yela-Okat Terminalia/Mangrove Forests-57	587	20,000.00	FSM	Yela Environment Landowners Authority	3. Safeguard and restore threatened species	Species research and conservation
Biodiversity Management and Ecotourism Development on Atiu, Cook Islands	Atiu Island - 1	2,700	97516	Cook Island Natural Heritage Trust	Cook Islands	1. Invasive species prevention	invasive species eradication/management
A Pilot Study of the Impacts of Climate Change on Fiji's Cloud Forest	Mt. Washington-71 (1,800 ha) Tomaiivi-Wabu Nature & Forest Reserve-83 (7,200 ha)	9,000	49,300.00	Fiji	University of the South Pacific	2. Improve management of key biodiversity areas	Species research and conservation
The Taveuni National Park? Enhanced Conservation for KBA	Taveuni-82	48,510	143,000.00	Fiji	Fiji Nature Conservation Trust	2. Improve management of key biodiversity areas	KBA management

Protecting Kosrae Upland Forest	Kosrae Upland Forest-17	4640	67,697.00	Kosrae FSM	Kosrae Conservation & Safety Organization	2. Improve management of key biodiversity areas	KBA management/ invasive species eradication and control
Enhancing knowledge and Understanding of the Biodiversity of Upland Central Savaii	Savaii Lowland and Upland Forest-154	25,000	169,400.00	Samoa	SPREP	2. Improve management of key biodiversity areas	Species research and conservation
Surveys to identify the current status of threatened fauna of Niue with a focus on Huvalu forest KBA	Huvalu Forest Conservation Area-142	6,029	19,300.00	Niue	SPREP	2. Improve management of key biodiversity areas	KBA management
Restoring the Native Vegetation of Monuriki Isld,	Monuriki Island-65	100	35,280.00	Fiji	National Trust for Fiji	1. Invasive Species	invasive species eradication/management
Saving Suvarrow's Seabirds: Restoring a Keu Biodiversity Area	Suvarrow Atoll-3	168	68,905.00	Cook Islands	Te Ipukarea Society	1. Invasive Species	Species research and conservation /IS eradication & management