

Social Assessment, to demonstrate how the project will comply with CEPF's Safeguard Policy on Indigenous Peoples

CEPF proposals may be required to demonstrate that they fulfil the requirements of the World Bank's current social safeguard policies, particularly the Indigenous Peoples Policy (OP 4.10) and the Involuntary Resettlement Policy (OP 4.12). This social assessment accompanies proposal ID 24 to demonstrate that in preparing the proposal provisions have been made for evaluating the potential impacts on indigenous communities in line with CEPF's Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework.

1. Identify Indigenous Peoples in the project area

OP 4.10 uses the term Indigenous Peoples to refer to a distinct, vulnerable, social and cultural group possessing the following characteristics in varying degrees: (i) self-identification as members of a distinct indigenous cultural group and recognition of this identity by others; (ii) collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area and to the natural resources in these habitats and territories; (iii) customary cultural, social, economic, or political institutions that are separate from those of the dominant society and culture; and (iv) an indigenous language, often different from the official language of the country or region. Other terms used in different countries to refer to these groups include "indigenous ethnic minorities," "aboriginals," "hill tribes," "minority nationalities," "scheduled tribes," and "tribal groups" (OP 4.10, para 4).

This project will be taking place within the Konoagil rural Local Level Government (LLG) area, a part of Namatani District, New Ireland Province, Papua New Guinea. Survey effort is expected to be concentrated around Silur Bay on the East coast, and will involve community consultations focussed at Silur Mission, Kampurum and Taron villages. The people of this area speak Siar-Lak, a local language spoken by approximately 2,500 people living at the southern end of New Ireland Province in Papua New Guinea. Siar speakers generally make their living from gardening and fishing. They rely on outrigger canoes, which are owned and used by men, women and children for travel to gardens and between the closer villages. Formerly larger canoes without outriggers were used for travelling longer distances, but presently the people use fiberglass boats with outboard motors, or travel on the copra boats for longer distances. There are no roads suitable for vehicles in the Konoagil LLG area. The people's diet consists mainly of garden produce and seafood, sometimes supplemented by tinned meats, rice, noodles and biscuits purchased at trade stores. The staple crop is manioc, which is made into a type of bread called gem. Taro, sweet potato, yams, pumpkin, various types of greens, pineapple, papaya and citrus fruits are also grown. The main source of protein is fish and shell fish; chickens are sometimes eaten. Pigs are eaten mainly at funeral feasts or other special occasions. The main source of cash is copra, the dried meat of coconuts. As the price of copra has fallen in recent years, other crops have been introduced, including vanilla and cacao. Other sources of income include gathering sea cucumbers and selling trochus shells. The interior of the area is montane and uninhabited but is community owned by the coastal villages.

2. Assess expected project impacts (both positive and negative) on them

This project falls under CEPF's investment priority 3 for the East Melanesian Islands – to safeguard priority globally threatened species by addressing major threats and information gaps. The proposal outlines key research for a Critically Endangered species, focussing primarily on catching Beck's Petrels at sea to deploy satellite tags in an effort to identify the species' breeding grounds. At this

stage the project is not aiming to launch a significant capacity-building component, nor to implement the level of awareness-raising within local communities that would be a necessary precursor to implementing on-the-ground conservation activities for the species¹. Furthermore, no land-based searches into the uninhabited interior are anticipated at this stage of the project. Therefore, because this is primarily a species research project, impacts (either positive or negative) within local communities are expected to be minimal.

The project team will visit several local villages and hopes to recruit locally for support with field activities e.g. boat work. The main potential negative impact might come from payment of local guides and perceived inequality in treatment. These interactions are expected to involve a small number of local people identified and recruited with support from New Ireland based project partners Ailan Awareness and the Wildlife Conservation Society during open community consultations.

Should any work occur in the interior in the future (i.e. as follow-up to this proposal) it would be necessary to gain permissions for accessing relevant community-owned lands. These permissions will be sought and mediated with help of the LLG.

3. Describe how free, prior and informed consultations have been carried out with affected communities during design of the project (i.e. prior to submission of the full proposal)

Local communities including Silur Mission were visited during preliminary fieldwork in 2012 when community consultations were held discussing Beck's Petrel and its conservation. These meetings discussed local attitudes to conservation and seabirds, and explored any cultural links to the species (petrels are often known to local communities in the Pacific because they have been exploited or revered by local cultures). Those early meetings built local relations and paved the way for subsequent follow-up work. The current project is again being implemented with locally-based NGO partners, Ailan Awareness and WCS who are facilitating FPIC with coastal communities ahead of fieldwork.

4. Outline measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits

External project staff and consultants will work alongside local partners who will provide informal training about local customs and expectations to ensure all project activities are carried out in a sensitive and culturally appropriate way.

The project team will also work closely with the LLG to ensure community consultation follows appropriate channels.

5. Explain how these measures will be monitored

An open dialogue will be maintained prior to and throughout project implementation to ensure culturally-appropriate protocols are followed at all times during fieldwork.

¹ As in 2012 short school visits may be requested to inform children about the research being undertaken. In addition any land-based observations for petrels will be made in such a way that local people can participate and understand the nature of our research.

6. Detail a grievance mechanism

The project team are in contact with the LLG over research permits ahead of fieldwork. The contact individuals within those organisations will be available as intermediaries for local communities to contact in the case of any concern on their part. This will be clear before any fieldwork takes place, and outlined in formal letters of introduction from local authorities. Relevant phone numbers for these individuals, a contact point within the Papua New Guinea Ministry of Environment and Conservation, and non-project staff within WCS will be provided to all community liaison points.

The project team have a strong record of working in remote Pacific island communities and through proper observance of cultural norms in New Ireland we expect all grievances to be averted, or at worst, dealt with openly in consultation with local village elders and representatives.