

Annex 13: Detailed explanation of the SICCP's operations

<i>Name of organization</i>	Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership
<i>Type of organization</i>	Charitable Trust
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The advisory board of SICCP includes high-profile conservation professionals with a great deal of forestry project experience. Brief biographical sketches of the SICCP advisory board members are found below.

SICCP Description

The Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP) is a creation of the American Museum of Natural History and Conservation International, which is focused on delivering community-based conservation solutions throughout the Solomon Islands.¹³ The SICCP has pioneered the use of a new conservation concessions mechanism called Community Conservation Agreements (CCAs).

Community benefits of CCAs

CCAs offer financial and community development assistance to local communities in exchange for clearly defined conservation outcomes.¹⁴ The CCA approach works to design benefit packages that avoid direct cash payments and, in turn, the problems associated with unfair use or distribution of funds. Agreed-upon benefits are provided annually, upon completion of an annual conservation status audit. For the initiatives started thus far, benefits will be exclusively for in-kind services (e.g., school fees, scholarship funds, improvements to community medical clinics), and small-scale development assistance at the community level (e.g. capacity building in resource management and livelihood alternatives).¹⁵ Importantly, benefits like high-quality education are worth a huge amount to communities – they are consistent, have the potential to be evenly distributed, and are often difficult for communities to organize on their own. The CCA structure is driven by the community, who works among its members to determine needs and wants. Each of SICCP's current CCAs hinges on forest protection and monitoring of forest resources. There are at least 5 CCA projects underway, with more under development.¹⁶ These projects put an emphasis on forest conservation

¹³ See Annex 3 for an organizational description and flow chart for the SICCP.

¹⁴ See Annex 2 for a complete description of the CCA concept as it is currently being applied in the Solomon Islands. Melanesian Geography, May-Sept 2007, p.18-23.

¹⁵ Filardi, C. Customary land tenure and Community Conservation Agreements (CCAs) in the Solomon Islands: Parallel Opportunities for Community Welfare, Rural Development, and Conservation Investment at the National Level. Concept Summary Written for the Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology, Honiara, Solomon Islands. 3p.

¹⁶ See Annex 4 for examples of other CCAs in place throughout the Solomon Islands.



and sustainable community forest management – including forest monitoring and harvest planning. The funds are managed by the SICCP to ensure transparency and accountability for all financial inputs. The SICCP administers an endowed trust that is currently funded by international donor agencies, and the goal of our REDD concept is that carbon finance can provide a sustained income source to fully fund the SICCP's activities.

CCAs offer an alternative to traditional resource extraction concession agreements, which are typically the only means for groups holding customary land tenure in the Solomons to gain direct financial benefit from their land, outside of subsistence use. Unlike a timber concession, which might offer limited benefits to few individuals in a community over a short period of time, CCA agreements will provide community-wide benefits in perpetuity. Also, communities choosing the CCA route will retain functional natural forest ecosystems which have other values including: biodiversity habitat preservation, non-timber forest products, watershed protection, reduced erosion, improved near-shore reef quality, improved fish stocks, and so on. In-kind benefits that are actually requested by the community, based upon a consensus of the membership, will help avoid some of the pitfalls of a cash-based benefit mechanism. The CCA model is also a preferable alternative because it allows for a combination of uses for a natural forest area that potentially generate revenue for the citizens as well as promote the conservation value of the forest. Some of the potential uses include: low-impact ecotourism, scientific tourism, the collection of non-timber forest products, and ecosystem services.

Case Study – The TDA CCA

Socioeconomic data is unavailable for the TDA membership at the moment, so the range of incomes is unknown for the members. Approximately 75% of TDA members are subsistence farmers/fishermen with little income. In this context, the CCA framework is a novel concept to deliver development benefits to local communities.

The TDA CCA provides its members 75-100 academic scholarships every year, which is the most sought-after service that the organization provides. These scholarships are for primary or secondary school, and occasionally for advanced technical school. The number of scholarships given depends upon the available funds and is broken down by region as a percentage of registered members and compliance with TDA objectives. Currently, there are approximately 175 applications every year, and upon implementation of the Tetepare REDD Project and the capitalization of the TDA REDD Endowment this entire demand could be met. Every TDA member knows someone who has received a TDA scholarship, has a family member who has received one, or has received one personally. This is a clear means to raise the standard of living of the TDA's membership, with clear benefits over the long-term.

Additionally, the Sustainable Livelihoods program is being developed to deflect pressure on exploitation of Tetepare's resources by giving communities alternative means of income generation. One such initiative is the Ngali nut buying program that was started in communities on Rendova with the intent to expand to other communities from other TDA regions. Also, the TDA operates a rustic Eco-lodge and ecotourism operation on the island, which provides employment for a number of TDA members every year. Other spin-off cash flow from vegetable marketing, handicraft selling and carpenter and laborer employment is incurred through this program.



The TDA ensures that scholarships are distributed according to need, among other factors, and it is conceivable that other incentive mechanisms could be designed accordingly. If CCAs prove to be a successful model in the Solomon Islands, this system could be implemented with land-owning communities throughout the world. Local communities in low-development countries are often faced with the option of liquidating their natural resource base in exchange for short-term cash benefits. These very same communities could benefit greatly from a program that provides for the equitable distribution of educational and sustainable livelihood benefits over the long-term, while also ensuring the preservation of important conservation areas.

As such, we feel that the Tetepare REDD Project represents an important step forward in enabling poor communities to benefit from conservation and sustainable use of their resources through ecosystem service markets.

National-level Benefits of CCAs

At a national level, the revenue from ecosystem service payments dictated by the CCA will also be beneficial. Although there may be a short-term loss in export revenue from the duty paid on the sale of round logs, as is the current practice, this loss will be quickly overcome by the longer-term benefits of a sustainable source of revenue generated by biodiversity protection and other forms of conservation at both community and national levels. The financial distribution model for the Tetepare REDD Project will include revenue directed towards the national government. These funds could also be destined towards the development of a long-term national fund for conservation use by the Ministry of the Environment. The Solomon Islands government has made public pronouncements that climate change is very important to the national development agenda, specifically focused on adaptation. The government has also shown clear interest in pursuing an alternative development model in the years to come that does not continue to contribute to global warming.

The lack of a national Protected Areas system makes it difficult for the government of the Solomon Islands to regulate the conversion of natural forests in the country. The lack of a legal framework to formally protect land areas, or a legislative structure that would enable the creation of a protected area, make it very hard to control land use outside the local level. CCAs are a viable mechanism to create a network of protected areas throughout the Solomon Islands, and this alternative represents a significant opportunity for natural resource conservation. CCAs essentially relieve the national government of the responsibility to act as the steward of its lands, and places this task in the hands of the local communities that are most affected by the lands in question. This strategy may prove to be more successful than a national model over the long-term, as local communities have a larger stake in the preservation of their immediate resources and have an intimate awareness of all activities taking place in their immediate surroundings.

The Tetepare REDD Project is the first step toward realizing a different path to development for small, forested nations like the Solomon Islands. Rather than responding to the external demand for natural resources with a quick and shortsighted attempt to liquidate their natural resource base, conservation-based and sustainability-based development options take a different approach. Offering developing nations and local communities smart alternatives to the old exploitation model will allow them to deflect the pressure to exhaust their natural resources while providing for the future growth and security of their populations.



The SICCP is developing CCA agreements throughout the Solomon Islands that will offer communities the ability to pursue conservation-based development options. Notably, the Tetepare REDD Project is the first CCA project to incorporate commodity-based ecosystem service benefits like carbon sequestration. Therefore, this pilot project represents an evolutionary step forward, a step which has the potential to be replicated across the region and in forest-dwelling communities around the world.

Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership Key Personnel

Keyvan Izadi and Emily Fitzsimmons

The Co-Directors of the Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP), Keyvan Izadi and Emily Fitzsimmons, each bring over 15 years experience in for-profit and non-profit project management, budget development and monitoring, fundraising and strategic planning. Currently, their responsibilities include managing a budget of \$1.5 million with a portfolio of 6 projects in the Solomon Islands.

Prior to his work at SICCP, Keyvan managed the development of multi-million dollar infill senior communities across North America. He has over a decade of land use planning experience and holds a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning with concentrations in international development, economic development & environmental policy.

Previously, Emily worked in the fields of conflict resolution and managed membership and marketing for a large US-based trade association. She holds a Masters in Conflict Analysis & Resolution and is experienced in training, leadership development and not-for-profit capacity building.

Christopher Filardi

Dr. Filardi is a member of the Advisory Team for the SICCP and one of the inventors of the CCA concept. He currently works for the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation of the American Museum of Natural History. Chris is one of the foremost experts on the unique biodiversity of the Solomons, having participated in many biological studies of the islands for over a decade. Along with this experience, Dr. Filardi has been a long-time advocate for community-based conservation in the Solomons and the preservation of communal land tenure. Chris has a long history of conducting conservation and education activities, and biodiversity research in the Pacific region. He has, among other things, studied foraging behavior of Palm cockatoos in Papua New Guinea in an effort to expand CITES protection; worked with the Wildlife Conservation Society to set up one of the first community-based wildlife reserves in the country; and studied radiations of Pacific birds to clarify boundaries among species and begin unraveling the origins of pan-Pacific bird groups. His current work at the CBC includes expanding his research and conservation work in the Solomon Islands to integrate research, education and community-based protected area strategies across the archipelago.

Dr. Filardi is a Technical Advisor to the Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Meteorology and was recently a featured speaker panelist at a Prime Minister's Investment and Finance Forum in the Solomon Islands on carbon and other ecosystem services markets.



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Richard Rice

Dr. Rice has 25 years experience in natural resource and public policy analysis. He currently is the Chief Economist at Conservation International and supervises projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Pacific. Dr. Rice has initiated forestry projects for ecosystem service payments in Guyana as well as the Solomon Islands. Dr. Rice spearheaded an effort to protect a 200,000-hectare section of rainforest in Guyana with the world's first "conservation concession," a unique attempt to lease land from a national government for conservation value. He has also researched sustainable forest management and avoided deforestation (REDD) from an economic perspective in forests with high biodiversity value. He has published widely on the viability of sustainable forest management and is presently working on the development and implementation of conservation incentive agreements, an approach to conservation involving annual payments for the acquisition of development rights in priority habitats. Prior to joining Conservation International, Dr. Rice worked on the economics of public land use policies in the United States with The Wilderness Society, Resources for the Future, Inc. and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Aaron Bruner

Aaron Bruner is Director of Conservation Incentives and Protected Area Financing in the Conservation Economics Program at Conservation International. His work focuses on improving the effectiveness of protected area management and on developing the use of conservation agreements as a means to engage communities in conservation. Past projects have covered a range of scales and issues, including analysis of protected area effectiveness across the tropics, assessment of the cost of effective protected area management, economic analyses of a range of forest products, and analysis of strategies for increasing the contribution of the tourism industry to biodiversity conservation. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Wesleyan University.

He works on two general aspects of forest carbon finance and markets: 1) costs and governance for ensuring effective protection of forest areas to, in turn, provide reliable emissions reductions, and 2) assessment of methodologies for determining appropriate REDD baselines for maximizing the efficiency and equity of transactions. This includes both qualitative analysis of scenarios, and quantitative analysis of different proposed methodologies for REDD and their implications for issues like leakage, carbon market price, and others.