

Name of Protected Area: Loroko National Park

Part 1: Basic information about the protected area

Table 1. Protected area information

Name, organisation and contact details for person(s) conducting the assessment <i>Person 1: Name, Organisation, Address, Email, Phone</i>	Ann Peterson, SPREP/Protected Area Solutions, 283 Madill Road, Tandur, Q4570, Australia, a.peterson@uq.edu.au, 0414300955
<i>Person 2: Name, Organisation, Address, Email, Phone</i>	Warren Jano, SPREP, wjano2009@gmail.com, 73780347
Today's Date	9/6/2016
Name (or names) of protected area	Loroko National Park (or is it Provincial Park?)
Size of protected area (ha)	100
PNG Code or number	87
World Database of Protected Areas site code (these codes can be found on www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/)	61530
What level or kind of protected area is it? (National Park, Wildlife Management Area, Sanctuary, Reserve, Locally Managed Marine Area etc)	National Park
IUCN Category	
International protected area? e.g. World Heritage or Ramsar?	
Country	Papua New Guinea
Province/s	West New Britain
District/s	Hoskins
Local level governments	Hoskins
Ward/s	
Nearest big town	Kimbe
Location of protected area (brief description)	Loroko is about 3-4 hour's drive east of Kimbe. It is triangular in shape, located around a coastal headland. There is a sealed road from Kimbe to Hoskins and then a poor road to Kavutu Village (outside the protected area).
Map references	
When was the protected area gazetted or formally established?	24/9/1991
Reference for gazettal or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)	87
Who owns the protected area? please enter Government Private Community/ customary landowners, private, Other (name) and include Clan name(s)	Government
Number of households living in the protected area	5

Population size within the protected area	20
Who manages the protected area?(e.g. please enter government, customary landowners [add clan names] management committee [how many and what gender])	Customary landowners (2 Clans – Ababe, Boualali). No management committee.
Total number of staff (this means anyone working on the protected area in paid jobs –whether NGOs, community, rangers or customary landowners	0
<i>Temporary paid workers</i>	0
<i>Permanent paid workers</i>	0
Annual budget (US\$) – excluding staff salary costs	0
Operational (recurrent) funds	0
Project or special funds	0
Reason for park establishment	To look after the crocodiles, but this has ended.
What are the main values for which the area is designated (Fill this out after data sheet 2)	The land on which the protected area stands, was formerly a government agricultural station in the colonial era. After independence the station was transferred into a national park. There were no particular values for which the park was designated, other than it was land owned by the state.
List the primary protected area management objectives (add lines if needed after the most important objectives): <i>Management objective 1</i>	
<i>Management objective 2</i>	
<i>Management objective 3</i>	
Number of people involved in answering the assessment questions	1
Name/organisation/contact details of people participating the assessment (<i>Please do not insert return/enter or dot points</i>)	<i>Levi Bala</i> , customary landowner, Hoskins LLG, Kimbe, WNBP.
Customary landowners/other community; CEPA, Other national government agency; Provincial govt; local level govt; Protected area staff (anyone working on the protected area in paid jobs; NGO; Donors; External experts; Others	Customary landowner (Ababe Clan).
Please note if assessment was carried out in association with a particular project, on behalf of an organisation or donor.	SPREP through the PNG Protected Area Assessment Project, which is a component of the GEF Community-based Forest and Coastal Conservation and Resource Management Project in PNG.

Part 2: What makes this protected area special and important?

The land on which the park is located was formerly a government station set up on State Land during colonial times. This was the site of the former Department of Primary Industries (including Wildlife Division), which conducted extension work in relation to wildlife. Local people would sell small crocodiles to the Station staff and these were put into a 'grow out' facility and holding pens and later wold for their skins. The customary landowners were removed from their land. At independence the facility stopped and the State transferred the land to a national park. The community were not consulted in this process and were removed from the site. The customary landowners want the government to decide on the future of this land. They want to have control over their customary lands. Some customary landowners (five families) now reside in the national park. They have built structures and small gardens and hunt in the area. One customary landowner is a judge/lawyer and has advised in a letter that the community should not make permanent changes to the land or destroy the land (e.g. commercial planting) as they could be prosecuted. Currently the land is in state ownership, but this status is unclear, especially under the current legislative arrangements. The customary landowners, however, believe that the land is government owned. There is no active management or management plan, or any investment into the national park, or any contact between the government and the customary landowners, who mainly reside outside the park. The customary landowners may like to undertake oil palm cultivation over the entire site. NBP Oil has been in discussions, and if the national park status was removed they would be prepared to discuss the possibility of developing a palm oil plantation.

Table 2. Key values of the protected area

No.	Key values	Brief description	<i>Note if endangered species or ecosystem (IUCN)</i>
1	Forest and bush	Has value in providing building material.	
2	Animals	Crocodiles, wallabies, cassowary, birds (hornbills, cockatoo). The community hunt animals, mainly in the mountain area.	

Checklist of benefits

Not important 0; Important 1; Very important 2; Don't know DK

How important is the protected area for each of the listed values/benefits?	Score (0,1,2, DK)	Comment
1. Biodiversity – the presence of many different kinds of plants, animals and ecosystems	0	
2. Presence of rare, threatened, or endangered species (plants and animals)	0	
3. Ecosystems (e.g. wetlands, grasslands, coral reefs etc) that are rare because they have been cleared or destroyed in other areas	0	
4. Protecting clean, fresh water	0	
5. Sustaining important species in big enough numbers that they are able to survive here	0	
6. Providing a source of employment for local communities now	0	
7. Providing resources for local subsistence (food, building materials, medicines etc.)	1	People have established gardens and hunt in the protected area.
8. Providing community development opportunities through sustainable resource use	0	
9. Religious or spiritual significance (e.g. tambu places)	0	
10. Plant species of high social, cultural, or economic importance	0	
11. Animal species of high social, cultural, or economic importance	0	
12. Attractive scenery	DK	
13. Tourism now	0	
14. Potential value for tourism in the future	0	
15. Educational and/or scientific value	0	
16. Maintaining culture and tradition on customary land and passing this on to future generations	1	Customary landowners believe that the area has cultural importance and is important for the children. However, in the past the people knew the traditional boundaries and customs, but now other people enter and have less respect for the values.

Part 3: What are the threats to the protected area?

Table 4: Threats to the protected area

- H** High significance threats are seriously degrading values. This means they are badly damaging some value –it might be a kind of animal or plant, or your traditional gardens
- M** Medium threats are having some negative impact – they are damaging values but not so badly
- L** Low threats are present but not seriously damaging values
- 0** N/A where the threat is not present in the protected area or where something is happening but is not threatening the values at all

1

Threat type	Score (H,M,L,0)	Notes
1.1 Housing and settlement	H	People have begun to return to the park. There are now five families living in the protected area and they have cut forest for gardens and houses, and fire has destroyed part of the forest. Now other people are using chain saws to cut the forest to build houses. Now there is a saw mill.
1.1a Population increase in the protected area community	0	
1.2 Commercial and industrial areas	0	
1.3 Tourism and recreation infrastructure	0	
2.1 Customary land owner and community gardens and small crops	H	The families have small gardens, and due to the small size of the protected area the impact is relatively high.
2.1a Drug cultivation	0	
2.1b Commercial plantations	0	
2.2 Wood and pulp plantations	0	
2.3 Livestock farming and grazing	0	
2.4 Marine and freshwater aquaculture	0	
3.1 Oil and gas drilling	0	
3.2 Mining and quarrying	0	
3.3 Energy generation	0	
4.1 Roads and railroads (include road-killed animals)	0	
4.2 Utility and service lines (e.g. electricity cables, telephone lines)	0	
4.3 Shipping lanes	0	
4.4 Flight paths	0	
5.1 Hunting, killing and collecting terrestrial animals (including killing of animals as a result of human/wildlife conflict)	H	Few animals remain. They have been depleted by hunting. There are only a few pigs for hunting and some birds and cassowaries.
5.2 Gathering terrestrial plants or plant products (non-timber)	H	Galip nut, breadfruit, mango are harvested and the quantity has decreased.
5.3a Logging and wood harvesting for local/customary use	L	Some removal for house building.
5.3b Logging and wood harvesting – commercial logging	L	Walk about sawmill is illegally extracting timber.
5.4a Fishing, killing and harvesting aquatic resources for local/customary use	0	
5.4b Fishing, killing and harvesting aquatic resources for commercial use	0	
6.1 Recreational activities and tourism	0	
6.2 War, civil unrest and military exercises	0	
6.3 Research, education and other work-related activities in protected areas	0	

Threat type	Score (H,M,L,0)	Notes
6.4 Activities of protected area managers (e.g. construction or vehicle use)	0	
6.5 Deliberate vandalism, destructive activities or threats to protected area staff and visitors	0	
7.1 Fire and fire suppression (including arson)	H	Fires have escaped into the area and have caused some damaged to the forest habitat and fauna, and as a result these areas have been subsequently used as gardens. There is some regeneration of the forest.
7.2 Dams, hydrological modification and water management/use	0	
7.3a Increased fragmentation within protected area	0	
7.3b Isolation from other natural habitat (e.g. deforestation)	H	The protected area is surrounded on the landward side by a road which has oil palm adjacent to it.
7.3c Other 'edge effects' on park values	H	Oil palm plantations exist on the landward boundary of the park.
7.3d Loss of keystone species (e.g. top predators, pollinators etc.)	0	No keystone species.
8.1 Pest plants	0	
8.1a Pest animals	L	Cane toad (kills snakes)
8.1b Diseases such as fungus or viruses that make native plants or animals sick	0	
8.2 Introduced genetic material (e.g. genetically modified organisms)	0	
9.1 Household sewage and urban waste water	0	
9.1a Sewage and waste water from protected area facilities	0	
9.2 Industrial, mining and military effluents	0	
9.3 Agricultural and forestry effluents (e.g. excess fertilizers or pesticides)	0	
9.4 Garbage and solid waste	0	
9.5 Air-borne pollutants	0	
9.6 Excess energy (e.g. heat pollution, lights etc.)	0	
10.1 Volcanoes	0	
10.2 Earthquakes/Tsunamis	0	
10.3 Avalanches/Landslides	0	
10.4 Erosion and siltation/ deposition (e.g. shoreline or riverbed changes)	0	
11.1 Habitat shifting and alteration	0	
11.2 Droughts	M	Drought has affected the occurrence of bushfires, which have affected the forest.
11.3 Temperature extremes	M	
11.4 Storms and flooding	0	
11.5 Coral bleaching	0	
11.6 Intrusion by saltwater into gardens etc.	L	
11.7 Sea level rise	L	Affecting well water, slightly brackish
Other (please explain)		
12.1 Loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge and/or management practices	0	Customary landowners would like their land returned to them.
12.2 Natural deterioration of important cultural site values	0	

Threat type	Score (H,M,L,0)	Notes
12.3 Destruction of cultural heritage buildings, gardens, sites etc.	0	
Other (please explain)	H	1. Failure of government to engage with the area. 2. No respect for the values of the protected area.

What are the worst threats?

Table 5. Worst threats and ways forward

Threat No.	Threat (Most significant first)	Threat number or name (copy no. from Table 4)	Nature of the threat, impact and how to reduce the impact.
1	Lack of government presence and management	Other	The government has failed to manage the area. The customary landowners would like the land returned to them to give them control over future decisions on the land.
2	Fire	7.1	Fire has increased as a result of the greater incidence of drought and escapes from gardens (when land is cleared and burned). Fires cause forest destruction, which results in the land being subsequently used for new gardens. There needs to be a management presence in the WMA e.g. rangers.
3	No respect for the values of the protected area	Other	The local community has no respect for the land, so they take resources and enter the park (e.g. for timber, hunting, gardening etc). By returning the land to the customary landowners they would be able to take control of the area.

Part 4: What is the management like in the protected area?

Table 6. Management effectiveness scores, comments, next steps

Issue	Score (0,1,2,3 NA)	Comment	Next steps
1a. Legal status	3	A legally gazetted national park.	Community wants to regain ownership and have responsibility for the area, i.e. de-gazette the National Park.
1b. Legal status			
2a. Protected area regulations	1	This is State land, but the State has no presence in the National Park and the surrounding customary landowners have returned to live in the protected area.	
2b. Protected area regulations			
3. Law enforcement	0	There is no presence of government staff, but the community realises that if they use or develop the land they will be held accountable. The customary landowners have legal advice that has informed them not to use the land until they have legal ownership of the land.	The customary landowners are hoping that the government will relinquish their ownership back to the customary landowners.
4. Protected area objectives	0		

Issue	Score (0,1,2,3 NA)	Comment	Next steps
5. Protected area design	0	The park was established as a government station and the boundaries have no relationship to the protection of environmental values.	
6. Protected area boundaries	3	The people know the boundary, but they choose to live within the park, because there is no presence of the State and they are not having a major impact.	The customary landowners want to remove the national park boundary and regain ownership of the land.
7. Management plan	0		
7a. Planning process	0		
7b. Planning process	0		
7c. Planning process	0		
8. Regular work plan	0		
9. Resource inventory	0		
10. Protection systems	0		
11. Research and monitoring	0		
12. Resource management	0		
13a. Staff numbers	0		
13b. Other people working on the protected area	0		
14. Training and skills	0		
15. Current budget	0		
16. Security of budget	0		
17. Management of budget	NA		
18. Equipment	0		
19. Maintenance of equipment	NA		
20. Education and awareness	0		
21. Planning for land use or marine activities	0		
22. State and commercial neighbours	0		
23. Indigenous people/ Customary landowners	0		
24a. Impact on communities	0		
24b. Impact on communities	0		
24c. Impact on communities	0	The customary landowners want the land returned to customary ownership.	
25. Economic benefit	0		
26. Monitoring and evaluation	0		
27. Visitor facilities	0		
28. Commercial tourism operators	0		
29. Fees	NA		
30. Condition of values	0	Fire has had an impact on the values – entered mainly from the south and now people have begun to garden in these area.	
30a. Condition of values	0		
30b. Condition of values	0		
30c. Condition of values	0		

Part 5: Condition and trends of protected area values

Table 7. Values, condition and trend

Key value (from Table 2)	Condition Score (VG, G, F, P, DK)	Trend Score, (I, S, D, DK)	Information source and justification for Assessment and HOW the condition can be IMPROVED
Forest and bush	P	D	Before it was good, but since the fire the value is less and the people are making gardens and the trees are dead.
Animals	P	D	Because the habitat is going, the values are declining for wildlife.

Table 8. Recommendations and ways forward

1.	2.	3.
There needs to be a decision by the government as to whether they want to keep the land or relinquish it to the customary land owners.	Once a decision is made, the community needs to decide what is best for their future. Some want to develop oil palm plantations, which would require logging of the remaining vegetation before the planting of the oil palm.	

Table 9. Strengths and challenges (facilitator/recorder synthesis)

	Strengths	Challenges
1	Boundary is mapped and known by the community	To address the future status of the national park.
2		To avoid further deterioration of the protected area's values.
3		To address the customary landowners' concerns about the future of the national park.