

## Name of Protected Area: Baniara Island Protected Area

### 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>	Beside Thomas, Conservation and Environment Protection Authority, PO Box 6601, Boroko, National Capital District, Port Moresby, bensidethomass@gmail.com, +675 301 4500.
<i>Person 2: Name, Organisation, Address, Email, Phone</i>	Bernard Suruman, Conservation and Environment Protection Authority, P O Box 6601, Boroko, National Capital District, Port Moresby, bsuruman@dec.gov.pg, +675 301 4500.
Today's Date	10/04/2017
Name (or names) of protected area	Baniara Island Protected Area
Size of protected area (ha)	200
PNG Code or number	69
World Database of Protected Areas site code (these codes can be found on <a href="http://www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/">www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/</a> )	4201
What level or kind of protected area is it? (National Park, Wildlife Management Area, Sanctuary, Reserve, Locally Managed Marine Area etc)	Protected Area (although respondents indicate that it is a WMA).
IUCN Category	NA
International protected area? e.g. World Heritage or Ramsar?	NA
Country	Papua New Guinea
Province/s	Milne Bay
District/s	Rabaraba
Local level governments	Makamaka
Ward/s	Abuaro
Nearest big town	Alotau
Location of protected area (brief description)	Baniara Island is located north-west of the town of Alotau, bordering Oro and Milne Bay Provinces. From Alotau to Taupota village by road is approximately 2 hours, then another 3 hours by sea to Abuaro village on the mainland and a short 10 minute ride to Baniara Island. <b>Additional information:</b> The island is a flat coral reef island, with the highest point about 2.5m. The island is mainly coral mixed soil that is well drained and supports various tree and shrub species.
Map references	1:100,000 Topographic Map Sheet 8878
When was the protected area gazetted or formally established?	13/2/1975
Reference for gazettal or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)	NA
Who owns the protected area? please enter Government Private Community/	State land Portion 34 (The respondents indicated that Abuaro Village, which is on the mainland, comprises people who migrated from Baniara Island and

customary landowners, private, Other (name) and include <b>Clan name(s)</b>	resettled on mainland. They are all from the Kuyawa tribe and have exclusive right to the island).
Number of households living in the protected area	5
Population size within the protected area	25
Who manages the protected area?(e.g. please enter government, customary landowners [add clan names] management committee [how many and what gender])	National government (CEPA) (officially). The respondents indicated that the Island is managed by the Kuyawa tribe, which has eight clans: the Murimurana, Damwapa, Yamaru, Gedugeduana, Tapura, Huro, Ruruma and Dabodabobo. Eric Pagogo also of the Kuyawa tribe is currently residing on the Island and taking charge of activities occurring on the Island.
Total number of staff (this means anyone working on the protected area in <b>paid jobs</b> –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	Protect the agile wallaby ( <i>Macropus agilis</i> ) (but it no longer exists on the island) and also the island (which was a centre for processing copra).
What are the main values for which the area is designated (Fill this out after data sheet 2)	Cultural sites; marine resources (dugong and fish); corals for making paint; building materials from the forest.
List the primary protected area management objectives (add lines if needed after the most important objectives): <i>Management objective 1</i>	To protect the biodiversity and other resources in the sea and on land.
<i>Management objective 2</i>	To provide an ideal habitat/site to generate species on the island and eventually restock other nearby islands.
<i>Management objective 3</i>	To promote eco-tourism activities.
Number of people involved in answering the assessment questions	4
Name/organisation/contact details of people participating the assessment (Please do not insert return/enter or dot points)	<i>Eric Pagogo, C/- Makamaka LLG, (Abuaro), PO Box Bako, Cape Vogel; Charles Boriduba, C/- Makamaka LLG, (Abuaro), PO Box Bako, Cape Vogel, 79883176; George Giawagara, C/- Makamaka LLG, (Abuaro), PO Box Bako, Cape Vogel, 79943224; Ivan Belapuna, C/- Makamaka LLG, (Abuaro), PO Box Bako, Cape Vogel, 73074271.</i>
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 landowners
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?

*No text inserted.* **Additional information:** From the 1930s to 1969 the island was used as a district headquarters for the Rabaraba District of the Milne Bay Province and accommodated a substantial amount of development. In January 1955 Mr Arthur Pagogo introduced agile wallabies, *Macropus agilis*, to the island from Midino, a village north of Cape Vogel. The wallaby population multiplied to around 200. Later the district headquarters moved to Rabaraba on the mainland and what remained on the island was set aside as a Wildlife Sanctuary. However, only the eastern half of the island is declared as a Sanctuary (Rappam 2006). The agile wallaby is no longer found on the island as there is an absence of feeding grass. There are no endangered or vulnerable species. The island may be a stop-over for some bird species. The island has poor ecosystem values as is not linked to any other protected area. There has been no engagement with government or other NGOs. There has been no communication with external organisations and there is no data or current research. There is thought to be mixed mangrove vegetation along the shore, but much of the island was cleared for development. Regrowth has taken place, including trees, grass, vines, shrubs, palms and pandanus.

**Table 2. Key values of the protected area**

No.	Key values	Brief description	Note if endangered species or ecosystem (IUCN)
1	Cultural	Two cultural sites are important to the people, including: a stone in the sea, 10 meters from the shoreline, that locals believe came from the sky; and two small man-made hills, called budi and Nuanua (where the colonial administration house was located), which represent the eight clans.	
2	Marine resources	Surrounding the island, there are many marine resources and the communities depend on these to support their livelihoods and to bring in some income.	
3	Corals	Corals are collected from the sea, dry cooked and used as paint to paint stones which line the pathways. The pathways were built by the former colonial administrators and are recognized by the locals as remnants of the colonial administration.	
4	Building materials from the forest	Locals have been using the forest specifically for building materials. There is good indication of the forest recovering from the kunai grassland.	

**Table 3. Checklist of values/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	2	
2. Presence of rare, threatened, or endangered species (plants and animals)	1	
3. Ecosystems (e.g. wetlands, grasslands, coral reefs etc) that are rare because they have been cleared or destroyed in other areas	2	
4. Protecting clean, fresh water	DK	
5. Sustaining important species in big enough numbers that they are able to survive here	1	
6. Providing a source of employment for local communities now	DK	
7. Providing resources for local subsistence (food, building materials, medicines etc.)	1	
8. Providing community development opportunities through sustainable resource use	0	
9. Religious or spiritual significance (e.g. tambu places)	1	

10. Plant species of high social, cultural, or economic importance	0	
11. Animal species of high social, cultural, or economic importance	DK	
12. Attractive scenery	2	
13. Tourism now	0	
14. Potential value for tourism in the future	2	
15. Educational and/or scientific value	1	
16. Maintaining culture and tradition on customary land and passing this on to future generations	2	

### 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

Threat type	Score (H,M,L,0)	Notes
1.1 Housing and settlement	L	There are four houses within the protected area.
1.1a Population increase in the protected area community	L	Population is not a threat now, but it could be in the future.
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	L	
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	
5.2 Gathering terrestrial plants or plant products (non-timber)	0	
5.3a Logging and wood harvesting for local/customary use	0	
5.3b Logging and wood harvesting – commercial logging	0	
5.4a Fishing, killing and harvesting aquatic resources for local/customary use	H	

Threat type	Score (H,M,L,0)	Notes
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	
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)	0	
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)	0	
7.3c Other 'edge effects' on park values	0	
7.3d Loss of keystone species (e.g. top predators, pollinators etc.)	0	
8.1 Pest plants	M	
8.1a Pest animals	L	
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)	H	
11.1 Habitat shifting and alteration	M	
11.2 Droughts	L	
11.3 Temperature extremes	L	
11.4 Storms and flooding	L	
11.5 Coral bleaching	M	
11.6 Intrusion by saltwater into gardens etc.	H	Well water is salty on the high tide.

Threat type	Score (H,M,L,0)	Notes
11.7 Sea level rise	M	There been shoreline erosion of about 5 metres.
Other (please explain)		
12.1 Loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge and/or management practices	M	
12.2 Natural deterioration of important cultural site values	M	
12.3 Destruction of cultural heritage buildings, gardens, sites etc.	0	
Other (please explain)	0	

**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	Shoreline erosion	10.4	The shoreline has been slowly eroded over the years and the salt marsh has been increasing over the years.
2	Salt water intrusion into wells	11.6	Freshwater wells are daily inundated by salt water.
3	Illegal harvest of marine/terrestrial resources	5.1,5.4a	There are no sign post and no management (e.g. lack of an established Management Committee and the lack of awareness). There is a need for village court officials to be aware of the rules and prosecute law breakers.

## 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	This is a formally gazetted protected area. However, the category of protected area is less clear, with the gazettal notice indicating it is a 'protected area', but the respondents believing it to be a WMA.	Clarify the status of the protected area and discuss with the customary landowners their future desires for the protected area.
1b. Legal status			
2a. Protected area regulations	0	There are no rules and this makes enforcement difficult. (At the time of gazettal there were agreed rules relating to no shooting, killing or taking of agile wallabies, but the wallabies are now extinct on the island).	
2b. Protected area regulations			
3. Law enforcement	0	There is no Management Committee in place and no enforcement of the rules at the moment.	There is an urgent need to liaise with the community and government and to establish a Management Committee and develop laws, then engage in training on enforcement.
4. Protected area objectives	1		
5. Protected area design	0	The protected area is too small.	Discuss the possibility of expanding the protected area.

Issue	Score (0,1,2,3, NA)	Comment	Next steps
6. Protected area boundaries	1	The boundaries are known to the Committee. At the moment the boundary covers some of the shoreline.	Explore the potential for increasing the boundary to include marine areas.
7. Management plan	0	There is no management plan.	Develop a management plan – the sooner the better.
7a. Planning process	0		
7b. Planning process	0		
7c. Planning process	0		
8. Regular work plan	0	There is no regular work plan.	We need funding from any source to enable management. We should discuss the possibility of a submission to the Minister for initial funding to assist us.
9. Resource inventory	0		
10. Protection systems	1		
11. Research and monitoring	0		
12. Resource management	0		
13a. Staff numbers	0		
13b. Other people working on the protected area	1		
14. Training and skills	1		There is a need for basic skills training for management, enforcement and survey/monitoring. We need to train the trainers on developing awareness, para-legal training, enforcement skills and dispute resolution.
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		There is an immediate need to raise the awareness of surrounding communities. We need to target fishers/ poachers, who frequent the area to harvest marine resources.
21. Planning for land use or marine activities	0	There are no current land use plans at local level government.	
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		
25. Economic benefit	0		
26. Monitoring and evaluation	0		
27. Visitor facilities	0		

Issue	Score (0,1,2,3, NA)	Comment	Next steps
28. Commercial tourism operators	0	The current state is 'run down' and there are no commercial tourist operators.	We would like to see some ecotourism activities in the future. There are old wartime relics around the island and some potential pristine dive spots.
29. Fees	0		
30. Condition of values	0		
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
Cultural	DK	DK	
Marine resources	P	DK	
Building materials from the forest	F	S	

**Table 8. Recommendations and ways forward**

1.	2.	3.
Review the Fishing Act established by the Colonial Government and implement it with assistance from the Provincial and National Government.	Revive the sub-level of government posts that existed during the colonial days e.g. aid posts and wharfs.	Re-introduce wildlife conservation and erect a sign board on the island to raise awareness of conservation efforts.

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

	Strengths	Challenges
1	The protected status of the island is well known to visitors and nearby villages.	Improving basic skills e.g. book keeping, survey and monitoring.
2	The island population is low and manageable.	Gaining national, provincial and local level government support e.g. site visits and funding
3	Because the island is a protected area there are fewer disturbances in the forest and new birds species are frequenting the island.	Achieving outcomes in such a remote site.
4		Preventing illegal fishing on the island.