

## Name of Protected Area: Kokoda Memorial 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>	Gregory Peterson SPREP Protected Area Solutions 283 Madill Road Tandur 4570 Queensland Australia gregpeterson53@hotmail.com +61754835155
<i>Person 2: Name, Organisation, Address, Email, Phone</i>	Ann Peterson SPREP Protected Area Solutions 283 Madill Road Tandur 4570 Queensland Australia gregpeterson53@hotmail.com +61754835155
Today's Date	03/03/2017
Name (or names) of protected area	Kokoda Memorial Park
Size of protected area (ha)	1
PNG Code or number	
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> )	NA
What level or kind of protected area is it? (National Park, Wildlife Management Area, Sanctuary, Reserve, Locally Managed Marine Area etc)	Memorial Park
IUCN Category	NA
International protected area? e.g. World Heritage or Ramsar?	NA
Country	Papua New Guinea
Province/s	Oro
District/s	Sohe
Local level governments	Kokoda
Ward/s	
Nearest big town	Popondetta
Location of protected area (brief description)	It is located at the northern end of the Kokoda Trail near the town of Kokoda. It contains a museum made of timber and four memorial cairns, and an open grassed area.
Map references	
When was the protected area gazetted or formally established?	24/09/1981
Reference for gazettal or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)	
Who owns the protected area? please enter Government Private Community/ customary landowners, private, Other (name) and include <b>Clan name(s)</b>	Not known. It is assumed by the participant that it is the Local Level Government. No known formal documentation. In 1995 the museum was opened and an Australian-funded hospital was opened by the Australian Prime Minister, Paul Keating. There are no known land owner issues. There is a possible agreement between the Australian and PNG governments.

Number of households living in the protected area	0 (There are no houses within 50m of the boundary).
Population size within the protected area	0
Who manages the protected area? (e.g. please enter government, customary landowners [add clan names] management committee [how many and what gender])	The Care Control Office of the Office of Australian War Graves through their contractor Kokoda Ultimate Tours manages the protected area and carries out necessary small scale repairs.
Total number of staff (this means anyone working on the protected area in <b>paid jobs</b> – whether NGOs, community, rangers or customary landowners	2 (full time)
<i>Temporary paid workers</i>	Employed on demand
<i>Permanent paid workers</i>	0
Annual budget (US\$) – excluding staff salary costs	Contract budget of K115,000 a year. There was recently K25,000 spent on repairs and maintenance to the museum.
Operational (recurrent) funds	
Project or special funds	As required.
Reason for park establishment	To commemorate the battles and the retaking of Kokoda mission in July 1942.
What are the main values for which the area is designated (Fill this out after data sheet 2)	Australia's military heritage; the shared sacrifice of Papuan and Australian servicemen; and to provide a community area for activities that complement the memorial park.
List the primary protected area management objectives (add lines if needed after the most important objectives): <i>Management objective 1</i>	Conserve the war memorials
<i>Management objective 2</i>	Provide historical information through the use of visual aids and artefacts in the museum.
<i>Management objective 3</i>	Preserve the cultural significance of the battle site.
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>Kel Pearce</i> , Office of Australian War Graves, GPO Box 9998, Brisbane, kel.pearce@dva.gov.au, +61 0418280463.
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	Australian Government
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.

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

No.	Key values	Brief description	Note if endangered species or ecosystem (IUCN)
1	Australia and PNG's military heritage and nationalism	It provides some detail on a significant Australian military campaign of World War II. It also signifies that many PNG people came together to assist on the Kokoda Track to work with the Australians to fight the Japanese and protect PNG. This was the first time that PNG people had come together as a nation to fight to protect PNG.	
2	Shared sacrifice of PNG and Australian servicemen	It celebrates the cooperation between PNG and Australia during the Kokoda campaign.	
3	To provide a community area for activities that complement the memorial park	There is a large, well-grassed and maintained open space that can be used by the local communities for ceremonial purposes. It is not just a memorial park to honour the fallen Australian soldiers of World War II.	

**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	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	1	There are some kai bars and other commercial activities undertaken by the locals on the nearby Kokoda Track.
7. Providing resources for local subsistence (food, building materials, medicines etc.)	0	
8. Providing community development opportunities through sustainable resource use	0	
9. Religious or spiritual significance (e.g. tambu places)	1	Some spiritual significance to Australians because of its historical value.
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	1	The site contains mainly monuments and artifacts connected with military history and some people find this attractive.
13. Tourism now	2	Thousands of foreign tourists walk the 96km Kokoda Track and the memorial park is beside the track.
14. Potential value for tourism in the future	2	The number of trekkers is expected to remain high and perhaps increase.
15. Educational and/or scientific value	1	Education is provided for the trekkers.

16. Maintaining culture and tradition on customary land and passing this on to future generations	0	
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### 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	Residential areas are away from the memorial park
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	L	The may be a possible expansion of gardens, but the impact will be low.
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)	0	
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	0	
5.4b Fishing, killing and harvesting aquatic resources for commercial use	0	
6.1 Recreational activities and tourism	L	There may be some commercialisation (e.g. signage) by the large scale trekking operations and this would reduce the visual amenity of the memorial.
6.2 War, civil unrest and military exercises	0	

Threat type	Score (H,M,L,O)	Notes
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	M	There is some vandalism including theft of plaques and other structures and anti-social behaviour (e.g. buai litter and drunk people).
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	0	
8.1a Pest animals	0	
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	L	There is a community toilet and septic system adjacent to the museum. No one pumps it out, so there is some overflow, but this does not go into protected area. However, this could be a potential problem.
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	There is litter from trekkers and villagers.
9.5 Air-borne pollutants	0	
9.6 Excess energy (e.g. heat pollution, lights etc.)	0	
10.1 Volcanoes	0	There are volcanoes in the area, but none are active.
10.2 Earthquakes/Tsunamis	0	
10.3 Avalanches/Landslides	0	
10.4 Erosion and siltation/ deposition (e.g. shoreline or riverbed changes)	L	There is a threat from erosion on two sides (north and western). The site is on a plateau that goes to the river and this is steep. In the dry if there is burning the soil may be moved when it rains.
11.1 Habitat shifting and alteration	0	
11.2 Droughts	0	
11.3 Temperature extremes	0	
11.4 Storms and flooding	0	Extreme storms may damage the buildings.
11.5 Coral bleaching	0	
11.6 Intrusion by saltwater into gardens etc.	0	
11.7 Sea level rise	0	
Other (please explain)	0	
12.1 Loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge and/or management practices	0	For the Australian visitor, if we were to lose the museum and not maintain it, there would be an impact.

Threat type	Score (H,M,L,O)	Notes
12.2 Natural deterioration of important cultural site values	0	
12.3 Destruction of cultural heritage buildings, gardens, sites etc.	0	
Other (please explain)		Failure to maintain the significance of the site to visitors.

**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	Failure to maintain the significance of the site to visitors	Other	If the site is not maintained the military heritage value will diminish; need to secure funding to maintain the values of the site.

**Table 6. Management effectiveness scores, comments, next steps**

Issue	Score (0,1,2,3, NA)	Comment	Next steps
1a. Legal status	3	The Memorial is formally gazetted.	
1b. Legal status			
2a. Protected area regulations	2	There are regulations with strict delineation of responsibility between the Kokoda Track Authority (KTA), Local Level Government and the Office of Australian War Graves as site managers.	We need a formal Management Plan for the site endorsed by key stakeholders to promote, maintain and manage the site.
2b. Protected area regulations			
3. Law enforcement	1	There are major deficiencies in resources to manage the area. If a group of landowners make a claim against the reserve and make a dwelling, I wouldn't be able to evict them. If a trekking group was to do some marketing or branding at the site, I would be unable to stop this. The police or KTA rangers are empowered to enforce relevant rules.	
4. Protected area objectives	3	There are agreed objectives in relation to the site.	
5. Protected area design	3	This is effective for the purpose of the site.	
6. Protected area boundaries	2	The boundary is known because the area is mowed and it is respected.	
7. Management plan	0	There is no management plan, but there is a work plan.	We would like an overall Management Plan for the site.
7a. Planning process	0		
7b. Planning process	0		
7c. Planning process	0		
8. Regular work plan	3	There is a regular maintenance plan for the site.	Proposal to put some interpretive signage at the site.
9. Resource inventory	3		
10. Protection systems	1		This may be improved with a Management Plan, but the area is not contained or fenced.

Issue	Score (0,1,2,3, NA)	Comment	Next steps
11. Research and monitoring	0		
12. Resource management	3		
13a. Staff numbers	3		
13b. Other people working on the protected area	3		
14. Training and skills	3		
15. Current budget	3	The budget is funded by the Australian Government.	
16. Security of budget	3	The budget is secure into the future.	
17. Management of budget	3	The budget is well managed.	
18. Equipment	3	There is sufficient equipment to manage the site. A contractor is employed to do the ground work e.g. mowing.	
19. Maintenance of equipment	3	Equipment is maintained (the contractor is responsible for his/her equipment).	
20. Education and awareness	2	The trekking companies provide information to their trekkers. The site is meant to be self-interpretive and does not have on-site staff to provide interpretation to the memorial park.	We need improved interpretive signage and recognition of customary landowners in the educational material. There is no information on the memorials (e.g. the Japanese memorial) or on the customary landowners.
21. Planning for land use or marine activities	2	We expect KTA to manage this and we have regular contact with KTA.	
22. State and commercial neighbours	2		
23. Indigenous people/ Customary landowners	0	There are no issues with customary landowners.	
24a. Impact on communities	1	We communicate, especially with CEPA.	
24b. Impact on communities	0		
24c. Impact on communities	1	The surrounding community supports the site.	
25. Economic benefit	0	This site does not provide any benefits.	
26. Monitoring and evaluation	3	Monitoring is undertaken through our contract management, comments of trekkers and our staff.	
27. Visitor facilities	2	There is a museum and small toilet block. There are no day visitors to the site (regular air schedules have been cancelled).	Undertake a curatorial review of the museum to make it more relevant; some outdoor interpretive devices and artefacts; and formal linkage with the national system of museums.
28. Commercial tourism operators	2	Most visitors are starting or finishing the track and are not necessarily coming to the site.	
29. Fees	NA		
30. Condition of values	3	The site is in good condition.	
30a. Condition of values	1	The assessment is based on observation by management staff.	

Issue	Score (0,1,2,3, NA)	Comment	Next steps
30b. Condition of values	1	Programs are being implemented to address threats to the site.	
30c. Condition of values	1	Activities to maintain the cultural values are a key part of park management.	

## 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 <b>HOW the condition can be IMPROVED</b>
Australia and PNG's military heritage and nationalism	VG	I	There is increasing visitation to the site and continuing investment to maintain the values of the site.
Commemorate the shared sacrifice of PNG and Australian servicemen	G	I	Knowledge of the importance of the site with some is good, and efforts are being increased to expand the understanding of the site to a wider group of stakeholders, especially Papua New Guineans.
To provide a community area for activities that complement the memorial park (not exclusive use just for memorial park)	G	S	

**Table 8. Recommendations and ways forward**

1.	2.	3.
Improve the visitor experience for both Papua New Guineans and Australians.	Develop and implement a Management Plan that shares the risks across all levels of government in PNG and between the PNG and the Australian Governments and the wider community (e.g. trekking community).	Maintain funding and current management practices to ensure the site does not diminish in value.

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

	Strengths	Challenges
1	A strong and enduring interest from overseas visitors, especially Australians.	Changing environmental or political circumstances that may impact on the integrity of the memorial site.
2	Ongoing financial commitment of the Australian Government to maintain all aspects of the Kokoda experience.	
3	A very sound and cooperative working relationship between the Kokoda Track Authority and local customary landowners.	