

## Name of Protected Area: Mojirau Wildlife Management 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>	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>	
Today's Date	17/08/2016
Name (or names) of protected area	Mojirau Wildlife Management Area
Size of protected area (ha)	5,079
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> )	
What level or kind of protected area is it? (National Park, Wildlife Management Area, Sanctuary, Reserve, Locally Managed Marine Area etc)	Wildlife Management Area
IUCN Category	
International protected area? e.g. World Heritage or Ramsar?	
Country	Papua New Guinea
Province/s	East Sepik
District/s	Wewak
Local level governments	Turubu
Ward/s	21 Ward councils
Nearest big town	Wewak
Location of protected area (brief description)	The WMA is located south east of Wewak. It is relatively low in elevation in the south and rises to 200m in the north. It is largely forested, although there are extensive grasslands. The customary landowners live outside the WMA in the villages of Samap, Wau, Ibab and Wandomin.
Map references	
When was the protected area gazetted or formally established?	22/06/1978
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>	Customary landowners. 4 clans – Sariba (Samap village), Kaiwang (Wau village), Urabu (Wandomin village), Turum (Ibab village)

Number of households living in the protected area	0
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])	Customary landowners and the WMA Management Committee (4 executives, 3 members; all male)
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	“It goes back to the history of the area. There was an elderly man who had a dream. He said let’s protect this forest and there will be some good things happening in the future. This is before there was a WMA concept. So he moved the idea of conservation. We believe in the relationship between nature and the existing human beings. When we go out hunting and fishing our nature speaks to us. There are caves and special areas that are sacred and we want to preserve them. Now the idea is that people want to conserve their environment to provide a livelihood and also use this as an attraction for tourists. It is becoming difficult to get people to think about conservation”.
What are the main values for which the area is designated (Fill this out after data sheet 2)	Maintaining sustainable livelihoods, protecting culture and traditional practices, protecting the forest, river/water and grasslands.
List the primary protected area management objectives (add lines if needed after the most important objectives): <i>Management objective 1</i>	Encourage tourism, through protecting our many attractions (e.g. experiencing the culture, sacred sites and the wildlife [black cockatoo, tree kangaroo etc] and developing tourist facilities (e.g. lodges made of traditional materials) and trekking routes through the area.
<i>Management objective 2</i>	Protect the environment (e.g. sacred sites, waterfalls, wildlife, and forest).
<i>Management objective 3</i>	
Number of people involved in answering the assessment questions	8
Name/organisation/contact details of people participating the assessment ( <i>Please do not insert return/enter or dot points</i> )	<i>Gabriel Molok</i> , Turubu Eco Forestry Development Program Inc., PO Box 1224, Wewak, turubuecoforestry@gmail.com, +675 4563955/70379732; <i>Bernard Salam</i> , Mojirau WMA, Samap Village, PO Box466, Wewak, East Sepik Province; <i>Gabriel Bania</i> , Mojirau WMA, Samap Village (as above), 73584042; <i>Wendy Elias</i> , Gunetegi Resource Owners Association, c/- PO Box 961 Wewak, wgegeyo910@gmail.com, 4561338/73429272; <i>Augustine Mondu</i> , Gunetegi Resource Owners Association/WMA/Turubu Eco Forestry Development Program Inc., Tring Village, PO Box 493, Wewak, East Sepik Province, auggiimondu832@gmail.com, 73832116; <i>Frank Kamo</i> , Gunetegie Resource Owners Association/WMA; <i>Russel Eliac</i> , Gunatategie Resource Owners Association/WMA, Tring Village, 70326746.

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, local NGO
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?

Mojirau is thought to be the first protected area to be formally gazetted in PNG. The WMA is our 'mama graun' (mother earth). It has forest, kumuls (bird of paradise), tree kangaroos, cassowaries, pigs, lizards, wallabies and fresh water species such as fish, eels, turtles, and prawns. There is diverse biodiversity and several rare and threatened species. It has mountains, with caves and waterfalls. In the forest the soil is pushed up into mounds (gunategi) by insects. We form an association with mama graun. Our survival depends on this and we need to protect this land, the forest and the animals. We also want to extend the WMA so there is no more destruction of the forest. In the past the WMA was partially logged. This was an infringement by the loggers. Logging occurs to the east of the WMA and the loggers built a road through the eastern end of the WMA. The national Forestry Department allowed the construction of the logging road through the WMA. The loggers were supposed to build a 40m wide road corridor but they built a very large corridor and illegally harvested the logs without the consent of the customary landowners, who in 1990 started to protest against the logging. Also a 99 year lease has been issued under the Land Act 1996 as a Special Agricultural Business Lease (SABL) to acquire 168,000ha and we were not aware of this until it was gazetted. We filed a court case in 2011 and won that decision, but an appeal was lodged and a decision is still pending. Logging however, still continues and the WMA is under threat. The Turubu Eco Forestry NGO is leading the forest struggle in this area and trying to unite the community to present a common voice to fight this logging. We have a registered landowner association – Gunategie WMA Resource Owners Association (which includes clans with landownership in the WMA and surrounding areas).

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

No.	Key values	Brief description	Note if endangered species or ecosystem (IUCN)
1	Maintaining sustainable livelihoods	The people use fish, eels and prawns. They travel into the forest, where they may have built a small house and they can stay for a week or so and do some hunting. Megapodes are plentiful and their eggs are used for special occasions. There are two species of megapode in the area. There are customary areas and there are taboo areas where you cannot touch the megapodes. They are a primary source of protein and a small amount of eggs is for sale. There are many birds of paradise and hunting is restricted (only the yellow one) and the feathers are used mainly for ceremonial purposes.	
2	Protecting customs, legends and history	There are many important spiritual sites within the area and people are closely connected with their environment. It is a part of them.	
3	Forest (plants and animals)	There are many species of trees. About 40 species of tree are used to build one house. There are birds (e.g. waterfowl and the Hauok [cockatoo]). With increasing population this puts a lot of pressure on the forest. The forest is also important for medicinal plants, building canoes, providing for sing sings (dance and music ceremonies) and also habitat for wildlife.	
4	River and water	Source of drinking water, transportation, food, small gold mining.	
5	Grassland	27-30% is grassland, some of which is due to logging. The grassland is an important area for hunting.	

**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	People live to support nature and there is diverse plants and animals within the WMA.
2. Presence of rare, threatened, or endangered species (plants and animals)	2	Tree kangaroo (tenkile, <i>Dendrolagus scottae</i> ) is present but there has not been an assessment conducted. If they move out of the WMA they are hunted. With an increase in gun ownership the animals moved to the south west. However, now because of logging in this area, the animals are moving back into the WMA. All the wildlife is returning – even the birdlife (e.g. black cockatoo). That is why we are trying to extend the WMA to provide habitat for this fleeing wildlife. There may be giant frogs (they are present just outside the WMA) and they are a good source of protein. The frogs can jump a big distance and it hides in the water. The only way to catch it is to use an orange fruit and hold it above the river and the frog jumps out and you can catch it.
3. Ecosystems (e.g. wetlands, grasslands, coral reefs etc) that are rare because they have been cleared or destroyed in other areas	2	Forest, grassland, and aquatic ecosystems are important to protect. If we lose one thing we lose other things. It is all inter-related and conservation is about preserving these links. Traditionally we are connected to the forests and people link with forests, animals, plants and the river. We have spirits of the forest and spirits of the river, and the mountains. The spirits are one of us. Ecosystems are not just about relationships with animals, it is about our relationship with the forest, animals and sea. When people hunt they must not cause pain to animals. So when people hunt they are well prepared, nice, quiet and cool. People do not hunt if they are arguing or rough – you will not find any animals. There is a relationship between us and the land. Even today it still protects us.
4. Protecting clean, fresh water	2	Essential to survival and aquatic species.
5. Sustaining important species in big enough numbers that they are able to survive here	0	The size is not big. We need to extend it. The WMA is really under threat at the moment. The animals are very sensitive. They don't live in one area. They move over large distances and come back into the WMA.
6. Providing a source of employment for local communities now	0	
7. Providing resources for local subsistence (food, building materials, medicines etc.)	2	Many communities benefit because of the WMA i.e. not only the WMA customary landowners. Many other people also benefit from the protein from hunting animals.
8. Providing community development opportunities through sustainable resource use	0	
9. Religious or spiritual significance (e.g. tambu places)	2	
10. Plant species of high social, cultural, or economic importance	2	
11. Animal species of high social, cultural, or economic importance	2	
12. Attractive scenery	2	
13. Tourism now	0	
14. Potential value for tourism in the future	2	
15. Educational and/or scientific value	2	There are no researchers currently, but the WMA has high value for research and education.

16. Maintaining culture and tradition on customary land and passing this on to future generations	2	
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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	0	
1.1a Population increase in the protected area community	M	Population is increasing (at a medium rate). We will need to build more houses, cut trees, and put in roads etc and this puts pressure on the resources. There are currently no programs on family planning. The church destroyed the traditional methods of family planning through the house boy system.
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	0	
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)	H	An illegal logging road has been constructed through the eastern portion of the WMA i.e. without the landowners' consent. The width was supposed to be 40m, but it was more than this and the timber was logged and taken by the logging company with no compensation to the landowners. The road has fragmented the WMA due to its extensive width. There are problems with erosion and sediment entering the waterways and has impact on aquatic fauna.
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	There are regulations controlling the hunting of animals. This takes place only at certain times and for specific purposes (e.g. ceremonies).
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	H	Illegal logging occurs along the constructed logging road. The main logging company is Rimbunan Hijau, which operates under the Lower Sepik Forestry and the participants indicated that this land was acquired illegally i.e. the area where the logs were harvested in the WMA is outside of the Lower Sepik Local Forest Agreement. No benefits have come to our community from this. Landowners are still demanding compensation over this loss of our resources.

Threat type	Score (H,M,L,0)	Notes
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	
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	H	Logging roads cross the WMA and fragment the park. One landowner plans to develop a banana plantations in part of the WMA and this will be a serious threat to the WMA.
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	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	Some sediment from the illegal logging road enters the rivers.
11.1 Habitat shifting and alteration	0	
11.2 Droughts	0	

Threat type	Score (H,M,L,O)	Notes
11.3 Temperature extremes	M	Now there are more hot days. The park is in the mountainous areas and we notice a change in the temperatures. Now the borer (pest) in the kaukau (sweet potato) is more common due to the higher temperatures. This is affecting the food chain. Temperature extremes also affect gardening due to longer dry seasons.
11.4 Storms and flooding	M	Flooding causes damage to crops on the river banks. The crops are washed away.
11.5 Coral bleaching	0	
11.6 Intrusion by saltwater into gardens etc.	0	
11.7 Sea level rise	H	The customary landowners who live on the coast experience increasing sea level which is leading to coastal erosion and consequent resettlement.
Other (please explain)		
12.1 Loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge and/or management practices	H	We are losing our language and culture (e.g. sing sings). This is due to western influence, our education system and the churches that do not support many traditional practices. There is the influence of drugs and alcohol that take away the traditional customs of young people. This requires good governance in the community to address these issues. The development process is not working. There needs to be more training to help the community leaders.
12.2 Natural deterioration of important cultural site values	H	The impact is mainly on areas outside the WMA i.e. in the coastal areas e.g. important turtle nesting areas are under threat. There are small rocky islands (about six) which are under threat from strong waves and loss of coastal vegetation. The birds are also losing their habitat. We need to protect these areas.
12.3 Destruction of cultural heritage buildings, gardens, sites etc.	H	
Other (please explain)		
		Lack of incentives; lack of gender inclusion in management

**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	Illegal logging	5.3b	It is illegal. We need to change our status from a WMA into one of the new categories of protected area. This will give us greater protection against the loggers. The WMA has a lot of valuable loggable timber and the threat of logging is always present.
2	Lack of incentives (for funding for training and other projects)	Other	If there is no incentives given to WMA communities then the people will lose interest in maintaining the WMA. We need some funding for projects and then the people will see some value in protecting the WMA. There is a lack of linkages among government in providing assistance.
3	Lack of gender inclusion in management	Other	If the group comprises only men there will be less respect from others than if there was more equitable participation. We need education to train our young people and women to help them to participate in the programs and in decision making.

## 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	Legally gazetted WMA.	
1b. Legal status			
2a. Protected area regulations	1	Several customary laws are in place e.g. regulating hunting of all animals, collection of megapode eggs and timber etc by the customary landowners. The rules are written by the Wildlife Management Committee, but they are insufficient laws to protect the WMA, especially from external threats such as illegal logging. This logging was allowed through our weak national laws.	Strengthen our national laws to ensure that customary landowners are consulted when decisions are made that will impact on their protected area.
2b. Protected area regulations			
3. Law enforcement	1	From 1987 to the late 90s we had an officer who was responsible for enforcement. This service was withdrawn and now there are no appointed government staff and no leadership support to help the WMA. There are some traditional laws that apply to resource use, methods of hunting etc. In general the customary landowners are able to look after their own land, but it is difficult to prevent the logging companies from impacting on our WMA.	We need to demonstrate to government and other stakeholders the positive effects of our conservation efforts. When the community/customary landowners see this they will be more interested in conservation. We need some incentives to boost our own people in their conservation efforts. We don't always need outsiders (e.g. NGOs to do it for us). We want to build our own capacity and we need some support for our environment program. This would be used for specific projects that would enable basic changes. It is important to have project administration skills, some basic facilities and infrastructure.
4. Protected area objectives	2	We have a mission statement with broad objectives. The Gunatege Resource Owners Association has been formed and has identified a number of objectives that apply to areas within and outside the WMA.	Training is a major component so that the community can more effectively play their role in achieving the stated objectives.



Issue	Score (0,1,2,3, NA)	Comment	Next steps
5. Protected area design	2	The design was originally effective. However, since that time there has been considerable logging and land use change in the surrounding areas and wildlife are moving back into the WMA as they have lost other habitat. To effectively protect the environment and in particular the rare and threatened wildlife, the WMA would need to be expanded.	The community would like to extend the boundaries of the WMA to include land on the coastal and the western side of the WMA i.e. to about 20,000ha to include additional habitat, caves and waterfalls and to secure the land from logging). The landowners from outside the WMA attending the assessment also voiced support for the extended WMA, mainly to provide increased protection of the environment and resources from threats, particularly from logging interests (e.g. there is a proposal to extend the logging road through the area that would form part of the expanded WMA and the landowners are requesting government assistance to prevent this logging road).
6. Protected area boundaries	3	The boundary was surveyed in 2004, with funding from the Australian Govt (Aus Aid). We hired a surveyor to identify the boundary on the ground and the people marked the site (e.g. marked trees etc). The people know where the boundaries are.	
7. Management plan	2	Lack of funding limits implementation.	Regularly revise the Management Plan to ensure that it meets the needs of the community and is effective in protecting the values of the WMA.
7a. Planning process	1		
7b. Planning process	0		
7c. Planning process	1	Monitoring occurs, but not on a regular basis.	
8. Regular work plan	0		
9. Resource inventory	2	Customary landowners have extensive knowledge of their area in general and use this as a basis for management. There is some information on megapodes, which is based on the observations of particular landowners. In most other areas there is little formal information.	Improved information and data on the WMA is important to improve management. We need to fund appropriate training of our landowners to undertake this data gathering.
10. Protection systems	1	The customary landowners are aware of intruders and of any illegal resource use and are largely effective in protecting the values of the WMA. However, the links between the government and the people are not effective e.g. in preventing logging of our lands.	We have to write to our Local Level Government so that all the councillors are aware of the WMA and its conservation needs.

Issue	Score (0,1,2,3, NA)	Comment	Next steps
11. Research and monitoring	0		Research particularly resource inventory is important to inform management. This may result in the identification of new and important species. This will result in researchers coming into our communities and raise the profile and importance of the WMA.
12. Resource management	0		
13a. Staff numbers	0		
13b. Other people working on the protected area	1	There are some people who are actively working e.g. some active management of megapode harvesting.	Our people need training to effectively undertake their management responsibilities.
14. Training and skills	0	They have local knowledge only in relation to the biodiversity and other values of the WMA.	Training is needed in relation to: conservation training (basics of conservation, ranger training to enable people to explain what is happening in the environment); ecotourism training (hiking, trekking, birdwatching, safety); hospitality training and food provision for the proposed tourist facility; administration skills; IT; finance, budgeting.
15. Current budget	0	Lack of funding is an important constraint on achieving effective management outcomes.	Continue to contact Local Level Government to identify potential sources of funding.
16. Security of budget	0		
17. Management of budget	NA		
18. Equipment	0		Shovels, diggers and carpentry tools to assist in maintaining the WMA's boundary lines.
19. Maintenance of equipment	NA		
20. Education and awareness	2	Eco Forestry undertakes some education e.g. training on conservation (through REDD+) and assist with land use plans. Our aim is to stop illegal logging.	We need to prioritise the type of training that is needed within the community.
21. Planning for land use or marine activities	0	Planning decisions have enabled the logging company to construct a logging road within the WMA and this has had significant impacts on the WMA.	We need to raise awareness at all levels about the WMA.
22. State and commercial neighbours	1	There are discussions with the logging company that illegally entered our WMA. There has been a court case and a decision is pending relating to the latest appeal (2012).	There needs to be a focus on improving the livelihoods of the people e.g. providing basic services such as an aid post, elementary schools, primary schools etc.
23. Indigenous people/ Customary landowners	3	The community works together in decision making.	
24a. Impact on communities	0	There is no communication with CEPA and also with a couple of local villages outside of the WMA.	Improved communication with diverse stakeholders is essential.
24b. Impact on communities	0		

Issue	Score (0,1,2,3, NA)	Comment	Next steps
24c. Impact on communities	1		
25. Economic benefit	1		Potential projects mainly revolve around tourism.
26. Monitoring and evaluation	0		This is essential to underpin effective management.
27. Visitor facilities	0		Some investment is needed into visitor facilities to help develop some income generating activities to better protect the WMA. Investment is needed in small guesthouses to encourage visitors.
28. Commercial tourism operators	0		
29. Fees	NA		
30. Condition of values	2	The natural values in general remain intact, despite illegal logging in part of the WMA. Wildlife are returning to the WMA due to land use changes elsewhere.	We need to continue to address the loss of our cultural and traditional values and language.
30a. Condition of values	1	It is based on local knowledge.	
30b. Condition of values	0	EcoForestry is targeting the logging threat, but most threats are not being effectively managed.	
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
Maintaining sustainable livelihoods of the people	G	S	Landowners reside outside the WMA and most of their subsistence needs are met outside the WMA, although resources are extracted for house building, medicinal and ceremonial purposes. The main pressure is population increase and the loss of surrounding landscapes. The current condition is stable.
Protecting customs, legends and history	F	D	The customs and beliefs are slowly dying out. There is perhaps only one person who is trying to keep the culture with the younger generation. There is home brew and drugs in the village (some is grown in the gardens). There is no high school so young people must board in the city. They are influenced by the customs on the coast/city. We need a high school in our community so that our children stay with their families.
Forest	VG	S	Regulations control the take of timber, although illegal logging has taken place. The forest is in very good condition and the trend is stable.
River and water	VG	S	There are limited negative impacts on the water supply.
Grassland	VG	S	In very good condition and the trend is stable.

**Table 8. Recommendations and ways forward**

1.	2.	3.
Improved funding – for equipment and uses, based on a prioritization of the community’s needs.	Training is needed in several important areas e.g. ranger training, tourism facilitation	Improved communication and engagement with all levels of government (information exchange, engagement, and on ground presence). This will help us to identify where to go to seek assistance and information.

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

	Strengths	Challenges
1	Biodiversity is in good condition and its conservation is closely entwined with the cultural and spiritual values of the landowners. Other resources are also in good condition. There are several rare and threatened species which are returning to the WMA.	People have waited for so long for assistance that they may lose interest in the WMA. The people recognize that there are various projects and logging activities occurring outside the WMA (e.g. people being provided with roofs, houses, cars and trade stores) and see that nothing is happening within the WMA. They expressed concern that interest in conservation could wane if basic services and infrastructure are not provided.
2	Opportunities for tourism based on high quality environment and closeness to Wewak.	Provide funding for basic training, which would enable the landowners to more effectively undertake management tasks.