

Name of Protected Area: Talele Islands Nature Reserve

Part 1: Basic information about the protected area

Table 1. Protected area information

Name, organisation and contact details for person(s) conducting the assessment Person 1: Name, Organisation, Address, Email, Phone	Greg Peterson, SPREP/Protected Area Solutions, 283 Madill Road, Tandur, Q4570, Australia, gregpeterson53@hotmail.com; 0414300955
Person 2: Name, Organisation, Address, Email, Phone	Ovin Wafewa, UNDP, P O Box 1041 Port Moresby, ovin.wafewa@undp.org, 3212877
Today's Date	4/06/2016
Name (or names) of protected area	Talele Islands Nature Reserve
Size of protected area (ha)	12
PNG Code or number	111
World Database of Protected Areas site code (these codes can be found on www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/)	20057
Protected Area Designation What level or kind of protected area is it? (National, Provincial, Regional or Community protected area type e.g. Locally Managed Marine Area or Wildlife Management Area)	Nature Reserve
IUCN Category	
International protected area? e.g. World Heritage or Ramsar?	
Country	Papua New Guinea
Province/s	East New Britain
District/s	Lassul Baining (at Lassul)
Local level governments	Lassul Baining
Ward/s	Takis
Nearest big town	Rabaul
Location of protected area (brief description)	There are 19 islands in the Reserve, which is located about 10km from the coast on the north west coast of East New Britain.
Map references	
When was the protected area gazetted or formally established?	22/7/1977 (need to confirm)
Reference for gazettal or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)	
Why was the PA gazetted?	To protect natural values, including bird roosts (customary landowners are unsure of the reasons and some dispute the gazettal).
Who owns the protected area? please enter Government Private Community/ customary landowners, Other (name)	Government

Number of households in PA	0
Population size in PA	0
Who manages the protected area?(e.g., please enter government, customary landowners, management committee)	Customary landowners (Tarikina Clan)
Number of staff (this means anyone working on the protected area in paid jobs –whether NGOs, community, rangers or customary landowners s	0
<i>Temporary</i>	0
<i>Permanent</i>	0
Annual budget (US\$) – excluding staff salary costs	0
Operational (recurrent) funds	0
Project or special funds	0
What are the main values for which the area is designated (Fill this out after data sheet 2)	Protection of the natural habitat, especially bird roosts.
List the primary protected area management objectives (add lines if needed after the most important objectives): <i>Management objective 1</i>	Not known
<i>Management objective 2</i>	
<i>Management objective 3</i>	
Number of people involved in completing assessment	6
Name/organisation/contact details of people participating the assessment (<i>Please do not insert return/enter or dot points</i>)	<i>James Sabi, CEPA; Ben Maradei and Francis Kaining, Toriu Timbers Ltd, PO Box 1857, Kokopo, 72888434; Henry Saminga and Joshua Arlo, Baining Media, PO Box 1770, samingahenry@gmail.com, 73579317; Hosilo Orang, PO Box 714, Rabaul, 71974302; Jane Larme, Environment Officer, Policy Planning and Research Division, East New Britain Provincial Administration, PO Box 714 Rabaul, ENBP, atipjane!@gmail.com, 9829604, 70665164.</i>
CEPA staff, Protected area staff (anyone working on the protected area in paid jobs)- Insert - Customary landowners and other community members; NGO; Donors; External experts; Others	CEPA, Customary landowner, media representatives, Provincial 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?

The reserve is important for bird habitat and a resting area for birds. The spirits dwell there and it has important cultural significance. People go there and stay there. It is important to protect the reefs that connect along the coast. There are giant salt water stingrays, breeding areas for turtle, plentiful fish for local consumption and diving areas, which are advertised for tourists.

Table 2. Key values of the protected area

No.	Key values	Brief description	Note if endangered species or ecosystem (IUCN)
1	Reef ecosystems	Important breeding ground for fish.	
2	Island birds	Many different birds come to nests on the islands, e.g. pigeons, eagles.	
3	Turtles	Turtles lay their eggs on the beach, the species are yet to be identified.	
4	Giant Sting Rays	Many sting rays live in the sea near the islands.	
5	Sacred Grounds	Looked after by spirits.	

Table 3. Checklist of values/benefits

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

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)	2	
3. Ecosystems (e.g. wetlands, grasslands, coral reefs etc) that are rare because they have been cleared or destroyed in other areas	2	Surrounding areas have been cleared for logging and oil palm and that is why it's important for Talele to remain a protected area.
4. Protecting clean, fresh water	2	
5. Sustaining important species in big enough numbers that they are able to survive here	2	
6. Providing a source of employment for local communities now	0	No employment available in the park.
7. Providing resources for local subsistence (food, building materials, medicines etc.)	2	
8. Providing community development opportunities through sustainable resource use	2	
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	1	Limited facilities
14. Potential value for tourism in the future	2	
15. Educational and/or scientific value	2	

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	No threats as the area is too small.
1.1a Population increase in the protected area community	L	
1.2 Commercial and industrial areas	0	
1.3 Tourism and recreation infrastructure	L	
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	L	At about 30 mins boat ride from Talele there is prospecting for sea mining.
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	H	Ship wreck on one of the islands and the threat of further ship wrecks and damage to the reef.
4.4 Flight paths	0	
5.1 Hunting, killing and collecting terrestrial animals (including killing of animals as a result of human/wildlife conflict)	L	Hunting of birds by outsiders.
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	L	Use by locals is minimal.
5.4b Fishing, killing and harvesting aquatic resources for commercial use	M	Neighbouring villages and outsiders take the marine resources (e.g. leatherback and green turtles).
6.1 Recreational activities and tourism	L	
6.2 War, civil unrest and military exercises	0	

Threat type	Score (H,M,L,0)	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)	L	
6.5 Deliberate vandalism, destructive activities or threats to protected area staff and visitors	0	
7.1 Fire and fire suppression (including arson)	L	No one to monitor.
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	L	Some mining and logging exploration activities are happening on the perimeters of the protected area.
7.3d Loss of keystone species (e.g. top predators, pollinators etc.)	0	Yet to identify if there has been any loss of these species.
8.1 Pest plants	L	
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)	L	Logging activities are nearby and impact on the reef ecosystems (e.g. sediment and nutrients).
9.4 Garbage and solid waste	L	From activities from the market, which takes place infrequently (e.g. once per month).
9.5 Air-borne pollutants	0	
9.6 Excess energy (e.g. heat pollution, lights etc.)	0	
10.1 Volcanoes	0	The protected area was not affected by 1994 eruption.
10.2 Earthquakes/Tsunamis	L	
10.3 Avalanches/Landslides	0	
10.4 Erosion and siltation/deposition (e.g. shoreline or riverbed changes)	L	
11.1 Habitat shifting and alteration	M	Noticed by changing tides, e.g. a sand bank was visible in the past 20yrs and now during high tides you cannot see it.
11.2 Droughts	L	Droughts have recently been experienced
11.3 Temperature extremes	L	
11.4 Storms and flooding	L	
11.5 Coral bleaching	0	
11.6 Intrusion by saltwater into gardens etc.	0	
11.7 Sea level rise	L	Former sandbanks are now not visible on the high tides.
Other (please explain)		
12.1 Loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge and/or management practices	0	

Threat type	Score (H,M,L,0)	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)	M	Lack of consultation between stakeholders and landowners.

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	Shipping	4.3	There was a serious ship wreck in 2015. There is a need to reroute the main shipping lanes and build a light house.
2	Mining	3.2	A mining (Solwara 1) project is happening near the protected area and this can affect the area. To address this, new regulations are needed to reduce the impact and this should be based on thorough consultation and communication with the customary landowners and other stakeholders.
3	Not enough consultation between stakeholders and landowners	other	Not enough consultation between the governments and the land owners.
4	Climate Change	11.1	Build sea walls.

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	The protected area is gazetted.	
1b. Legal status			
2a. Protected area regulations	2	There are gaps in the regulations e.g. for mining and tourism in the protected area.	
2b Protected area regulations			
3. Law enforcement	0		
4. Protected area objectives	2	Objectives were established by the government without community consultation and agreement. There are some in the community who dispute the protected area.	
5. Protected area design	1	Too small to protect the species that utilise the island and marine areas.	
6. Protected area boundaries	0	Unsure of the extent of the protected area within the marine zone.	Expand the area to include more sea territory to be able to have better control over fishing and marine life.
7. Management plan	1	There is a plan but it is not being fully implemented because there has not been consultation between provincial government and the people to understand their roles and to implement the plan.	A series of meetings needs to be set up with provincial and local level government to clearly establish the roles and responsibilities of each party.
7a. Planning process	0		
7b. Planning process	0		

Issue	Score (0,1,2,3, NA)	Comment	Next steps
7c. Planning process	0		
8. Regular work plan	0		
9. Resource inventory	0		
10. Protection systems	1	Patrols are undertaken by landowners on a voluntary basis but permits are not issued.	
11. Research and monitoring	0		
12. Resource management	0		
13a. Staff numbers	0		
13b. Other people working on the protected area	3	There are enough people, however they are not fully aware of how to go about managing the PA. There are 10 working committee members supervised by the Ward councillor.	
14. Training and skills	0		
15. Current budget	0	Some money comes from the Local level government and is shared with other LLGs. The challenge is that environment officers are not always recognised and allocated funding for environmental work.	Explore opportunities for other sources of funding e.g. through the LLG President/LLG Manager and the Provincial Government.
16. Security of budget	0		
17. Management of budget	NA	Don't have budget to manage.	
18. Equipment	0		
19. Maintenance of equipment	NA	No equipment to manage.	
20. Education and awareness	1		
21. Planning for land use or marine activities	0	This relates mainly to poor consideration of shipping routes – there are ship wrecks which put the reef and marine environment at risk.	Shipping lanes need to be changed
22. State and commercial neighbours	0		
23. Indigenous people/Customary landowners	1	If customary landowner wanted to set up a protected area the process would start with liaising at the ward level, LLG, and then up to provincial government. The Management Plan would be developed throughout this process. However, with Talele Nature Reserve it was the Provincial Government that instigated this park. Customary landowners only recently have had some input into the management plan.	
24a. Impact on communities	1		
24b. Impact on communities	0	Guest house built but this is on the mainland.	
24c. Impact on communities	1		
25. Economic benefit	0		
26. Monitoring and evaluation	1	There is a program to monitor and evaluate, but it is <i>ad hoc</i> . This happens perhaps once a year by the Provincial Government. It is not undertaken by the protected area customary landowners.	
27. Visitor facilities	0	No visitor facilities	

Issue	Score (0,1,2,3, NA)	Comment	Next steps
28. Commercial tourism operators	0	There are commercial tourism operators but they don't contribute to the Reserve nor is there any contact with customary landowners.	
29. Fees	NA	No fees are collected.	
30. Condition of values	3		
30a. Condition of values	1	Information is based on customary landowners' observations.	
30b. Condition of values	0	There is no customary plan. The Provincial government has a Disaster Management Plan. However, this doesn't directly address the main threats identified and it is not being implemented yet.	
30c. Condition of values	0	The Provincial Government is not implementing the Management Plan.	

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
Reef ecosystems	VG	DK	Reef is still intact, but no monitoring or data. The biggest unknown to the reef's condition is the ship wreck rusting away on the reef.
Fish habitat and breeding	VG	DK	Good at the moment but the ship wreck has the potential to have a large negative impact on their habitat.
Giant sting rays	VG	DK	Good at the moment but the ship wreck has the potential to have a large negative impact on their habitat.
Island birds	VG	DK	Good at the moment but the ship wreck has the potential to have a large negative impact on the fish which the birds feed on.
Turtle nesting	VG	DK	Good at the moment but the ship wreck has the potential to have a large negative impact on the turtles' habitat.
Sacred Grounds	G	S	Stable because inside the protected area and there are no visitors.
Diving Spot	G	S	Good condition and stable, but potential impact from the ship wreck.