



# **PNG PROTECTED AREA FORUM 2021**

**Report from the Protected Area Forum at the Hilton  
Hotel, Port Moresby June 2-3, 2021**

PNG National Protected Area Forum 2021:  
Report from the Protected Area Forum held at the Hilton  
Hotel, Port Moresby  
June 2-3, 2021



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**Presentations and other information about the Forum can be found at** <http://pngbiodiversity.org/protectedareaforum/>.

**The livestream recording of the Forum can be found at** <https://www.facebook.com/undpinpng> on June 2-3, 2021.

**Cover page photo:** Silimuli Dancers of Enga Province by Clive Hawigen | UNDP Papua New Guinea

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Participants of the PA Forum taking a group photo. Photo: Clive Hawigen | UNDP Papua New Guinea

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Protected Areas Forum (NPAF) 2021 was organized by the Conservation Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) with the support of UNDP through the GEF 6 project in Port Moresby. The conference was a significant platform for discussion of important issues and an opportunity to communicate conservation and protected areas matters. Attendance was limited by COVID-19 restrictions, but the forum was livestreamed and watched by people across the country and from overseas.

The Forum featured a high level of support, with an inspiring address by the Minister for Environment, Conservation and Climate Change, the Hon. Wera Mori and presentations by senior representatives of UNDP and CEPA. The scene was set with these presentations about the urgent need for an increased effort in conservation and protected area management in Papua New Guinea. This was followed by more detailed presentations outlining the progress made over recent years, and the current state of protected areas in the country.

Six sessions were conducted with speakers, panellists and short discussions about the five pillars of the Policy on Protected Areas, and an additional session focussed on women in conservation and protected area management. These panel sessions included very interesting examples and viewpoints. In addition, display booths at the forum venue

provided a focus for less formal meetings and discussions, and participants had opportunities to meet and enhance their partnerships.

An Outcome Statement from the Forum was developed with input from all participants at the venue and is to be presented to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and COP 15 in October 2021. Other positive outcomes included a commitment to support CEPA in establishing a ranger network in PNG, and stronger partnership arrangements among practitioners.

Evaluation indicated that 70% of respondents indicated that the forum rated as excellent, very good or good, and almost all were keen to attend further events. Improvements for future events would be greater opportunity for input and discussion, especially from remote participants, and more in-depth discussions leading to clear resolution of some complex issues. People were very appreciative of field examples and of the progress being made in sustainable financing.

The forum was an excellent event in bring protected areas and management needs and partnerships to the fore, and people throughout the country and keenly anticipating further involvement and progress.



Students from Jubilee Catholic Secondary School the PA Forum display booth. Photo: Clive Hawigen | UNDP Papua New Guinea.

# INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The PNG National Protected Area Forum 2021 was held in Port Moresby on 2-3 June 2021, as part of the leadup to World Environment Day activities. The Forum was a joint initiative of CEPA and UNDP PNG, with support from many stakeholders.

Objectives for the Forum were to:

- Re-affirm – Re-affirm Papua New Guinea’s commitment to effective governance, management and expansion under the Vision 2050 and international agreements.
- Prioritise – Key actions required for an effective, representative and equitable protected area network under the following pillars of the Protected Area Policy:
  - o Governance and management
  - o Sustainable livelihoods for communities
  - o Effective and adaptive biodiversity management
  - o Managing the Protected Area network
  - o Sustainable and equitable financing

- Action – Establish an interagency National Protected Areas Roundtable to strengthen coordination and the importance of protected areas.
- Launch – The Protected Area Policy and Implementation Plan.
- Partnerships – Consolidate national and international partnerships to build a platform for action.

As a result of this Forum; CEPA was expected to achieve the following key outcomes;

- a) An avenue created to enable protected area practitioners, researchers, academics, private sector, potential donors and local communities who manage or support protected areas in PNG, to share their experiences, insights and any lessons learnt in relation to factors impacting protected areas.
- b) Identification and formulation of national priorities for effective protected area management in the country. The results of the forum will contribute to the implementation of the Protected Area Policy.
- c) Action called aimed to galvanize strategic support and highlight the need for effective coordination in order to

elevate the strategic importance of protected areas in the country.

### **Forum Overview**

The conference brought together key partners involved in the ongoing conservation and protected areas management and also representatives of the partner organizations and agencies to deliver conservation efforts messages.

The core program of the forum event was a two-day event and covered four key components;

- I. Presentation to relevant stakeholders of the five pillars of the PNG's Policy on Protected Areas to understand and learn from the achievements of the projects and relevant stakeholders.
- II. Panellists to answer pre-prepared questions discussed and guided by each pillar's briefings. This followed by 'questions and answers.'
- III. Official launching of the documents; 'PNG's Policy on Protected Areas' and PNG Sharks and Rays Management Plan'.
- IV. Dissemination and sharing of information, lessons learned by stakeholder's through their participation in Booth displays

The overall theme for the Protected Areas Forum was in Tok Pisin language "*Konseven wok bung wantaim*" which simply means "Conserving Together" or 'conservation partners' or it can also mean 'partners in conservation' which called for all partners and stakeholders with mutual interests in environment, conservation, biodiversity, ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods development options to seek opportunities for stakeholder collaboration.



Photo: Clive Hawigen | UNDP Papua New Guinea

# PROGRAMME

Master of Ceremony: Mr. Douglas Dimagi

DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY 02 <sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2021			
TIME	TOPIC AND THEMES	RESPONSIBILITY	COMMENTS
8.00	Registration of Participants Viewing of posters and displays	CEPA staff, UNDP and consultants	Masks and sanitizer to be provided. Covid-safe practices at all times
<b>MASTER OF CEREMONY MR DOUGLAS DIMAGI</b>			
9.00	Opening Prayer  Singing of the National Anthem	Mr. Alu Kaiye School children  To be led by students	
9.05	Official welcome and opening	MC – Douglas Dimagi	5 mins - Welcome stakeholders, outline purpose and expected outcomes of workshop.
9.10	Opening Remarks	CEPA Managing Director	10 mins – highlighted in the international importance of PNG's biodiversity.
9.25	The global importance of PNG's protected areas	Dirk Wagener, UNDP Resident Representative	10 mins – highlighted in the international importance of PNG's biodiversity.
9.40	Keynote Statement	Minister for Environment, Conservation and Climate Change	20 mins – Provide the basis for the outcome statement.

<b>10.05</b>	Workshop program and protocols	Saina Jeffrey Philyara	Include housekeeping and covid-safe procedures.
<b>10.20</b>	Photo Session	UNDP Comms	All participants to relocate to outdoor auditorium for photo.
<b>10.30</b>	BREAK		
<b>SETTING THE SCENE: PROGRESS IN PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT – MR. DOUGLAS DIMAGI</b>			
<b>11.00</b>	Launch of the: 1. Protected Area Policy; 2. PA Policy Implementation Plan; 3. PNG Marine Program 4. National Plan of Action for Sharks and Rays.	Minister and MD	Photo to be taken of the Minister and MD with the document.
<b>11.20</b>	National Protected Area progress	Director – SEP, CEPA	History and progress of PA management – targets (vision 2050, CBD targets) Progress on PA Management from CEPA's viewpoint: what is happening in PA Management
<b>11.40</b>	Assessment of Protected Area management in Papua New Guinea: key challenges	Biatus Bito/ Fiona Leverington	Presentation of the PA component of the UNDP Environmental Analysis
<b>12.00</b>	<b>LUNCH - OPPORTUNITY TO ALSO VIEW INFORMATION BOOTHS</b>		
<b>DIALOGUE SESSIONS: PRIORITIES UNDER THE PILLARS – YVONNE TIO AS THE CHAIR FOR AFTERNOON</b>			
<b>1.00-1.05</b>	Introduction to the Pillars and discussion format (Andrew Rylance UNDP)	Facilitator for each session Supported by assistants: • 1 organising the roaming microphone • 1 communicating questions/ comments from virtual participants • 1 documenter of each session (the documenter will need to identify the key points and start drafting how they relate to the outcome statement)	5 Pillars 1 hour session Format for each session 1 Facilitator 1 Presenter to set the context for the discussion (10 mins) 4 Panelists asked to answer and discuss two pre-agreed questions before the session (moderated by Facilitator) Facilitated group discussion with audience and virtual participants
<b>1.10-2.30</b>	Pillar 1: Protected Area Management and Governance: • Protected area types • Working with provincial governments and management committees • Institutional arrangements- Discuss how to progress the results of the institutional and regulatory review.	Facilitator: Biatus Bito Presenter: Bernard Suruman (History of PA Management and Governance in PNG) Panelists: 1. Bernard Suruman (CEPA Marine) 2. James Sabi (CEPA terrestrial) 3. Cosmas Apelis (TNC) 4. Maxine Anjiga (LMMA Secretariat) 5. Kenn Mondia (Partners with Melanesia)	Explanation of the new types Representation, roles and responsibilities of PA management committees – how can the committees best be supported in protected area management?



<b>2.30-3</b>	<b>BREAK - OPPORTUNITY TO ALSO VIEW INFORMATION BOOTHS</b>		
<b>3-4</b>	<p>Pillar 2: Sustainable Livelihoods for Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting local communities in conservation of nature and culture</li> <li>Supporting sustainable livelihoods</li> </ul>	<p>Facilitator: Patricia Kila  Presenter: Jim Thomas (Sustainable Livelihood Projects in PA's)  Panelists:  1. Jim Thomas (TCA)  2. Modi Pontio (YUS)  3. Jayanne Mailai (USAID Lukautim Graun Project)  4. Gabriel Bakani (Kulungi LMMA)  5. Miriam Supuma</p>	<p>Principles for livelihood projects have been produced in the past – how relevant are these and how are we progressing?</p>
<b>4-4.15</b>	<b>BREAK - OPPORTUNITY TO ALSO VIEW INFORMATION BOOTHS</b>		
<b>4 – 4.45</b>	<p>Women in Conservation &amp; Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mainstreaming Gender Equity in Conservation</li> <li>Supporting women in protected area management</li> </ul>	<p>Facilitator: Zola Sangga  Presenter: Maxine Anjiga (Women's Engagement Model)  Panelists:  1. Maxine Anjiga (PNGCLMA)  2. Yvonne Tio (CEPA)  3. Chelsea Magini (USAID Lukautim Graun Project)  4. Ruth Konia (TNC, Mangrove Meri)</p>	<p>How re we meeting the challenges faced by women involved in conservation or PA decision-making. Importance of improving representation in both actions and decision-making.</p>
<b>4.45-5.00</b>	Summary of key points and closure of day	Facilitator – Kay Kalim, CEPA SEP Director	
<b>DAY 2 – THURSDAY 03<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2021</b>			
<b>TIME</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>8.30</b>	Registration	CEPA staff, UNDP and consultants	
<b>9.00</b>	Reflections on previous day	MC – Mr. Douglas Dimagi	
<b>DIALOGUE SESSIONS: PRIORITIES UNDER THE PILLARS – KAY KALIM WILL CHAIR MORNING SESSION</b>			
<b>9.15-10.30</b>	<p>Pillar 3: Effective and adaptive biodiversity management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing a capable workforce</li> <li>Management planning, evaluation and biodiversity conservation</li> </ul>	<p>Facilitator: Malcom Keako  Presenter: Dr. Francesca Dem (NGBRC) Effective &amp; Adaptive PA Management  Panelists:  1. Dr. Francesca Dem  2. Modi Pontio (YUS)  3. Jim Thomas (TCA)  4. James Sabi (CEPA)  5. Lisa Dabek (TKCP)</p>	<p>How do we progress having a capable workforce in the field? Advances in Management planning and evaluation</p>

<b>10.30-11</b>	<b>BREAK - OPPORTUNITY TO ALSO VIEW INFORMATION BOOTHS</b>		
<b>11-12</b>	Pillar 4: Managing the PA Network Expanding the network, ensuring free prior and informed consent, and meeting the Aichi Targets	Facilitator: Elton Kaitokai Presenter: James Sabi (land-sea conservation planning) Panelists: 1. James Sabi (CEPA) 2. Lester Seri (WCS) 3. Alu Kaiye (CEPA) 4. Oscar Pileng (WWF)	How do we increase the rate of expanding the protected area network: what are the opportunities and roadblocks to progress?
<b>12-12.45</b>	Pillar 5: Sustainable financing of protected area management system level financing opportunities and how to leverage additional support from outside the conservation sector Discussion on the cost of financing protected areas Progress on establishing a national fund to support biodiversity.	Facilitator: Ted Mamu Presenter: Andrew Rylance (PA finance plan) Panelists: 1. Andrew Rylance 2. Maurice Knight (USAID) 3. Michelle McGeorge (Port Moresby Nature Park) 4. Tamalis Akus (UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme)	How do we harness more funding and direct it to actually making a difference to conservation in the field?
<b>12.45-1.30</b>	<b>LUNCH - TIME FOR PREPARATION OF AFTERNOON SUMMARIES</b>		
<b>1.30-3.30</b>	PA Information Booths and knowledge sessions	UNDP Comms & CEPA & Booth holders	Specialised team to work on consolidating and finalizing the outcome statement.
<b>3.30-4.00</b>	Presentation of the Outcome Statement to the Forum & Next Steps	Director – SEP, CEPA	
<b>4.00</b>	Closing Remarks	Managing Director, CEPA	



Photo: Clive Hawigen / UNDP Papua New Guinea

# SUMMARY OF OPENING TALKS

## Opening remarks

**Speaker: Mr. Gunther Joku, CEPA Managing Director**



Mr. Joku acknowledged the Minister, NCD Governor and the UN Resident Representative, welcomed all participants and introduced the Forum, as a step in the long journey since the Protected Area Policy was approved. He covered the following points:

- outlined the purpose and structure of the GEF-6-sponsored program on Sustainable Financing for Protected Areas, including the setup of the Biodiversity Trust Fund (as an independent environment fund), the system for long term funding, and the importance of establishing long term partnerships.
- described the purpose of the contouring Protected Area Forum- to share information, organise regular events including partners, and to be guided by a Steering Committee.

- Foreshadowed that National Emergency Summit in Climate Change and the Environment and this Protected Area Forum- align with World Environment Day.
- emphasised the objectives of the Forum event and its intended outcomes.

## The global importance of PNG's protected areas

**Speaker: Mr. Dirk Wagener, UNDP Resident Representative Opens the Forum**



PNG is blessed to have the world's biodiversity only matched by its people (culture) and is one of the 17 megadiverse countries in the world.

Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history. The nature of species extinction is accelerating, with

grave impacts for people round the world. In the last 50 years, the world has lost 70% of its wildlife. Nature and the environment provides essential services for our survival: our clean water, air and food as well as being important for our culture and recreation. This means we are losing essential services, as biodiversity is the safety net for our livelihoods. If we continue to destroy the environment, we sabotage our own future, and the future of our children.

Protecting key areas of biodiversity is critical. Protected areas often face an issue of perception. Some regard protected areas as locking the country away and being a luxury, this is not the case for the great majority of protected areas. They can also offer livelihoods opportunities that do not affect the environment. We can only build a sustainable future if we protect the very basis we depend on - Mother Nature.

Protection of nature is enshrined in the constitution of PNG.

To date, PNG has more than 2 million ha terrestrial land (about 4%), and less than 1% of its marine area. This is good but lags well behind the international commitments in the targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD - the Aichi targets) of 17% terrestrial land and 10% of marine space. We aim to reach this important target in PNG. In October this year, parties of CBD will meet and PNG has an opportunity to commit and lead countries in approving and working towards this target.

UNDP has supported PNG for four decades, including key initiative such as the drafting of the Policy on Protected Areas, the protected Area bill, the establishment of protected areas and the current project involving, through the longstanding partnership with CEPA, the development of the Protected Area Finance and Investment Plan and the setup of the independent biodiversity and climate fund. This fund will have a true PNG identity registered and operated in PNG. It will be an independent fund with a multi-stakeholder board of directors, and will set an example of global best practice.

Successful protected areas management can only work if the experience you bring from the local level informs policies and decision at national level, which is why your attendance is critical.

Equally, collaboration between protected areas is critical. I would urge you to find common solutions, to share challenges, prioritise, and work together with CEPA to resolve them. Together we are stronger.

Towards system and systemic approach away from an inefficient and fragmented approach.

When faced with a challenge, consider what can be done in a way that benefits all protected areas.

### Governor of NCD, Hon. Powes Parkop, MP



This agenda is important at local, national and international level.

All people in the world must rise up to face the emergency we are facing! We must all take action, not tomorrow but today. I thank the Minister for his leadership in initiating this forum, with the support of CEPA and UNDP. The Minister needs to provide the leadership to solve the environmental crisis – and he is. We need all people to support the initiative, and to develop a generation that is committed to restoration.

NGO's and CBO's have been working on their own without government support to shoulder the work of protecting the environment, and taking legal action against logging and mining companies. PNG must stop playing the blame game and find solutions. Playing 'victim' is a thing of the past. We must rise up and find solutions – it doesn't matter who caused the climate emergency – we all suffer equally and we all need to be part of the solution.

PNG cannot wait! Our children cannot wait!

### Keynote statement on protected areas and climate change

#### Speaker and Guest of Honour: The Hon. Wera Mori, Minister for Environment, Conservation and Climate Change



The theme for this morning and for World Environment Day is restoring ecosystems.

*"I just returned from Bougainville, the threat of #climatechange is real with #Carteret islanders left defenceless & hungry against rising sea levels. I would not be surprised if the entire #AROB region is declared a #protected area in the future - an action we need to take! ...The new Protected Areas Bill is being finalised" - #PNG Minister of #Environment, Conservation & Climate Change, Hon. Wera Mori*



Wherever you come from, and whoever you represent, we have an obligation to walk this journey together and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

I just returned from eight-day trip Bougainville - threats are real, our people from Carteret Islands are now left defenseless – climate change and sea level have taken away their livelihood. Climate change is real. I thank the President of Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB) for seeing the significance of the fight. The entire island of Bougainville and its outer coral atolls might be declared a protected area. AROB and its government are seriously thinking of banning logging on the island of Bougainville.

I share my experience overnighing on the Carteret islands and seeing issues they face – every night the mothers quietly shed tears on our pillows as we ponder how we will feed out husband and children. The crops fail because of the rise of saltwater. The world has a very narrow window in which to take action and ensure that temperature rise does not exceed 1.5-2 degrees.

The Minister then read the purpose of the Forum: to allow protected area to share experiences insights and lessons learned in relation to factors impacting protected areas, identify national priorities. The results of the Forum will contribute to the implementation of the PNG's Policy on Protected Areas to elevate strategic importance of protected areas in the country.

The NPAF will be a continuing mechanism for communication and joint learning for protected area practitioners, including organising of regular learning events.

The theme is '*Conservation wok bung wantaim*', which coincides with the WED theme of restoring ecosystem management.

Our forest area is the third largest in the world, and are the 'lungs of the world'. Will the statistics of our outstanding biodiversity be the same in five years or a decade, given the rate at which our forests are being cleared and our oceans are overfished? Our communities rely of the resources provided by the environment, and have managed these for generations.

Protected areas provide an opportunity to support communities that want to manage the land for both the protection of its natural and cultural values and for livelihoods. These two aspects are not mutually exclusive but are essential for the transition to a blue and green economy. Listening to a documentary-one landowner said my forest is my supermarket. Our forests sustain our local communities.

Protected areas are important to mitigate climate change and to strengthen the resilience of the communities. The Protected Area Bill expected to be adopted by the end of the year.

CBD is considering the call for an increased target of 30% of land to be protected as the next CBD meeting approaches in October 2021, and PNG supports this global call for action.

To achieve this dream, we require sustained and systemic financial resources for the creation and management of protected areas. Greater support I necessary c=for communities that manage our resources for the common

good. Need small business opportunities to implement blue and green livelihoods. CEPA and UNDP have finalised plan that assesses costs for the expanded PA system. Pleased to support the efforts to establish a national biodiversity and climate fund-utilising global experience of UNDP to ensure setup this fund (conservation and climate change) with best practices and full transparency.

If the Minister had his way, he would like to totally ban logging in PNG and instead convert forests into conservation area and value the logging areas for carbon trade under the Paris agreement and REDD+. We have the technology to do this mapping now.

What are the contribution of this forum to national objectives? The collective vision of climate change and habitat loss experience from the local level will inform the decisions at the national level. It is essential for experience at the local level to guide policy at national level, and in future years I look forward to seeing more conservation practitioners here in person.



The outcome of this forum will inform the discussions at the Summit on Friday 4th June, 2021.

Thanked the dedication of conservation community for the continued efforts.

Officially opened the Forum.

**Progress of protected areas based on the protected area policy**

**Speaker: Ms. Kumaras Kay Kalim, Director of the Sustainable Environment Programs Wing, CEPA**

Ms. Kalim opened her presentation with a discussion of the Policy on Protected Areas and its background, and its links to Vision 2050, and other key national strategies. Conservation of biodiversity was not part of the national strategies until vision 2050, which provided a basis for the Policy to work from.



Figure 1: Policies and strategies in context

CEPA developed the Policy on Protected Areas in 2014 (Independent State of Papua New Guinea 2014), and the NEC directed (Decision No. 385/2014) the Minister for Environment & Conservation & Climate Change to:

- Implement the Policy on Protected Areas in 2014; and
- Formulate an Implementation Plan with Financial Estimates.

This was the beginning of a new era for Protected Areas and conservation in Papua New Guinea, as the Policy:

- presents a clear vision and guiding principles for a PNG Protected Area Network, that includes Special Management Areas (SMA), Community Conservation Areas (CCA), Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) and National Parks (NP),
- Commits to protection of our unique biological and cultural heritage that is
- supported by a new sustainable funding model, based on Biodiversity, Payments for Environmental Services (PES), to enable active management and capacity building

throughout PNG,

- Recognizes the pivotal role of our local communities and the customary landowners.
- Welcomes partnerships in Protected Areas with all levels of government, with non-government organisations and civil societies, with industry and especially with local communities,
- Outlines legislation that will support and enable this Network, and will provide governance and management arrangements for Protected Areas across land and sea.

In this policy, the Government of Papua New Guinea recognises the importance of natural ecosystems, biodiversity, conservation, people, culture and sustainability. This policy re-affirms the central role of protected areas and conservation in building a society that is smart, fair, wise, healthy and happy. In it, we propose ways that the PNG Protected Area Network (PAN) will help support their sustainable livelihoods and protect PNG's unique biodiversity.

The Policy has five Pillars-based on 4th goal of the constitution, and links with the national development strategies.

The steps undertaken includes;

#### **Completed Activities:**

- 2014: National Protected Area Policy.
- 2015: Legislative Review on Protected Areas.
- 2017: Updated National Priority Biodiversity Conservation areas (Land-sea Conservation Assessment for PNG) – ensuring that marine conservation is considered as well as terrestrial (Adams et al. 2017).
- 2016 /17: Conducted a Nationwide Assessment of gazetted Protected Areas (The PNG-METT 1: A method for assessing effectiveness in PNG's protected areas); and produced report on Management Effectiveness of Protected Areas in PNG (Leverington et al. 2017).
- 2017: A Guide to Protected Area Types in Papua New Guinea (revised in 2019).
- 2017: Protected Areas Policy Implementation Plan (PAPIP) 2018 – 2028 – guided CEPA to ask for budget from the national government.

#### **Ongoing Activities:**

- Protected Area Bill & Regulations: this has been delayed due to inclusion of climate change, but it will be taken to NEC in August 2021.
- Establishing a Biodiversity and Climate Change Fund base on Policy Pillar 5, hoping to be completed by the end of the year.
- Developing an integrated Environmental Management Information System which will include;
  - o National Biodiversity Information System
  - o Protected Areas Register / Database

The PAPIP is a 10-year plan (2018-2028) and CEPA needs support for its implementation. We need a land use policy that accommodates protected areas (CEPA worked with DDLPP) and mainstreaming into provincial development plans. As the staffing levels in CEPA are low, we will depend on you partners to help in implementation.

#### **The focus of GEF assistance to CEPA has evolved over time:**

1. Policy and legal framework on protected areas.
2. Building biodiversity information.
3. Piloting onsite implementation.
4. Building institutional and individual capacity to manage protected areas.
5. Developing tools for managing protected areas.
6. Establishment of sustainable financing for protected area.
7. Strengthening government agencies

**The national enabling environment** (see the Power Point slide) is also a focus, and includes our links with land use policies and planning. Working towards and enabling environment for protected areas: we have been working to;

1. Improve whole of government system and process for land use planning and decisions.
2. National economic development plans incorporate protected areas.
3. Integrated policy framework for mainstreaming conservation in decision making, for example in provincial government.
4. Integrated legal framework for protected area management and benefit sharing.
5. Integrated policy framework for sustainable financing of protected areas.
6. Strengthened institutional and technical capacities of government agencies

#### **Key documents from all this work**

- A guide to PA types in PNG.
- Land-sea conservation assessment in PNG

#### **Where to from here**

We are gaining momentum and have laid the groundwork now for a big improvement in protected area coverage and management. Our PA Bill is almost there, to complete its journey since 2016. Our PA Policy Implementation Plan 2018 - 2028 is waiting for partners to help implement. This is not a CEPA document: it is whole of PNG document. After our METT exercise, we saw the need for a funding mechanism: this is high on the agenda for current protected areas and work is in progress to achieve that under GEF 6.

The biggest task is for sustainability. We need continued support from the government and donors, and cooperation with all of you to make this happen.

PowerPoint slides with more details can be found at: <http://pngbiodiversity.org/protectedareaforum/>

**Assessment of protected area management in Papua New Guinea**

**Speakers: Ms. Fiona Leverington and Mr. Biatius Bito**

This talk was an overview of the state of protected area coverage and management from an independent viewpoint, with data drawn from:

- Consultation on the Policy on Protected Areas.
- Management effectiveness evaluation (METT) – workshops with 59 protected area communities (2016-17).
- Literature reviews and interviews– UN Common Country Assessment.
- Working with CEPA.
- The 6th national report to the CBD.
- State of Environment Report.
- Institutional and Regulatory Review.

All these sources included listening to stories from landowner communities. The efforts of all involved in conservation in PNG are recognised and appreciated.

PNG has amazing potential to be among the best protected area networks in the world!

- outstanding biodiversity, culture and ecosystem services.
- great level of commitment and interest from customary landowners.
- high proportion of land and sea still in good condition.
- great commitments and good progress in policy –from the Constitution, the Policy on Protected Areas, Vision 2050, STARS, commitment to the CBD, PNG has a good policy position on protected areas and biodiversity conservation. Potentially good legislation.

However, this potential is slipping away, and we have;

- Very slow progress in meeting PNG’s goals and objectives, for both national and international commitments.
- Very low proportion of country under formal or supported conservation protection – only one gazettal of significant size since 2010 (Figure 2).
- Very poor management effectiveness in most protected areas.

Protected area declarations have progressed very slowly, with only one large protected area gazetted since 2010. This falls

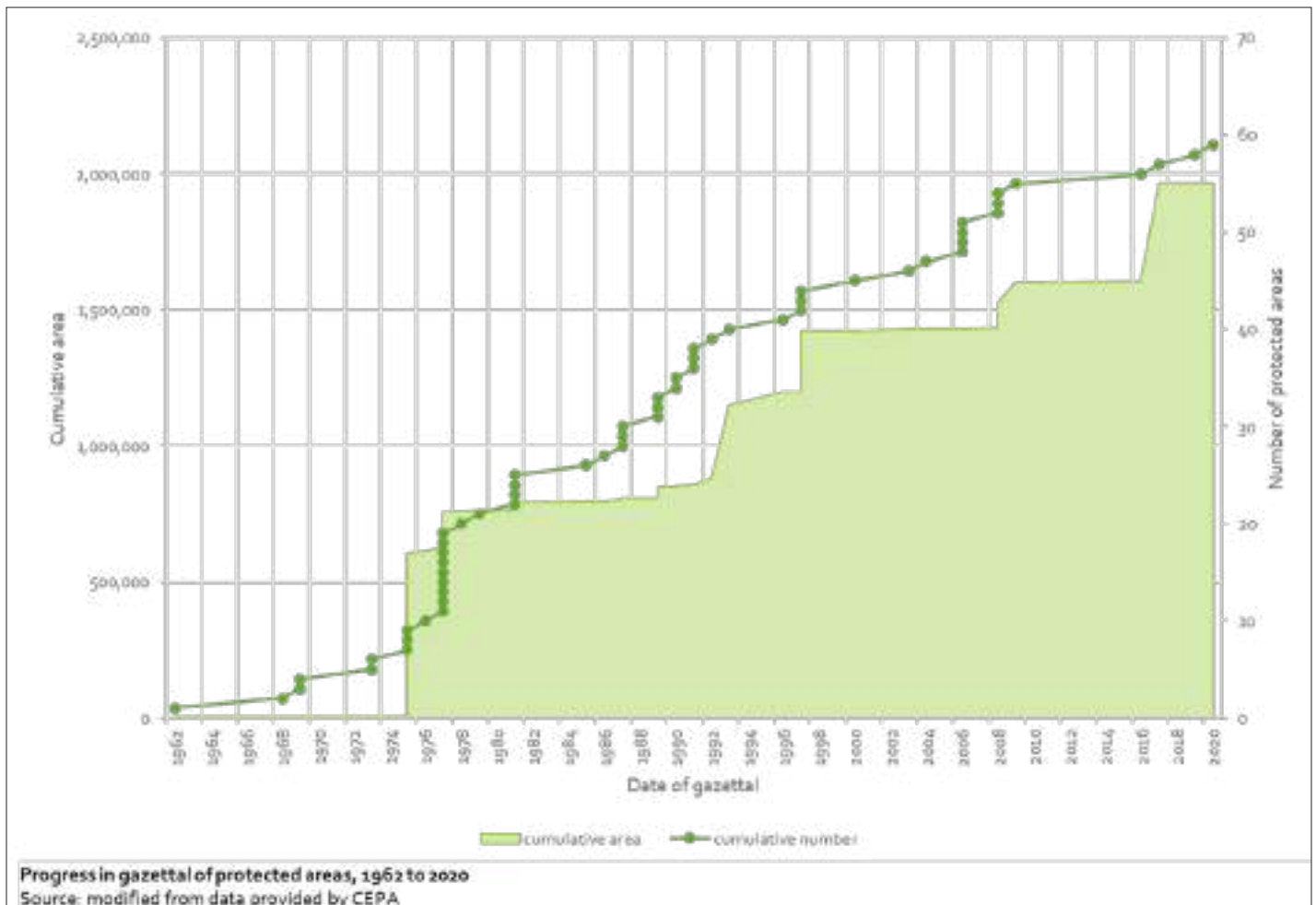


Figure 2: Progress in gazettal of protected areas, 1962 to 2020. Modified from data provided by CEPA.



well short of the CBD (Aichi) target of 17% of terrestrial areas and 10% of marine areas by 2020, to which PNG committed.

Information is poor for ecological representativeness (see 2010 figures). For Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's):

- PNG has 129 KBA's.
- Five are large marine areas, totalling 2.5 million ha: none currently in marine protected areas.
- 124 KBAs are terrestrial, island and inshore areas. Their combined area totals 10.2 million ha, of which 16.7% is in existing protected areas. (Bingham et al. in preparation)

We need to consider why there is such slow progress:

- Complex processes?
- Inappropriate targets for Melanesian way of conservation?
- Community opposition?
- Big business opposition?
- Government inertia?

World Heritage: Seven sites are on the 'tentative list' for World Heritage Status. Their value was confirmed in 2015, but also concern was expressed about the increasing level of threat (Hitchcock and Gabriel 2015). Some work has progressed in assessing values in the Nakanai Ranges and in Kokoda, but no detailed proposals have yet been submitted.

Within the existing protected areas, management effectiveness has been rated as very low (Figure 3), with little progress since the studies conducted in the mid-1990s, except in a few areas where effectiveness is very good (Leverington et al. 2017). This lack of progress is not surprising given that most protected areas have no government budget, no equipment and no staff.

While protected areas are not managed, the level of threat is high and some threats are increasing. Across the network, almost all protected areas said climate change was a significant threat. Use of resources, especially hunting, was

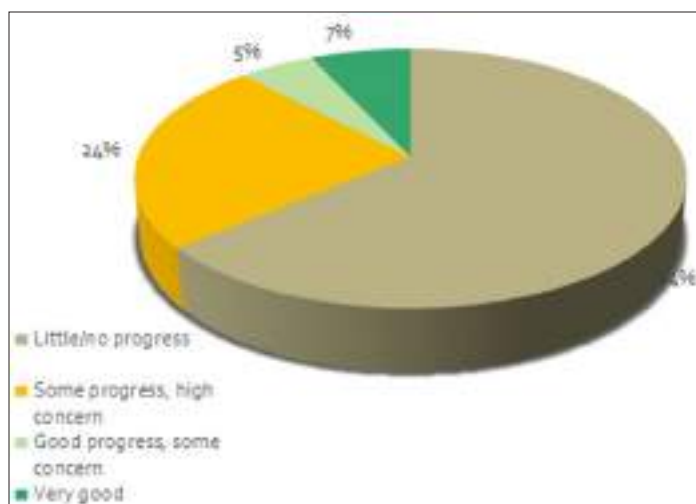


Figure 3: Proportion of PNG's protected areas achieving standards of effectiveness, 2017. Source: Leverington et al 2018.

also considered a problem as were invasive species and the increase of populations and development footprints. These numbers are based on the opinions of communities.

On the positive side, most protected area communities recognise their values and do want to continue down the conservation path. In most protected area, values were rated as being in good to very condition. However, when we consider the protected areas by area rather than by number, only 45% are in good to very good condition, with two of the largest parks rating only fair. The general trend of condition was also of concern for many values: slightly more than half the protected areas have at least some values that are declining.

Biodiversity and protected areas in PNG are at a crossroads. Delays in initiating protection mean there will be fewer opportunities to conserve ecosystems and species. PNG is on a development path, with new roads planned through virgin forests, and increasing populations putting more pressure on resources. Over time, we will lose biocultural diversity without action now to protect it. Protected and conserved areas (with a PNG flavour) remain the best tool to retain both biodiversity and culture. If we do not take action now to improve management effectiveness, average scores of PNG's protected area system will remain stagnant and among the lowest in the world. Threats are increasing in severity and extent. Some declines can be irreversible

## Recommendations

### *Improve governance*

- Finalise and implement the Protected Area Bill and regulations
- Finalise the offsets policy
- Enhance partnerships in protected areas – really work as a team and sort out the complex relationships in a network that depends on cooperation!

### *Real capacity where it is needed*

- Employ and support biodiversity staff at national and provincial level.
- Support biodiversity research especially PNG-based organisations and researchers.
- Resource CEPA's protected area agency and provincial governments for protected area management. We can't increase capacity without increasing CEPA staff numbers and establishing a presence in the provinces!
- Support PNG's national NGOs/ CBOs that are shown to work for environmental and social benefits.

### *Compensation and incentives*

- Everything we are recommending will cost money, with a combination of core government funding and other mechanisms. Options for sustainable financing will be discussed under Pillar 5.
- Ways have to be found to support communities – often the most 'left behind' in the country – who are showing or are

willing to show a genuine commitment to conservation.

#### *Thoughtful actions, rapid responses*

- Continue to support and expand programs that contribute to both environmental protection and well-being.
- Implement active adaptive management programs on all protected areas.

#### *Environmental awareness, cooperation*

- Support tradition, tambu systems and local practices for sustainable management.
- Increase wildlife conservation awareness programs.
- Improve partnerships in protected area management.

In conclusion, PNG has amazing potential, and could have the among best protected area networks in the world, with conservation giving benefits to community livelihoods, the national economy and biodiversity. The current path is not yet leading upwards, but it's not too late. We need to act together with energy and commitment, before the opportunity is lost

#### **Mr. Biatus Bito**

Mr. Bito presented finding of the Institutional and Regulatory review (Bito 2021).

#### *Who is mandated to look after protected areas in the country?*

- CEPA (Parks and Reserves)
- Provincial Government & Local Level Government (provincial parks and reserves)
- Local communities (e.g. WMA, CA)

Support is provided by NGOs & CBOs, donors, private sector, and multilateral partners and other government agencies

#### *Key legislation*

The Protected Area Bill 2016, now before the First Legislative Council and the Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) for deliberation. Once enacted by Parliament, would:

- provide for the conservation and replenishment of the environment, biodiversity and land and its sacred, scenic and historical qualities.
- regulate the management of a protected area network, protected area policies and protected areas, including measuring, reporting and verification and the establishment of targets for protected areas, and for future protected areas, in accordance with treaties and international and domestic agreements; and
- to repeal various Acts and for other related purposes.

*Current situation:* There are unequal and different powers of various institutions and stakeholders in doing conservation in the country. Challenges include:

- Fragmentation of the whole PA system (institutional and regulatory systems)
- Limited collaboration and partnership
- Funding and resources scarcity

- Lack of coordination
- Presence of CEPA in provinces is limited
- Capacity building challenges
- Poor communication

#### *Recommendations from the Review*

1. CEPA to initiate interagency working groups in order to progress better collaboration and coordination in PA management. In order to create awareness on PA policy and update on PA management. The groups should meet every quarter.
2. CEPA should formalise MoU signings with the Department of Provincial and Local Level Government and Provincial Governments, to allocate budgets for Protected Areas and collaborate in enacting laws and developing policies and regulations to collect fees and support PA work in the provinces.
3. CEPA has the option of stationing its representative in provinces to attend to protected area issues or it can provide regular training of provincial level environment officers who do the tasks on CEPA's behalf. There is also option for CEPA to provide online learning materials for provinces. A quarterly meeting with provincial government and other stakeholders would enable strengthening of conservation work in provinces.
4. Certain tax benefits can be promoted whereby a legal firm can provide pro-bono legal support to the provinces and communities and in return is taxed exempted, for providing free legal and support services to the provincial government and administration, and communities.
5. A national ranger program is activated and rangers are trained, empowered and recognised for their roles in doing ranger and monitoring work in PAs. A six-monthly training program is required for all across all PA to be conducted by CEPA and relevant trainers and institutions and rangers are equipped with basic materials, knowledge and equipment to do their work. A national rangers forum or an association can be established so rangers can share experiences as well.
6. A National training on Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) for PA is conducted every one or two years to get everyone working on PAs to become accustomed with their task of managing PAs effectively. An annual meeting can be organised to coincide with the PA Forum so experiences can be shared.
7. A list of conservation compatible economic options and minimum conservation standards for PA sites must be developed to demonstrate how the actions are supporting biodiversity conservation and sustainable rural development. CEPA needs to work with provincial government and ward development committees to develop the list annually if there are changes or new options emerging.
8. CEPA initiate interagency working groups in order to progress better collaboration and coordination in PA management. CEPA should sign MoUs with those relevant government agencies and partners and improve communication and

presence in other forums in order to bridge gaps and forge or harness friendship for better partnership and collaboration.

9. An inter government agency is established to work with existing legal institutions such as DJAD, Constitutional Law Reform Commission (CLRC) and other partners to review gaps in conservation and environment policies, regulations and legal framework and address them.
10. The role of NGOs must be recognised because it is important in conservation work and must be supported by the government going forward to achieve better conservation and national building outcomes. Also ask NGOs/CBOs to report annually on how they are contributing to achieving the PA policy. CEPA would simply need to developed the reporting template and provide training on how to link their actions to the policy or PA Implementation Plan.

In conclusion, we have documented everything, it's time for action!



A participant making a point during the summary discussions. Photo: Clive Hawigen | UNDP Papua New Guinea.

# PILLAR SESSIONS - SUMMARY OF TALKS AND DISCUSSIONS

**Pillar One-Protected Area Management and Governance**  
**Date: 2 June, 2021**  
**Facilitator: Mr. Biatu Bito**

**Objectives and planned session outcomes**

- Participants have a better understanding of the PA types and how they fit into the network
- Actions are identified for all partners to work together in supporting the network and the management committees
- Partners map existing and proposed support for PAs on large-scale printed map and gaps are identified

**Speaker: Mr. Bernard Suruman:** Protected Area Management and Governance.

The Protected Areas (PA) Bill has not been tabled by parliament and has been in draft for three to four years and no regulations have been developed. The Protected Areas Policy (PAP) provides the basis for protected area management and planning and suggests various protected area types (Table 1). There are over 100 LLMAs in the marine PA registry. However, only 10 or so are formally recognised and have management plans. This situation highlights the gaps in the legislation and the difficulties for CEPA in trying to manage the network.

**Table 1: Types of proposed protected areas, outlined in Protected Areas Policy**

Class	IUCN Category	Description	Group
National Park (NP)	II	Iconic area of national importance with a high level of protection. Reserved primarily for protection of ecological processes, species and ecosystems and for compatible human use. Terrestrial and freshwater, and many extend into near-shore areas.	National
National Heritage Area (NHA) terrestrial or marine	III	Site of outstanding natural or cultural significance with high level of protection. Uses as appropriate to protect value.	National

Special Management Area (SMA) terrestrial or marine	IV	Area where special management is needed to protect particular species or ecosystem. I.e. critically Endangered or Endangered Species.	National
Community Conservation Area (CCA)	V	Important landscape and seascape created by interactions with people through traditional management practices. Can include villages and gardens.	Regional / Provincial
Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA)	V	Defined near-shore protected area managed or co-managed by the local community for conservation and sustainable local use.	Regional / Provincial
National Marine Sanctuary (NMS)	VI with zones of II, III, IV and V	Marine Protected Area - maybe near-shore or off-shore - to be managed under national legislation. Statutory zones within NMS enable multiple use of varying intensity and type. Will include marine national park zones as well as areas where most activities including commercial fishing and shipping, can occur.	National

areas: locally managed conservation areas (LMCA). In 2018, a land and sea assessment was completed, including the identification of priority areas to be included in the network of protected areas (Adams et al. 2017).

What is PA governance? (power, relationship, accountability). CEPA provides overall coordination and leadership in governance, but governance also occurs from the bottom up.

What sectors have authority and how are they held to account? There is diversity within the network, with different classes of PAs – some are at the national level, others are managed at the provincial level, and some are managed privately.

Quality-how do you govern these areas? (recognition and respect for rights, law enforcement, participation, benefit sharing, transparency and information sharing, accountability, dispute resolution).

Finalisation of the PA Bill will require legislative changes across several sectors, including resource sector legislation. Other gaps include:

- the CEPA board has not been established.
- the NCC does not exist.
- there are gaps in legislations between national and provincial levels.
- limited capacity at the provincial level.
- the PA Bill and regulations are not finalised and legislation needs to be drafted to support the PA Bill.
- Provinces need to update relevant legislation and incorporate conservation into provincial development plans.
- private-public partnerships need to be established and fostered.
- funding support.

**Questions for panel**

Question 1: A range of marine and terrestrial protected area types will be introduced in the PA Bill. What do you see as the balance of community-based and top-down management arrangements?

Question 2: How do we better support management committees; and how do they work together and network? How do all the institutions concerned work together better?

**Responses**

*James Sabi (CEPA)*

There is a range of marine and terrestrial PAs, including community-based PAs that will be easier to manage. If management is from the top down, it will be difficult to convince the communities to participate, e.g. PNG Power in Brown River catchment. Under the PA Policy, if an area is critical to protect, we will discuss options with the community.

CEPA has supported communities in the past, including developing rules to aid management, and declaring and gazetting protected areas. Under the PA Policy GEF has

Planning for PAs in PNG has included the 1993/1995 Conservation Needs Assessment (Alcorn 1993; Beehler 1993), which identified critical watersheds and marine priorities. In 2012, the Programme of Work on World’s Protected Areas (POWPA) focused on terrestrial areas (Lipsett-Moore et al. 2010) and in 2015 marine ecoregion spatial planning was carried out by CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Australia) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), as part of Coral Triangle Initiative network (Government of Papua New Guinea, 2015). PNG became part of this regional network. However, 80% of LMMAs in PNG are yet to be recognised. CEPA also wants to add a new class of protected

supported capacity assessments for CEPA (SEP), the provinces and protected area management committees. We have identified how to support the communities through the PA policy under each of the pillars.

*Cosmas Apelis (TNC)*

The PA Bill provides some flexibility for community-based resource management initiatives. At the provincial and local levels, we have different mechanisms to protect our environment. There are other arrangements including conservation deeds, OLPLGs e.g. Section 42 of the organic law to empower LLGs to develop their laws to protect LMMAs (e.g. Almami in Madang). There are opportunities to elevate this to the provincial level.

The biggest challenge is to change the mindset of conservation versus development. Conservation is development once it is linked to sustainable livelihoods, opportunities and initiatives (tangible incentives and initiatives). It is important to have in place an empowerment program for CBOs and committees. We need to have motivation for our communities, capacity building (technical and organisational frameworks) so they can participate meaningfully. We need to link CBOs to opportunities, e.g. micro MSME initiatives and policies. We must develop pathways to link conservation to natural resource management to livelihood and gender.

*Maxine Anjiga (PNGCLMMA)*

The definition of an LMMA in the PA Policy is straight from the people, and I thank CEPA management and the PNG government for putting their own words into the policy. When they worked with LMMA communities, they were told they did not have a law to back them, so they are happy to be guided by the PA Policy. LMMAs are a community-based approach.

LMMA committees are setup by the communities and they are internally motivated because they are working for their future generations. They set up their own rules and penalties. They just need opportunities for learning exchanges (formally and informally) and capacity support to continue the work.

*Kenn Modiai (Partners With Melanesia)*

Managalas CA (36,000ha) was declared in 2017 after 33 years of waiting. PWM has been in existence for 38 years and we need to document their history. Communities call for conservation and this must be initiated by the community. How soon can we get our acts together and move? We need to listen to the call of the people and move on. We need to correct our actions. We need to work together and have a common platform and pathway to move forward. Conservation and biodiversity are out there and not in this Forum.

Managalas CA is divided into 11 community conservation zones based on language and traditional kinship and landownership. Communities select the people to be in the management committees. However, committees are not functioning due

to lack of capacity, financial resources. We need to think about how to support the NGO partners and communities.

## Discussion

*David*

If ples masalai are recognised under the PA Bill, regulations need to be developed to implement that. How under the framework which has been presented does CEPA see it can implement this aspect of the PA Bill when it is passed?

*Bernard Suruman*

CEPA must draft a regulation that recognises this in the PA Bill and this must also be recognised by other sectors and be complemented in other existing laws as well.

*Wenceslaus Magun*

The CBD recognises customary taboo systems. A logging company has gone in and logged more than 100 trees in a customary conservation area (sea turtle restoration site) in Madang. How can this issue be taken on board and recognised by the current policy and PA Bill to be enacted into law?

*James Sabi*

Under the PA Bill customary taboo systems/ples masalai are recognised as protected areas. If the area is protected by the community, then CEPA should be informed so that it will go into the registry and it can be recognised as a PA. CEPA will register all PAs under the new categories of PAs to be outlined in the upcoming legislation.

*CEFI/Marie*

Financial inclusion is key in terms of the welfare of the people on the ground i.e. financial literacy. The missing link is where the government priorities are right now. We need to link with current government priorities and not work in isolation. The insurance part of it is something to think about. We need to link the communities on the ground. Customary issues are also important.

In the Tuna Bay area, a conservation deed (under provincial arrangements) can be used in the absence of formal law.

## Pillar two: Sustainable livelihoods for communities

**Date 2 June, 2021**

**Session Facilitator: Ms. Patricia Kila**

*Speaker: Mr. Jim Thomas*

We put people first and this contributes to successful community livelihoods. In the 1980s there was recognition that tree kangaroos needed protection. Tenkile Conservation Alliance (TCA) was established in 2001.

There have been three key phases in our development: In phase 1 we worked with the communities – through village patrols, signage and other mechanisms. We needed to build

trust as a basis for sustainable livelihoods programs. We have implemented projects related to raising rabbits, chickens and fish as alternative protein sources.

We have conducted training and support for rice growing close to house gardens and other cash crops. We have delivered machines and trained people. The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project includes a total of 370 water tanks, one toilet per household, menstrual hygiene kits and education in WASH and family planning.



*Sanitation activities at Torricelli Mountains*

Phase 2 focuses on capacity building and local management. Landowners and communities look at the sustainability of projects and have established their priorities, which include water tanks, tin roofing and solar power. TCA is building staff capacity in technology and management. Our housing project has installed 800 tin roofs in villages, thus increasing water catchments for water tanks and fish ponds. Thirty solar powered streetlights have been installed, and 2,690 solar power household units are to be installed in 2021.

In Phase 3 we are focussing on local administration and management. TCA employs 43 local staff for project management and has 100 village representatives and 100 rangers. We focus on “Independence with technology” and are supporting the use of three phone apps. We have

developed TCA’s portal – “Mother Nature”, which aims to connect with TCA staff, landowners and communities to gain access to data, education materials and community livelihoods. Mini apps are being developed to collect data from every household. To date, we have collected data from more than 1,700 households.



*Local staff member addressing the community*

#### **Questions for panel**

Question 1: What are the important principles in undertaking livelihood projects, and have we learnt from our successes and failures?

Question 2: How do we better support communities to undertake conservation initiatives and to live sustainably?

#### **Responses**

##### ***Ms. Jayanne Mailai, USAID, Lukautim graun program***

We have been working in the Bismarck corridor. We focus on the women’s global prosperity initiative to promote economic empowerment of women and incentivising conservation.

Important principles include:

- understanding the local context i.e. the culture and economic context of the local community.
- supporting implementing partners to build capacity and organisational strengthening and sustainable livelihoods that are inclusive of social and gender issues.
- learning from what other projects have achieved.
- we have learned from our successes/failures and identified that it is important for communities to take ownership of what they are doing or what the various projects that are being implemented are achieving in target sites.

##### ***Ms. Modi Pontio, Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program (TKCP) - YUS***

YUS (Yopno, Uruwa, Som) conservation coffee started in 2011 in one community and extended to other communities with those who pledged land for conservation. In 2011, 3000kg of coffee was sold. Coffee is sold at a premium price (due to its links to conservation) and TKCP helps to secure a market for coffee. Once success was achieved in one community, others

wanted to be involved. People pledged land to conservation in return for assistance with coffee growing. Since 2016 the program has grown. In 2020 we were able to sell 30,000kg coffee – sold to Café Vita (USA) and also locally. Community income is around K120,000-K150,000/year. Income from coffee growing is connected to conservation. The funds go to TKCP and these are distributed to the community. YUS CA has an endowment fund.

YUS is a learning site and we hope to replicate it elsewhere. Some principles include:

- The coffee project has to be connected to conservation in order to get a premium price.
- This is a product that is supported from the garden to the market and back to the village. A lot of programs go half way – funds run out or staff change. In YUS there was support from the beginning to the end and staff were supported all the way.
- YUS is an endowment – it allows additional funding to come to the program and this is how we ensure sustainability.

#### **Mr. Gabriel Bakani, Chair, Kulungi LMMA**

LMMA were established to conserve the rich coral biodiversity of the Kimbe Bay area and came about as a result of awareness raising by Mahonia Na Dari (before 2000). There has been support provided by TNC and the management plan was launched in 2009. There has been no consistency of support from provincial and local level governments. There is a lack of capacity to manage the LMMA. However, it is managed by the LMMA, which is implementing the management plan and which includes no take zones (tambu). There are also areas where fishing can occur.

Interest from the community has gone down due to lack of support from the government. When TNC left there was no support from the provincial and local level government. The community decided to form an Association (Kulungi Community Empowerment and Development Association - KCEDA) and want to incorporate all activities related to conservation (LMMA), young people, women and the healthy island concept. The Community Based Organisation (CBO) is to be owned by the people and managed by the people. We are in the process of registering the CBO and are ready to participate in the conservation of Kimbe Bay.

#### **Ms. Miriam Supuma**

It is important to be invited by the community to work in the community and to think about the sustainability of programs and building the capacity of communities. We had an invitation by the community to do conservation that is sustainable. We had a research station to build capacity and undertake research. It was successful and brought in an income to the community. This complemented the programs delivered by the Research and Conservation Foundation. However, in Crater Mountain WMA a mining company was sent in to explore for minerals – right in the heart of the

conservation area. People were comparing NGOs with the mining company who was paying them more. This process triggered expectations. Trust with community is important and also transparency. Managing expectations and meeting the communities half way is important.

#### **Discussion session**

##### **Mr. Jim Thomas**

Question from audience - Donors will leave one day - what are the long-term plans for Torricelli as donors will leave one day? We can't always rely on grants. It is important to look at all initiatives, including REDD+. We are moving forward with REDD+ and also payment for ecosystem services. This needs to happen soon.

##### **Ms. Modi Ponti**

The endowment fund in YUS allows the Woodland Park Zoo to fundraise for the YUS conservation area.

##### **Ms. Patricia Kila**

In summary, GEF 6 is strengthening links with districts and LLGs, looking at access to markets, and the lessons learnt from TNC and Kimbe bay (sustainability). Balancing mineral exploration with conservation is important. The sustainability of livelihood projects is important and there is no support from the governments at all levels. In terms of the capacity of communities, Torricelli Conservation Area has invested in the local communities to build an office space equipped with technology, community representatives are trained to manage conservation and livelihood programs. YUS conservation coffee has been a model for livelihoods. This starts from the community. We need to strengthen linkages with LLG and provincial government (e.g. with transport and access to markets). We have to hold hands and work together.

#### **Women in conservation and protected area management**

**Date: 2nd June 2021**

**Session Facilitator: Ms. Zola Sangga**

##### **Objectives and planned session outcomes**

1. Compilation of experiences relating to how women are contributing to conservation and protected area management
2. Better network and resources for women working in conservation and protected area management

##### **Speaker: Ms. Maxine Anjiga**

Ms. Anjiga spoke about the “Model for women’s engagement in conservation in PNG. Challenges and how to overcome them”. Understanding the governance and leadership roles of a community and mobilising women are important. There is a misconception about what gender means. Men say gender is about women.

What is gender equality? What is gender equity? What is mainstreaming gender? I have worked with the communities



in Kairuku and I asked the donor USAID not to use the word gender equality and or participation, but rather to ask the chiefs to allow the women to participate. The chiefs asked the men to mobilise the women and allowed the women to go into the mangroves to do field work.

Three models of women's engagement were explored: In Pari, there is one key influential woman in the life of a chief in PNG. Why were the women in Pari successful and able to build a resource centre? This was organised in such a way that the chief's wife was elected as the executive of the women's association and the women were talking with their husbands so that when the men attended the men only meetings, they were able to raise women's issues. After 10 years, the chief's wife was allowed to join the council of chief meetings in Pari.

In Mbuke the key influential woman is the chief's sister. The strategy is to include her in the committee so that she will speak with her brother, who is the chief.

In Kairuku, the key influential woman is the wife of the chief and women in mangrove and marine resources groups were formed. Women are now allowed to participate and be heard. After the project ended the women in Kairuku continue to carry out awareness raising and mangrove planting work. Women in conservation build each other up through active networking and must be a model to other sectors.

**Question 1:** How can we best empower women to overcome the challenges in full participation in conservation in PNG?

#### **Chelsea Magini**

USAID Lukautim Graun project takes a twin-tracked approach. The aim is to mainstream gender into all the different sectors, policy, results chain conversations, mainstream gender into capacity building for implementing partners and other stakeholders i.e. government partners and CSOs. Gender and women's economic empowerment is getting visibility from the design stage down to the implementation stage. Integrating gender into all the livelihood and conservation activities is important.

#### **Ruth Konia**

Mangoro market meri is about empowering women around mangrove conservation. When it first started we were not sure about what the drivers of habitat loss were and how to empower women to participate effectively. Four main barriers identified in a situational analysis we conducted included:

1. Cultural barriers
2. Unconscious bias
3. Lack of education and information
4. Gender based violence

In relation to training we need to take a holistic approach and also include men in the trainings/meetings so that

they understand the important role women play as well in managing resources. We have assisted to set up a referral pathway for gender-based violence survivors.

#### **Yvonne Tio**

We are partnering with PNGCLMA and TNC. The Coral Triangle Women Leaders Forum is a platform to raise the profile of women working in conservation and marine resources. This platform not only includes women, but is inclusive of youths and men as well. It is a collective effort. Support is provided through this network for work in Manus and Kimbe.

#### **Discussion**

**Biatus Bito:** In Bougainville, New Britain and Milne Bay, there are matrilineal societies where in the northern parts of New Guinea men own the land. From your experience in the field, what is the striking balance where you see different genders participating in conservation despite ownership issues?

**Maxine:** My experience of working with matrilineal societies is that the eldest male makes the decisions. So, it's a very interesting question for us to think about because the brothers are bringing loggers into the area without consulting their sisters.

#### **Pillar Three: Effective and adaptive management of Protected areas**

**Date:** 3 June, 2021

**Session Facilitator:** Mr. Malcolm Keako

#### **Objectives and planned session outcomes**

3. Present and discuss how people are working in the field in protected areas, and whether a coordinated approach to a Ranger network is possible
4. Present the network-wide approach to management planning and management effectiveness evaluation

**Speaker: Dr. Francesca Dem:** Wanang Conservation Project.  
**Dr. Francesca Dem:** Wanang Conservation Project (Deputy Director)

The focus of this talk is on the work we have conducted in Madang, where we have been working with communities for over 20 years. I will focus on the Wanang communities, who are part of the Wanang Conservation Project, one of the GEF 6 project sites. There are about 300-400 people in the community. At this stage, it is difficult to know if the people like being part of the conservation project.

The Wanang Conservation Area is 11,080 ha (in Ramu Black One) and comprises about 10% of the Ramu Forest Management Area. It is surrounded by primary intact rainforest which contains existing logging concessions. There is a lot of pressure on the Wanang community to log this area and we ask ourselves, 'How can they withstand this pressure?'

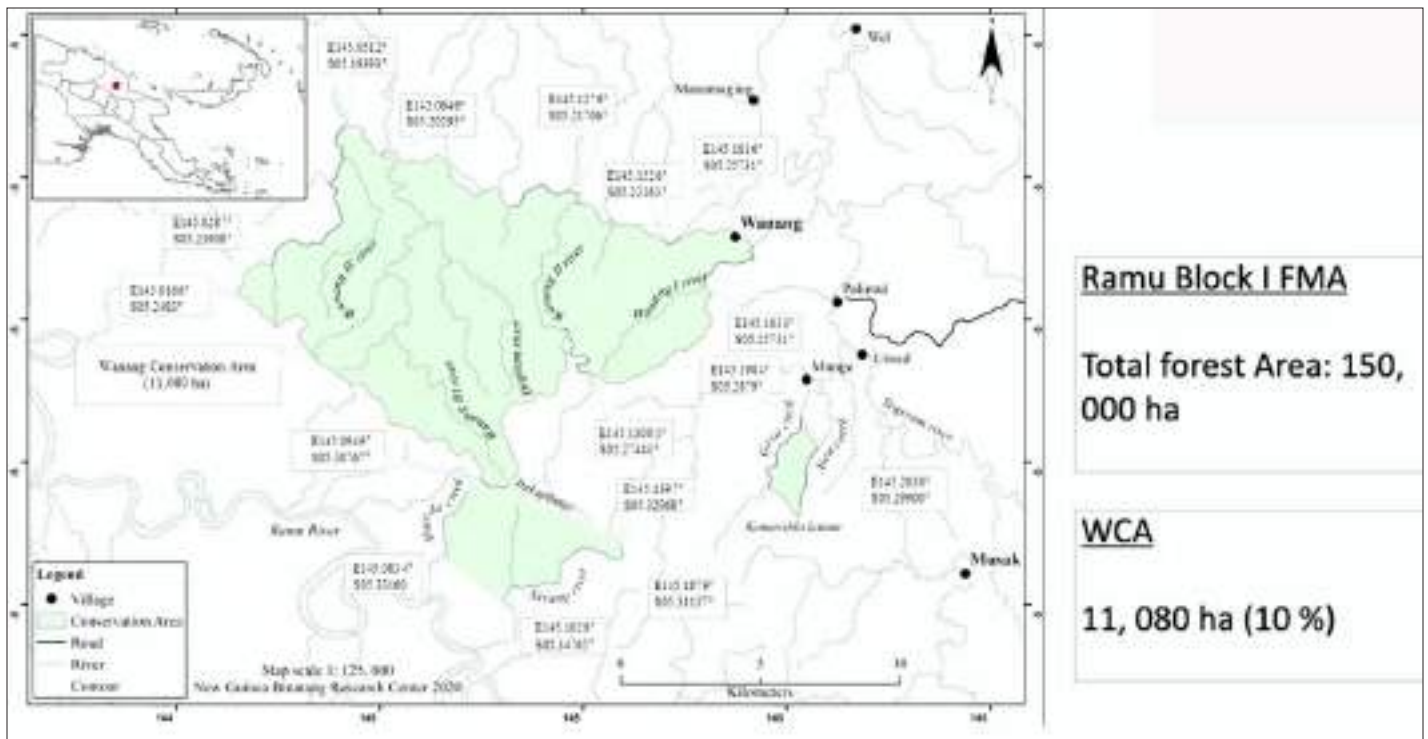


Figure 4: Wangang Conservation area.

We feel that a conservation project will not be active without a commitment to the communities. The first activity undertaken by the Binatang Research Centre (BRC) was to educate people about their environment and conservation and subsequently nine clans signed a conservation agreement (later two clans withdrew and entered into logging agreements). Phillip, the local leader thought about how the communities could benefit from the conservation activities. People expect some benefit to arise from their conservation project. Philip visited BRC to discuss the community’s needs. The BRC undertook research activities in Wanang.

After 15 years the key benefits and activities arising from conservation include:

1. **Training and capacity building of the local communities:** making people feel like part of the whole project is important.
  - Training in scientific research techniques and protocols
  - local people are hired as field assistants and are trained in scientific methods and protocols, with employment periods from two weeks to three years
  - Scientific and traditional knowledge are combined
2. **Long term employment opportunities** (e.g. six assistants with specialist knowledge of birds, insects, plants). These people have become role models for children in the communities
3. **Small community projects** (when funding is available) e.g. mainly in health and education including support for

the Wanang primary school, establishment of an aid post (with support from BRC, Steamships and Swire company) that serves Wanang and surrounding communities

4. **Communal benefits** arising from collection of entry fees to undertake research and employment as porters etc.
5. **Research** is a major sustainability activity
  - Permanent research station in the forest (road and helicopter access)
  - Permanent Forest Dynamic Plot of 50ha is regularly monitored as part of an international network (the Global 50 ha Plots Network, which monitors forests across the world) – every tree in the plot is monitored.
  - Eight research stations at various elevations to enable research along the altitudinal gradient and income from fees charged to use the crane (income goes to the community)
  - Canopy crane at Baitabag community to enable access to canopy for research purposes
6. International collaboration and commitment is important, with collaborative partnerships with overseas researchers and universities. This has provided funding support, along with grants.
7. Ranger training and networking including training local field assistants and rangers. Early in 2021, BRC ran a CEPF-funded training course in Madang for participants from other areas (Manus, Bougainville). This included training in field techniques to survey biodiversity and report on success of conservation projects, with training in GPS and mapping, and monitoring biodiversity.

8. Student training courses are offered with postgraduate students, international students, field assistants and BRC staff.
9. Women's biological training funded by USAID-LGP.
10. Reciprocal visits by conservation communities (e.g. with YUS)
11. Protection and strengthening culture: "Conserving your forest and you conserve your culture" (however, maybe the cultural conservation is not really happening).

In the future we are seeking further paid employment, establishment of local conservation bylaws, ranger training and related network and a good training system.

### Questions for panel

Question 1: How can we work together to establish a functional workforce across PNG's protected areas? Is a Ranger network feasible and how would it work?

Question 2: Protected area communities are keen to have management plans, but achieving meaningful plans with the needed level of negotiations will require considerable work in the field. How do you think this might be achieved?

*Mr. James Sabi*

In relation to the workforce, it has to start with the CEPA workforce, which is not adequate or appropriate to coordinate work on protected areas in PNG. We need to examine how to expand the CEPA workforce and look at how protected areas in PNG can be supported. At present we expect all protected area management committees to manage their own areas, as these are on customary land. We can support their arrangements on their request – we cannot force anything on them. Voluntary rangers should be encouraged in the communities. In the past DEC had rangers for national parks, but this could not be sustained. CEPA is trying to maintain rangers at Varirata NP. In 2018 we conducted a Ranger workshop, and we can share information and recommendations with others.

*Dr. Lisa Dabek, TCKP, YUS*

We need to think about a functional workforce, as every NGO, or CBO faces different circumstances and we can end up with a range of organisational structures. We need to think about the overall workforce in the protected areas network, including: What is the need for a sustainable workforce of rangers and conservation officers? What are the common goals, responsibilities, measures of success and training needs? In YUS we have a technical team based in Lae, conservation officers representing each of the YUS zones. This works well. All staff are paid, and there are quarterly meetings. I would like to call for the ranger program to be national-wide. The CEPA rangers meeting was a great start. Would be very helpful to have continuing collaboration and cooperation. Isolation is a big issue, so having common training and standards would be good.

*Mr. Jim Thomas*, member, Tenkile Conservation Alliance (TCA) We support a ranger initiative that is driven by CEPA. TCA has research officers, project officers and rangers, all trained in different techniques. It is empowering and exciting for these rangers and research officers to show what biodiversity exists on their lands, such as through their data and camera traps. We support cooperation such as through the meeting about Rangers in 2018. Since the meeting, TCA has joined the International Ranger Federation and its Oceania Rangers group. There is potential for more groups in PNG to join such groups and for CEPA to take the lead with the PNG rangers' network. It is important to share experiences and lessons, while taking differences into account.

*Dr. Dem*

CBOs and NGOs work directly with the communities. CEPA should visit the community and provide support including funding support. CEPA should be responsible for ranger training and the ranger network.

*.Question 2:* Protected area communities are keen to have management plans, but achieving meaningful plans with the needed level of negotiations will require considerable work in the field. How do you think this might be achieved?

*Question 2:* Protected area communities are keen to have management plans, but achieving meaningful plans with the needed level of negotiations will require considerable work in the field. How do you think this might be achieved?

*Mr. James Sabi*

Protected area communities are required to develop management plans. CEPA developed a template that can be used by all PAs to develop management plans. The template provides useful information and will be a requirement for all PAs in the future. CEPA staff have had training in how to develop management plans (in 2020) and CEPA can assist in developing management plans in GEF 6 project sites. This training could be rolled out to provinces, if funders support this.

*Dr. Dem*

Management plans and actions should be implemented it at the local level, rather than CEPA trying to do all their negotiations. Let the communities come up with their own management plans and then submit to CEPA.

*Dr. Lisa Dabek*

There needs to be templates for Management Plans for protected areas. We do not need to re-invent the wheel, but rather come to a common understanding of what is in a management plan. In YUS the communities do a land use plan, and these input into the overall Management Plan. In this way we can share lessons and ideas and learn from each other. Should be training and interactions among the workforce.

Mr. Jim Thomas

Concurs with Lisa Dabek. We are beginning to use technology more to communicate, including apps. We look at each other's land use plans – these plans need to come from the bottom-up and then CEPA can add details.

**Pillar four: Managing the protected area network**

**Date: 3 June, 2021**

**Session Facilitator : Mr. Elton Kaitokai**

**Themes**

- Expanding the network, ensuring free prior and informed consent, and meeting the Aichi Targets

**Objectives and planned session outcomes**

1. Develop a cooperative action plan for expanding the protected area network in PNG
2. Gain shared understanding of the principles and processes for expanding the network

**Speaker: Mr. James Sabi**

The welcome to everyone who contributes to protected areas in PNG is an important statement introducing the Policy on Protected Areas.

We are working to establish the CARR system of protected areas in PNG: a system that *Comprehensive, Adequate, Representative and Resilient*, with a range of reserve types and the design principles established in the Policy. Pillar four in the Policy outlines the expansion of the protected area network. This talk will discuss how can we increase the rate of establishment, and what are the roadblocks?

Current protected areas in PNG are mostly community owned. Historically, the government has not funded protected areas except for the few on the state land. There are 60 gazetted PAs, mostly declared under the Fauna (Protection and Control) Act on land owned by the communities. This Act does not give any management powers to the State.

Protected areas have been based on requests from the landholders. Landowner commitments are reduced when there are no benefits and some landowners revert to other land uses for quick benefits. We need to use innovative strategies to support communities to develop income streams to support communities to manage PAs. This is covered under Pillar 2 of the Policy. Protected areas need a long-term business plan. The slide below shows the key principles in moving forward to establish new PA's.

We are adopting a new approach to establishing and managing protected areas in PNG (see Figure 6). PA's need long term partnerships between government and the landowners., and the decision to gazette need to be a whole-of-government decision.

**Establishing & managing new PAs: Based on a number of core principles**

Core Principles	Protected Area Policy	SDG Pillars
Protected areas have to be a long term partnership between the Government and the community where both parties see the benefits and are committed to maintaining the area's values over time	Pillar 1: Protected Areas Governance and Management Pillar 2: Sustainable livelihoods for communities Pillar 4: Managing the Protected Area Network	MTDP3: Key Result Area 7: Responsible Sustainable Development (2018-22)
Communities cannot be expected to set-aside their land in a protected area <b>unless it</b> provides opportunities for economic development	Pillar 2: Sustainable livelihoods for communities Pillar 5: Sustainable and equitable financing for Protected Areas	MTDP3: Key Result Area 7: Responsible Sustainable Development (2018-22)
The decision to gazette a protected areas needs to be made through a <b>whole-of-Government</b> process and with the full support of communities <b>who own the land</b> to minimise the risk of alternative and damaging <b>land uses</b> affecting the protected area at a later time	Pillar 1: Protected Areas Governance and Management Pillar 4: Managing the Protected Area Network	MTDP3: Key Result Area 7: Responsible Sustainable Development (2018-22)
The Government needs to <b>develop innovative strategies</b> to assist communities to generate sustainable income streams from Protected Areas which support improved quality of life and standard of living	Pillar 2: Sustainable livelihoods for communities	MTDP3: Key Result Area 7: Responsible Sustainable Development (2018-22)
Government involvement in Protected Area establishment and management needs to be in areas which contain biodiversity of <b>global and national significance</b> which help meet Constitutional Goals and international obligations	Pillar 3: Effective and adaptive biodiversity management	MTDP3: Key Result Area 7: Responsible Sustainable Development (2018-22)
Protected areas need a <b>long term</b> business plan and have to be sustainably financed	Pillar 5: Sustainable and equitable financing for Protected Areas	MTDP3: Key Result Area 7: Responsible Sustainable Development (2018-22)

Figure 5: New approach to establishing protected areas in PNG

The process to propose a protected area in the catchment area of the Goldie River was discussed. A whole-of-government approach was used, working with Mineral Resource Authority to overlay the mining interest in Goldie river. After discussion, they reduced the size of their interest area for mining and exploration.

The process of establishing new protected areas needs to be:

- Efficient – no unnecessary hold-ups
- Transparent and consistent
- Thorough – protected areas require big resources and have a lot of social implications, so we have a ‘duty of care’ to make sure they are in the right places and for the right reasons
- Collaborative- wherever possible getting agreement and cooperation through the process
- Adaptable – different levels of ‘proof’ needed for local vs national protected areas.

Guidelines and forms have been produced to help people through this process, and these will be shared once they are finalised. Important points of the process include:

- Customary landowners have to be identified and support or agree with the proposal. In some cases, this might require social mapping work. Short-cutting this process might actually lead to more delays.
- National PA's should make a significant contribution to the CARR system for PNG, as defined under the protected area Policy

- Provincial PA's only need to make a contribution to local communities and meet more basic standards of ecological integrity – i.e. there is not such a rigorous process to assess their values
- A short response time is needed for processing and people should be regularly informed of progress.

Assessors will need to check that information is correct and consider how the proposal contributes to the CARR system. There is a transition process from exiting protected areas into the new types, as specified in the Policy.

There is still a big gap between where we are now and the targets of the Policy, the MTDP and the CBD. The location of protected areas in 2018 is shown in Figure 7.

Challenges include:

Capacity:

- Technical
- Skills to deal with stakeholders, partners & communities
- On-ground (Provincial)

Resources

- Funding support (National Government)

Competing Land Uses

Development partners' mandates, which sometimes differ from the government

New requirements – Gender & Environment and Social safeguards

Ways forward are:

Capacity:

- Recruitment of technical staff with relevant skills
- Establishing provincial units to support biodiversity conservation

Resources:

- GoPNG to provide sufficient budget for biodiversity conservation

Land Use:

- Effective collaboration & sharing of information amongst different government resource sector agencies
- Development partners to support the implementation of national policies & plans e.g. Protected Area Policy Implementation Plan (PAPIP).



Figure 6: Protected areas in PNG 2018

### Questions for panel

Question 1: What are the opportunities and priorities for expanding the protected area network, and how can we work together to get this moving more rapidly?

Question 2: How should we ensure free, prior and informed consent and gain support from other stakeholders for new protected areas and World Heritage Areas in a timely way?

#### Mr. Alu Kaiye (CEPA)

Question 1: The PA Policy introduced the CARR system, considering science and the cultural aspects in PNG and how we can protect them from threats. We are looking at sites, and have pre-selected some sites for both terrestrial and marine: these are priority sites for conservation through science. For size, looking at combining some small sites to make bigger areas. Pilot sites e.g. Madang lagoon which now has several small protected areas, and we are working with the communities to consider if they could be combined into one larger site. This could also include a buffer zone around the core area, which would also be part of the management efforts to address the edge effects.

Question 2: We cannot pass the people who own 95% of the land. We need to have policy and standard in place to mainstream FPIC in the process.

#### Mr. Lester Seri (WCS)

We need to contextualise the context on which the network has been developed. From the early work of hotspots, policies etc are overlain. The challenge is how do we make that network work? Dealing with wide range of stakeholders. As well as landowners, need to also deal with provincial and LLGs as important stakeholders: these hold the resources we need. At the national level, we need to look at the process. What sort of specific policies/legislations for the network to work and to be enforceable? Need to have enabling policies to make this network work. Do we need to host another consultation to deal with the network? Look at ways and process for it to work. Once we have this, we start to work better on the whole narrative about what conservation needs. Then to bring in donor partners, so finding goes into what has been actually identified. Lot to talk about this is going to work. This need policy and legislation and a process for the communication. Including the process for communications from CEPA and to get proposals through and assessed.

Question 2: Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) is a critical requirement for working with communities. Land and resources are owned by the people and they must be properly consulted. Many different partners are applying FPIC. At a national level, we need to look at all of them and have standard FPIC process with basic elements of a step by step process, that can then be tailored to fit the local context.

#### Mr. James Sabi (CEPA)

Question 1: We have a policy which we are trying to implement. Would encourage everyone here to look at the Policy and consider how we can all support the implementation. We launched the PAPIP, please use it for implementation. We welcome everyone to contribute to doing protected areas.

Question 2: Community/ landowner consent is a must before anything is accepted or gazetted. Through the support of GEF and UNDP, we have developed a toolkit (which is yet to be finalised) – the Community Engagement Toolkit to use before the community is committed.

### Discussion session

Mr. Nathan Lati: PNG Tourism promotion Authority (PNG TPA): PNG is a challenging place to manage protected areas: logistically very challenging. Why don't we have case studies to apply the tools, policies, so people can come in and see the examples as learning examples. Trial the tools and learn lessons and improve. Lester: agree totally. But some tools and processes still need some work. Makes sense to trial and learn lessons from one place and then spread the lessons. But do need to consider all the different stakeholders and communities.

### Pillar five: Managing the protected area network

Date: 3 June, 2021

Facilitator: Mr. Ted Mamu (UNDP)



### Themes

- Establishing sustainable and adequate funding for the protected area system in PNG
- Supporting communities to obtain and manage funds for on-ground operations

### Objectives and planned session outcomes

1. Develop a cooperative action plan for financing the protected area network in PNG
2. Gain shared understanding of the processes for establishing and operating the Biodiversity Trust Fund in PNG

**Speaker: Dr. Andrew Rylance (UNDP)**

Nature is our safety net, but is under threat. Part of the issue is that the ecosystem services both for communities and for the wider population is immense, but we don't have this information for PNG. Once we can value our protected areas, the conversation about why to finance protected areas changes. Economic prosperity is dependent upon nature and is the foundation upon which everything else is built, so any economic activity that depletes our natural capital reduces our long-term prosperity. How well do we communicate this outside of the conservation community?

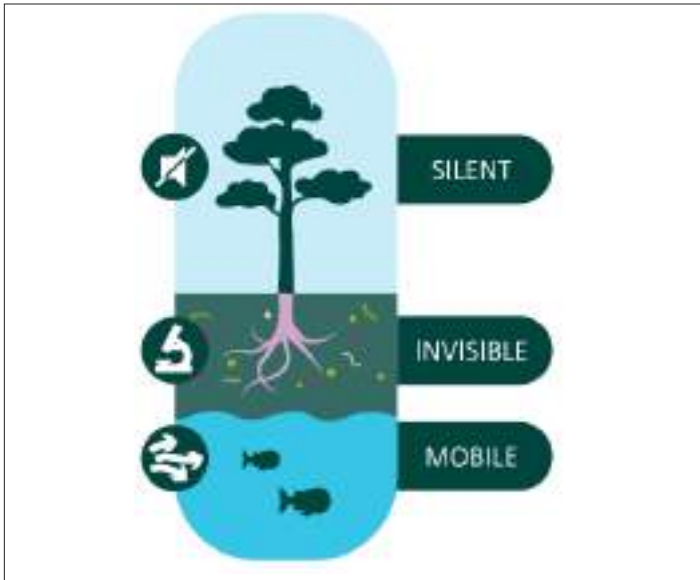


Figure 7: Ecosystem services are poorly recognised.

However, ecosystem services are poorly recognised and undervalued, and because of this they receive limited support. To be successful as mobilising more resources, we need to communicate the silent, the invisible and the mobile to the wider audience (Figure 8). Economists are usually the last people to be thought about: many great initiatives never come to fruition because there are not the resources.

What do we need to have an effective, holistic, representative and equitable protected area system? Over the last year, CEPA with the GEF6 project supported by UNDP, our project has quantified the cost of a protected area system for PNG that is:

- Effectively managed,
- Achieves conservation and livelihood goals,
- Meets Aichi 11 – 17% terrestrial and 10% marine protection.

Some 96% of protected areas in PNG receive zero funding, though they are managing public goods. We built models to show what is needed across the network and should then be able to say how much money is generated for every kina that is invested in protected areas.



Figure 8: Projected costs of PNG's protected area system..

On a global scale, protected areas are still dependent largely on direct government budgetary support, as they are supporting public goods and increasingly on conservation funds. We need to reframe financing in PNG so that we fund a system not just individual sites.

A system approach allows:

- Reduced fragmentation, improves inclusiveness
- Lower transaction costs compared to individual protected areas looking for funds
- Increased leverage
- Strengthening of advocacy

**Big funding gaps need big financing solutions (Figure 10):**

Protected area financing also creates transaction costs, especially when individual sites have to work to raise their own money – requires time and money. Increasingly conservation funds are used to aggregate up the opportunities and to help act as a mobilising and coordinating body to collectively support protected areas. Over 100 such funds have now been developed globally so there is a wealth of information about what works and what doesn't work: after studying international best practice in conservation trust funds, a report has been completed (ref). A collaboration has been working on this in PNG, including the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), many stakeholders, lawyers and tax advisors. The collaboration has requested that the fund:

- Be an independent institution, with Government involvement but not Government control
- Be a PNG institution, based in PNG, with safeguards to ensure independence.
- Combine Biodiversity and Climate
- Exhibits transparency, accountability, good governance and fiduciary responsibility must be part of Fund's design

From this we found a big overlap with the global success factors,

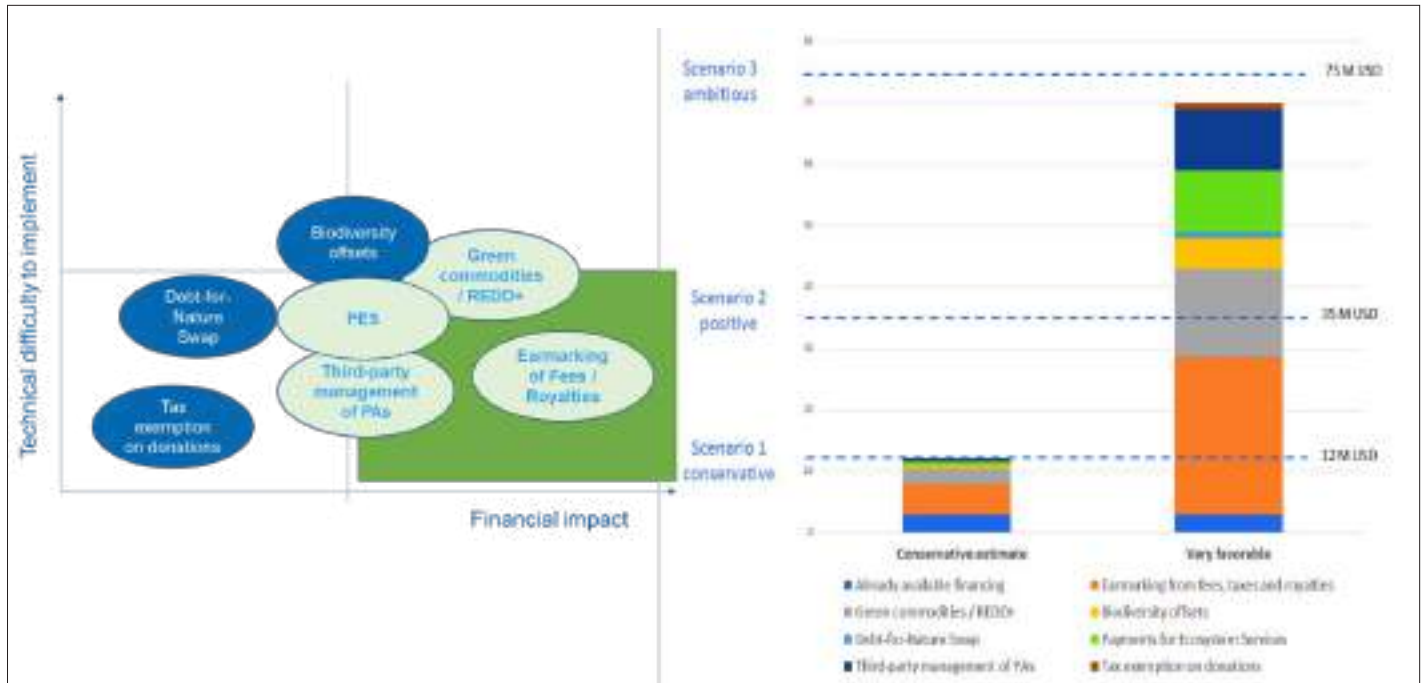


Figure 9: Big solutions to funding gaps.

Success factors are

- Independent Governance.
- Apply best practices: Practice Standards for Conservation Trust Funds
- Coordinated resource mobilization
- Effective stakeholder engagement
- An initial capitalization to endow the Fund

Fail factors

- Failure to capitalize endowment
- Government controlled funds (these are generally not successful in attracting funds from donors)

The process will be continuing over the next year and people who wish to can be involved. and we are now taking steps to establish the PNG Biodiversity and Climate fund.

GEF has contributed US\$2.7 million in grants. Need to push forward to look at capitalized endowment to create a collective support for protected areas.

To make protected area finance successful, we need to

- Support the System – need to support the collective effort finance the whole, not just the parts
- Consider transaction costs - coordinate resource mobilisation
- Demonstrate impact – biodiversity, livelihoods and economy – showing results and things changing
- Cooperation – we are stronger together and sharing challenges and solutions.
- Visibility – make invisible ecosystem services visible. Telling stories to mobilised resources.

**Panel Members:**

- Mr. Maurice Knight (USAID)
- Ms. Michelle McGeorge (Port Moresby Nature Park)
- Dr. Andrew Rylance (UNDP)
- Ms. Tamalis Akus (UNDP/ Small Grants)

**Supporting material and documents**

- Best practices for Conservation Trust Funds
- Concept note for Biodiversity Trust Fund

Protected Area Finance and Investment Plan

**Questions for panel**

Question 1: How can we ensure that sustainable funding is maintained and that it results in actual improvement in support to communities and protected area management?

*Ms. Tamalis Akus (UNDP /Small Grants)*

Commends CEPA for their continued support of the GEF small grants project – the co-funding from the government allocation is critical. It is a revolving fund, which receives allocations on a four-year cycle. The small grants work is directly with communities. There are challenges but funding continues to come because of results achieved.

Grants are for two years, because after that, the communities should have been able to do the projects and achieve the results we expect. The program has been able to fully commit the funding. Many CBOs have generated very good results. The support from the small grants is helping the communities to do what they want to in implementing conservation-related activities. It is often about relieving pressure on community land. Results are documented every



June through the annual monitoring and evaluation. While there is a challenge to secure funding, the key element in determining who gets the funding is about key threats. We get a lot of applications, but if the CBOs can demonstrate how their areas are threatened they have a better chance.

As this is a revolving fund, communities can continue to apply for more funding when their project is completed.

*Mr. Maurice Knight, USAID Lukautim Graun project (Cardno International Development)*

Appreciation and recognition to CEPA and UNDP for putting this Forum on and to everyone in the group for their enthusiasm and commitment. Implementing partners in Lukautim Graun include WCS, TKCP, Care International, and a private company Real Impact, which is developing supply chains. The project is getting ready to negotiate some new agreements relating to coffee and chocolate high-value supply chains.

As a kid in the USA farmlands, Maurice experienced behaviour that was environmentally damaging, but the extension agents (rangers) played a key role in education and in changing behaviour. They knew a lot of things and gave guidance. They were paid from a range of sources – they were essentially rangers. We called them – they gave us the answers.

In PNG, I think it is time that we really put some effort into the building the ranger network that many people have talked about. Over the next few years, USAID Lukautim Graun will commit up to half a million dollars to develop the structure for the national ranger program. This should be a professional service – a network and association that helps build the capacity of these folks who support the communities.

With USAID support, we are going to support CEPA to take some action on the ranger network!

*Ms. Michelle George, Port Moresby Nature Park*

While the nature park is not a protected area, we do have a very strong partnership with protected areas particular with research and conservation work and advocacy. We derive funding from diverse sources – one funding source alone is not enough. We have the ability to self-generate, plus government support and strong corporate and donor support. The main reason we have been so successful is that we try to match our goals with the organisation we are trying to partner with. We make an effort to communicate this and to think about our commonality. It is important how we communicate. Corporate donors are looking for strong messages they can convey to their clients about how they are supporting the environment. Looking for bang for a buck that they can communicate to their clients. Managing the funding and partnerships is a fulltime job.

We recognise the fragility of being so dependent on this kind of funding – park would have closed this year without

the support and intervention of the NCD government. BTF is definitely a way forward to overcome the fragility. We also have to look at other ways to be more sustainable.

*Andrew Rylance*

Challenge of gathering a collective voice with the disperse nature of the protected areas and the geographical challenges. Important role of CEPA in communicating across the country

*Lester Seri:* good to hear a shift in the conversation about sustainable financing. Yesterday we heard that UNDP has been here for 40 years supporting conservation. I am curious to know if we should see how the GEF programs from one to six have fared. Also how each activity under the small grants have contributed.

*Andrew:* After every GEF project there are always lessons learned about how the project fared and this is fed into the next project cycle. It is supposed to support in a catalytic way to build the enabling environment. What is required is to move from the project-based funding to recurrent funding. More than 250 stakeholders were involved in the design of this project – looking for a way to deal with recurrent base level funding for the core activities in protected area management.

*Kay Kalim:* GEF projects – PNG government started with GEF 4 with support from UNDP. There is always a mid-term process that gives an opportunity to realign the project with the needs. Final review is another process which is quite stringent. For the two completed projects (GEF4 and GEF5), we are happy to share the ratings. We have performed well and have improved from GEF4 and 5 and now to GEF6. We are very happy and grateful that we have benefited a lot from GEF5, especially for biodiversity. The small grants funding has been very helpful for the small communities who are doing their work but contributing to the global agenda: some of the government allocation to biodiversity goes into the scheme. We can also make this assessment of small grants available.

*Wonpis NCDC PR and Tourism NCND* helps fund operations of Port Moresby Nature Park. What is your advice to other protected areas that could tap into similar arrangements?

*Michelle:* The Nature Park is lucky to be in Port Moresby and to have NCDC. In other provinces this could be a challenge. However, NCDC knows that the funding will be well used in a lot of projects. Good zoos globally are committed to saving species in the wild, and they represent the third largest global funder for conservation efforts. So a collaborative approach could be taken. It would also be great to see other provinces able to commit to protected areas and to education work.



Photo: Clive Hawigen | UNDP Papua New Guinea

# FORUM EVALUATION

Success of the Forum can be measured by assessing:

- The level of attendance and participation
- The achievement of the stated objectives
- Evaluation of the Forum by participants

## Attendance and participation

The Forum was well attended. Over the two days of the forum, 105 people participated at the venue on day 1 and 103 on day two, while the online participation via zoom was 49 and 45 respectively. More people were watching on facebook and in some cases a number of people were gathered together watching the zoom on one computer, so the real number of online participants would have been higher. Without COVID limitations, many more people would have attended in person. There was evidence of a very high level of interest from people from existing and potential protected areas.

Participation in the Forum by the Hon. Minister and other dignitaries in the first day, and their enthusiastic endorsement of the protected area agenda, was a boost for all. People who attended in person had opportunities to meet other people, to chat informally and build their networks, and to view the displays and information booths.

Though the broadcasting of the event had only minor issues, there was minimal opportunity for those who were online to participate other than by watching the sessions, and there was some frustration about missed opportunities for better engagement.

The detailed evaluation of the Forum was conducted via survey-monkey (Attachment 1), and was completed by 45 respondents. Of these, nearly 70% of respondents rated the forum as excellent, very good or good (Figure 11), and over 80% of participants believed that the forum met or exceeded their expectations. Half the respondents indicated that the forum was about the right length, while most others believed that the forum was either too short or much too short.

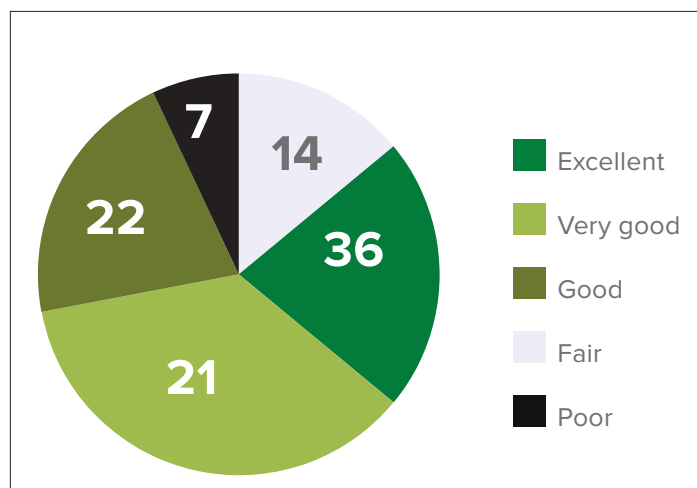


Figure 10: Overall rating of Forum by survey participants

Most people benefitted from the content, with sessions about protected area financing, women engagement and stories from the field most appreciated.

The main frustration, especially from online participants, was the lack of opportunity to ask questions, participate

in discussions, and to really explore issues in depth rather than addressing them superficially. This was seen as a missed opportunity to engage with a range of stakeholders, especially those with field experience.

A summary of the Forum evaluation is presented in Table 1.

An interesting point was that though the Forum attempted to discuss issues at a high level, participants really appreciated the talks that presented issues and actions from the field, rather than overview presentations about national progress or directions. The exception to this was the presentation about sustainable financing, which was highly rated.

**Table 1: Summary of evaluation responses**

Working Well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very successful first forum event (&gt;70% rated as excellent, very good or good and &gt;80% believed the forum met or exceeded their expectations)</li> <li>• Good participation from a diverse range of stakeholders (over 100 face to face and about 50 online)</li> <li>• Good sharing of experiences from communities at the forefront of conservation</li> <li>• Face to face and online participation, with few technical limitations</li> <li>• Good venue and setup</li> <li>• Diverse and useful content presented at the forum, especially sustainable financing, effective and adaptive biodiversity management, and women in conservation and management</li> <li>• Informative panel sessions</li> <li>• Balanced inclusion of politicians and high-level support from political leaders</li> </ul>
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better engaging the online participants into the discussions and events at the forum</li> <li>• Improving engagement in discussion and ensuring ‘parked’ questions are addressed</li> <li>• Protected area related challenges:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Addressing the persistent undervaluing of protected areas and community-based organisations</li> <li>- Enhancing capacity to effectively manage protected areas</li> <li>- Meeting agreed international targets</li> <li>- Establishing sustainable financing of protected areas</li> <li>- Working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders</li> <li>- Addressing gender equity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Moving forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forum arrangements:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure adequate time for participant engagement and discussion</li> <li>- Draw on the experience of the people attending the forum as well as the online participants</li> <li>- Ensure all panellists have extensive experience in the theme they will participate in and are well prepared</li> <li>- Enable greater participation from the virtual participants, especially in discussion fora</li> <li>- Prepare a selection of videos that can be shown at the event and shared with the online participants during breaks</li> <li>- Improve the forum facilitation to ensure that online participants are aware of session start times and breaks</li> <li>- Expand participation to include more CBOs and other levels of government (when Covid restrictions allow)</li> <li>- Consider expanding the time frame of the forum (e.g. to a third day)</li> <li>- Record and disseminate all forum presentations and related information</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Forum content:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus on long-term sustainable solutions</li> <li>- Include a wide range of case studies of effective protected area management</li> <li>- Incorporate the voices from the field (people doing conservation with communities)</li> <li>- Enhance participation of government agencies and partners</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Actions identified at the forum:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus on solutions to challenges and sustainable and practical ways forward</li> <li>- Establish and appropriately fund a Ranger network</li> <li>- Enhance the engagement of women</li> <li>- Improve the capacity of community-based organisations</li> <li>- Build capacity at multiple levels</li> <li>- Establish appropriate long-term funding arrangements for protected areas</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Summary of panel sessions

A summary of the key points from the panel discussions in presented in Table 2: Summary of panel sessions for the five pillars

**Table 2: Summary of panel sessions for the five pillars**

Session Name	Themes	Objectives and planned outcomes	Key Questions	Key Points Answered
Pillar one: Protected Areas: Governance & management arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protected area types under the new PA Bill – explanation and discussion about how the network as a whole will be managed</li> <li>Roles and responsibilities of management committees, and how these can best be supported</li> <li>Institutional arrangements for the protected area network – how do we work better as a community?</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants have a better understanding of the PA types and how they fit into the network</li> <li>Actions are identified for all partners to work together in supporting the network and the management committees</li> <li>Partners map existing and proposed support for PAs on large-scale printed map and gaps are identified</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A range of marine and terrestrial protected area types will be introduced in the PA Bill. What do you see as the balance of community-based and top-down management arrangements?</li> <li>How do we better support management committees; and how do they work together and network? How do all the institutions concern work together better?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free prior and informed consent (FPIC) of customary landowners.</li> <li>Joint management strategies and plan for PA's with key partners</li> <li>Informed decisions support systems (DSS) approach in PA management</li> <li>Establishment of PA Management Committee</li> <li>Capacity Building and training of Management Committees</li> <li>Stakeholder engagement strategy and plan</li> <li>Establish MOU/MOA with provincial governments and key partners</li> </ol>
Pillar two: Sustainable Livelihoods for Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting local communities in conservation of nature and culture</li> <li>Supporting sustainable livelihoods</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present, discuss and evaluate suggested principles for livelihood projects in protected areas</li> <li>Develop a cooperative approach to supporting communities in implementing more sustainable practices especially in existing and proposed protected areas</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the important principles in undertaking livelihood projects, and have we learnt from our successes and failures?</li> <li>How do we better support communities to undertake conservation initiatives and to live sustainably?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable livelihood projects (formally known as part of Integrated Conservation and Development Programs</li> <li>Designing programs which are still based on short-term project cycles rather than long-term commitments</li> </ol>

<p>Pillar three: Effective and adaptive biodiversity management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a capable workforce</li> <li>• Management planning, evaluation and biodiversity conservation</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Present and discuss how people are working in the field in protected areas, and whether a coordinated approach to a Ranger network is possible</li> <li>2. Present the network-wide approach to management planning and management effectiveness evaluation</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How can we work together to establish a functional workforce across PNG's protected areas? Is a Ranger network feasible and how would it work?</li> <li>2. Protected area communities are keen to have management plans, but achieving meaningful plans with the needed level of negotiations will require considerable work in the field. How do you think this might be achieved?</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a PNG Protected Areas Rangers Network/Association</li> <li>• Establish a Community Based Voluntary Workforce</li> <li>• Establish a student's Voluntary/Work Experience Program</li> <li>• Support Rangers/PA Management Committee in Capacity building &amp; Training</li> </ul>
<p>Pillar four: Managing the protected area network</p>	<p>Expanding the network, ensuring free prior and informed consent, and meeting the Aichi Targets</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a cooperative action plan for expanding the protected area network in PNG</li> <li>2. Gain shared understanding of the principles and processes for expanding the network</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the opportunities and priorities for expanding the protected area network, and how can we work together to get this moving more rapidly?</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Facilitation</li> <li>• Community Consultations, Resource Inventory, Mapping, Planning/Mgt</li> <li>• Emphasise on more role model PA's to be used as a mode of motivation for all other PA's</li> <li>• Community Engagement Toolkit</li> </ul>
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. How should we approve free, prior and informed consent and gain support from other stakeholders for new protected areas and World Heritage Areas in a timely way?</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Protected Areas cooperative technical working group to be established</li> <li>• Joint management strategies to be developed by all stakeholders of mutual interests operating within PA's.</li> </ul>

<p>Pillar five: Sustainable and equitable financing for protected areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing sustainable and adequate funding for the protected area system in PNG</li> <li>• Supporting communities to obtain and manage funds for on-ground operations</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a cooperative action plan for financing the protected area network in PNG</li> <li>2. Gain shared understanding of the processes for establishing and operating the Biodiversity Trust Fund in PNG</li> </ol>	<p>How can we unlock those barriers and ensure that sustainable funding is maintained and that is results in actual improvement in protected area management?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protected Areas Communication Plan (to ensure effective communication for all PA matters and challenges and address way forwards)</li> <li>• Protected Areas Forum’s Action Plan – An Action Plan derived from this forum and also guided by the PAPIP and Results Framework.</li> <li>• Protected Areas Stakeholder Engagement &amp; Management Plan (strategies and approaches to be documented)</li> <li>• Protected Areas Management Plans</li> <li>• Protected Areas Budgeting Allocation and Funding</li> <li>• Protected Areas Technical Working Groups (NPART/RPART)</li> <li>• Effective Collaboration and Cooperative efforts.</li> <li>• Community Resources Inventory /Mapping to support PA mgt, Resource Mobilisation and Utilisation and Mgt during PA mgt.</li> </ul>
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# OUTCOME STATEMENT

## *Preamble:*

Today on 3rd June 2021, representatives of biodiversity conservation stakeholders from Government, the United Nations, Development Partners, Non-Government Organisations, Civil Society, Private Sector and Communities met at the Hilton Hotel in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Delegates convened to take stock of the current status of protected area management in Papua New Guinea, prioritise future actions and reaffirm commitment to achieving the countries biodiversity conservation objectives.

Delegates agreed to a range of measures. In doing so, delegates today:

**Reaffirmed** our commitment to achieved the objectives outlined in the PNG Policy on Protected Areas.

**Highlighted** the importance of Papua New Guinea's unique and endemic natural wonders which represent over seven percent of the world's biodiversity in less than one percent of the world's land mass.

**Reiterated** that if biodiversity is not protected, the country's economy, livelihoods of its people and culture will be irrevocably lost to present and future generations.

**Recognised** the benefits generated by the natural environment and need to value the direct and indirect benefits and services of Papua New Guinea's ecosystems and protected areas.

**Recalled** the Government's commitment to the protected area objectives outlined in Vision 2050 and the PNG Policy on Protected Areas as well as international obligations under the Aichi targets.

**Champion the** work of communities and conservation partners to protected PNG's unique biodiversity and demonstrate that livelihoods and conservation are two sides of the same coin.

**Called on** all levels of government to support the existing and the establishment of new protected areas and integrate

protected areas into sectoral and provincial planning.

**Acknowledge** the value of the ecosystem services generated by protected areas and the contribution of protected areas to livelihoods, forestry, fresh water, conservation compatible agriculture and mitigating climate change. Therefore, protected areas should be incorporated into sector plans.

**Called on** whole of Government approach to take decisive action to better regulate against actions that may present harm to the environment, and in particular in collaboration through policy and legislative direction, in the extractives, agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors.

**Commit** all levels of government, development partners and the private sectors including communities to support conservation-compatible economic development.

**Called on** all levels of government and all development partners, including the private sector, to support effective financing of protected areas as a pathway to support all people of Papua New Guinea address climate disruption, protect the environment and improve food security and livelihood.

During the deliberations, Delegates:

1. **Recognised** that the people of Papua New Guinea are the custodians of more than 7% of world's biodiversity and signifies its rich cultural heritage.
2. **Acknowledged** that it is our responsibility to ensure that our biodiversity and our cultural diversity is protected for future generations of Papua New Guinea.
3. **Recognised** that the natural environment significantly contributes to livelihoods with approximately 87 percent of its population living in rural areas, depending on subsistence agriculture, fishing and hunting.

4. **Agreed** that Papua New Guinea has made great progress in expanding Protected Areas but achievements fall significantly behind national targets in Vision 2050 and international targets in the Aichi agreement.
5. **Acknowledged** that key biodiversity areas in the country require formal protection and agreed that communities are the custodians of these global public goods and therefore all support should be afforded to these communities to manage these resources effectively on behalf of all Papua New Guineans.
6. **Called on** Government to reaffirm its commitments to expand protection in line with Vision 2050 and the Aichi targets under the Convention for Biological Diversity. Delegates further confirmed support to the global objectives proposed under the Post-2020 biodiversity framework, to protect 30 percent of land and ocean by 2030 and that Papua New Guinea should approach the UN Biodiversity Summit announcing this commitment and press upon other member states the need to follow Papua New Guinea's example.
7. **Agreed** that the PNG Policy on Protected Areas and the Oceans Policy both provide a framework for managing our natural resources sustainably and all efforts should be made to effectively implement the initiatives contained within these foundational policies.
8. **Reiterated** the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration between all levels of Government and supported the proposed inter-agency working group on protected areas to ensure protected areas are integrated into sectoral and provincial plans.
9. **Welcomed** the Government's finalisation of the Protected Area Bill and approval of the Protected Area Finance and Investment Plan to provide a pathway to gazette, manage and finance a representative and equitable protected area system.
10. **Stood united** in the view that, in a world where biodiversity is declining and increasing levels of extinction of species are occurring, Papua New Guinea will take action to protect, increase and sustain its biodiversity.
11. **Called on** the private sector companies operating in Papua New Guinea to reduce and offset both their direct biodiversity impact and carbon emissions.
12. **Agreed** financing these commitments are critical to achieving the targets. Delegates further supported the establishment of an independent biodiversity and climate fund to attract internal and external finance to support national environmental and climate objectives and pressed

Government to issue a 'Call to Action' to all development partners to support this vision and align themselves with the national environmental objectives outlined in the PNG Policy on Protected Areas.





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# CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Protected Area Forum event was well organised and successful, and the initiative was greatly appreciated by stakeholders. Most of the objectives were achieved, and the seeds were sown for future cooperation and partnerships. Recommendations for the future in terms of substantive protected area actions are included in the Outcome Statement. Recommendations in relation to the Forum event include:

## Followup from this Forum event

- Ensure follow-up from the Forum so these potential partnerships are enhanced and the gains from the Forum are maximised. Ensure all presentations, outcomes of the Forum and key document that were referenced are easily accessible through the website <http://pngbiodiversity.org/protectedareaforum/>, and place links to this website through the UNPD and CEPA websites and social media.
- Report to the Forum participants on further outcomes from the Forum as they occur, via email as well as internet platforms.
- Consider holding some in-depth online discussion sessions with a range of stakeholders to further explore and advance the Action plan and issues raised in the Forum, such as the proposal and establishment process for new protected areas.
- Work with CEPA to disseminate information and guidelines referred to during the Forum sessions.

## Establish the continuing Protected Area Forum

- Appoint the Forum Steering Committee and establish a regular communication mechanism, so that the continuing National Protected Area Forum platform becomes operational.
- Establish the Forum secretariat to support the Forum.

## Plan for the next event

- Establish the Protected Area Forum as an annual event.
- Plan for the next event well in advance, using learnings from this event to make the next one even more positive for all concerned.
- Consider making this a longer event (3-4 days), with more time to explore issues in-depth.
- In recognition that all future events are likely to be a combination of online and face-to-face participation, employ dual strategies to fully engage and inform all participants.
- Combine high-level policy discussions with more field examples.
- Find ways to include more practitioners from community-based initiatives.



*Photo: Clive Hawigen | UNDP Papua New Guinea*

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