

Name of Protected Area: Jimi Valley National Park

Part 1: Basic information about the protected area

Table 1. Protected area information

Name, organisation and contact details for person(s) conducting the assessment <i>Person 1: Name, Organisation, Address, Email, Phone</i>	Warren Jano, SPREP, PO Box 6601, Boroko, National Capital District, wjano2009@gmail.com, +675 7378 0347, +675 7358 8867.
<i>Person 2: Name, Organisation, Address, Email, Phone</i>	
Today's Date	24/11/2016
Name (or names) of protected area	Jimi Valley National Park
Size of protected area (ha)	4180
PNG Code or number	93
World Database of Protected Areas site code (these codes can be found on www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/)	15797
What level or kind of protected area is it? (National Park, Wildlife Management Area, Sanctuary, Reserve, Locally Managed Marine Area etc)	National Park
IUCN Category	II
International protected area? e.g. World Heritage or Ramsar?	
Country	Papua New Guinea
Province/s	Western Highlands
District/s	Mul Baiyer Lumusa
Local level governments	Baiyer
Ward/s	Ruti Mange, ward 46
Nearest big town	Mt Hagen Town
Location of protected area (brief description)	Jimi Valley lies in the Western Highlands Province, but is near the boundary between East Sepik, Madang and Jiwaka Provinces. From Mt. Hagen the park is about a 3 to 4 hour drive (PMV fare K20.00/person). A new highway is being constructed from Mt Hagen to Madang and it will pass close to the protected area's boundary. Jimi Valley consists of a low metamorphic ridge and flat valley floor varying in altitude from 400m to 1000m. It is surrounded by high mountains rising to 2,700m, including Schrader Ranges (N), Sepik-Wahgi Divide (S), Bismarck Range (E) and Saw-Wapi Divide (W). The park includes rainforest and fringing riverine forest.
Map references	
When was the protected area gazetted or formally established?	31/10/1991 (reserved 11/4/86 under the Lands Act (Gaz.No 28). Declared as national park 31/10/91 (Gaz. No 93).
Reference for gazettal or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)	Gaz. No 93

Who owns the protected area? please enter Government Private Community/ customary landowners, private, Other (name) and include Clan name(s)	National government
Number of households living in the protected area	0
Population size within the protected area	0 (outside 300)
Who manages the protected area? (e.g. please enter government, customary landowners [add clan names] management committee [how many and what gender])	Clan members. There are no government officers.
Total number of staff (this means anyone working on the protected area in paid jobs – whether NGOs, community, rangers or customary landowners	0
<i>Temporary paid workers</i>	0
<i>Permanent paid workers</i>	0
Annual budget (US\$) – excluding staff salary costs	0
Operational (recurrent) funds	0
Project or special funds	500,000 kina was given by the local member of the national parliament (the Minister for Tourism) for Baiyer River Wildlife Sanctuary and Jimi Valley National Park and the money was used for fencing.
Reason for protected area establishment	Originally purchased by the colonial government for agriculture development but was recognised as being too rugged for this activity and was made available for gazettal as a National Park (RAPPAM 2006).
What are the main values for which the area is designated (Fill this out after data sheet 2)	Forest habitat, bird species and secret sites.
List the primary protected area management objectives (add lines if needed after the most important objectives): <i>Management objective 1</i>	To protect the forest and forest habitats.
<i>Management objective 2</i>	To protect birds and their habitats (Kurump Kona - means birds go to eat sand and salt).
<i>Management objective 3</i>	
Number of people involved in answering the assessment questions	3
Name/organisation/contact details of people participating in the assessment	<i>Doa Waiyer</i> and <i>Wanpis Waiyer</i> , customary landowners and caretakers of Jimi Valley; <i>Yangga Trepá</i> , Mul-Bayer Local Level Government, District Administration planner.
Customary landowners/other community; CEPA, Other national government agency; Provincial govt; local level govt; Protected area staff (anyone working on the protected area in paid jobs; NGO; Donors; External experts; Others	Customary landowners and caretakers, and LLG district administration.

Please note if assessment was carried out in association with a particular project, on behalf of an organisation or donor	SPREP through the PNG Protected Area Assessment Project, which is a component of the GEF Community-based Forest and Coastal Conservation and Resource Management Project in PNG.
---	--

Part 2: What makes this protected area special and important?

No text inserted

Table 2. Key values of the protected area

No.	Key values	Brief description	Note if endangered species or ecosystem (IUCN)
1	Forest trees and habitat	Jimi River flows through the national park. Additional information: the vegetation is complex lowland rainforest to lower montane forests (with mixed Araucaria, Klinki pine) and also includes grasslands (RAPPAM 2006)	
2	Birds and their habitat	Birds (birds of paradise - blue bird of paradise), parrots and cassowary. Additional information: Surveys indicate a rich fauna, typical of these rainforests, in good condition; includes Pesquet's parrot, little king and lesser birds-of-paradise (RAPPAM 2006).	Pesquet's parrot is vulnerable, the only member of its family, and endemic to hill and montane rainforest of New Guinea. It is listed on Appendix II of CITES. Blue bird of paradise – also vulnerable, endemic to PNG east of central ranges, in Appendix II.
3	Secret Site	There are two lakes and waterfalls – masalai live there. Birds come and eat the salty sand.	

Table 3. Checklist of values/benefits

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

How important is the protected area for each of the listed values/benefits?	Score (0,1,2, DK)	Comment
1. Biodiversity – the presence of many different kinds of plants, animals and ecosystems	2	Rich fauna including birds of paradise, cassowary and parrots (e.g. Pesquet's parrot) noted and important vegetation (e.g. mixed Araucaria and grassland).
2. Presence of rare, threatened, or endangered species (plants and animals)	2	Pesquet's parrot and the blue bird of paradise are vulnerable.
3. Ecosystems (e.g. wetlands, grasslands, coral reefs etc) that are rare because they have been cleared or destroyed in other areas	2	Lowland and lower montane rainforest are located within the national park.
4. Protecting clean, fresh water	2	Jimi River is on park boundary and it is important to protect the water in this river.
5. Sustaining important species in big enough numbers that they are able to survive here	2	The park size is relatively small, but we consider that it is important habitat for several species, particularly birds and some trees e.g. Klinki pine.
6. Providing a source of employment for local communities now	0	There is currently no employment provided by the park. However, employment is very important so that the people who are employed will provide protection for the area. Some money has been given by the local Member of Parliament to rebuild the Jimi Valley National Park. This will provide jobs for some local people.
7. Providing resources for local subsistence (food, building materials, medicines etc.)	2	Local people use the forest for hunting for food. Cassowary provide food and feathers and are used in bride price. The feathers of the blue bird of paradise are used in singsings and we trade these for money.

8. Providing community development opportunities through sustainable resource use	2	
9. Religious or spiritual significance (e.g. tambu places)	2	Maldap Waterfall and Knegai Waterfall, and Kengai Lake hinder people from entering this area. The spirits stop people from entering the area.
10. Plant species of high social, cultural, or economic importance	2	
11. Animal species of high social, cultural, or economic importance	2	Birds of paradise (feathers, food and for trade).
12. Attractive scenery	2	The park provides good scenery for tourists and bird watchers. There are waterfalls, rivers, forest habitats and birds.
13. Tourism now	1	Facilities that exist now cannot support tourism – everything is run down. In the past, the park had a lot of tourists who brought in money and work.
14. Potential value for tourism in the future	2	We would like more facilities and tourists. As the park is adjacent to a highway that is currently being developed, access will be quite good in the future and this will be important for encouraging tourists to visit.
15. Educational and/or scientific value	2	We would like a university to have people studying here.
16. Maintaining culture and tradition on customary land and passing this on to future generations	2	As a result of research, the information could be used to educate young people about their environment.

Part 3: What are the threats to the protected area?

Table 4: Threats to the protected area

- H** **High** significance threats are seriously degrading values. This means they are badly damaging some value –it might be a kind of animal or plant, or your traditional gardens
- M** **Medium** threats are having some negative impact – they are damaging values but not so badly
- L** **Low** threats are present but not seriously damaging values
- 0** **N/A** where the threat is not present in the protected area or where something is happening but is not threatening the values at all

Threat type	Score (H,M,L,0)	Notes
1.1 Housing and settlement	M	Now is medium but there is a highway development plan. A major road is going to be built and this will affect the park, resulting in more housing and settlement and impacts on the environment.
1.1a Population increase in the protected area community	L	There is 300 population outside the park, but it is a potential threat with population increase and greater resource utilisation by these people.
1.2 Commercial and industrial areas	0	
1.3 Tourism and recreation infrastructure	L	Tourism may be a threat later when the park develops in the future. Currently there is no threat.
2.1 Customary land owner and community gardens and small crops	0	
2.1a Drug cultivation	0	
2.1b Commercial plantations	0	
2.2 Wood and pulp plantations	0	
2.3 Livestock farming and grazing	L	There are wild cows in Jimi Valley.
2.4 Marine and freshwater aquaculture	0	
3.1 Oil and gas drilling	0	
3.2 Mining and quarrying	0	There is potential for the area to be mined for coal to provide charcoal.
3.3 Energy generation	0	
4.1 Roads and railroads (include road-killed animals)	M	There is a plan for road development and the impacts from these roads with increase the level of this threat.
4.2 Utility and service lines (e.g. electricity cables, telephone lines)	0	

Threat type	Score (H,M,L,0)	Notes
4.3 Shipping lanes	0	
4.4 Flight paths	0	
5.1 Hunting, killing and collecting terrestrial animals (including killing of animals as a result of human/wildlife conflict)	M	Currently hunting takes place in the park because there are no rangers, staff to maintain security and funds to maintain the park. This is Government land so people are scared to go in. Additional information: There may be potential for illegal wildlife trading.
5.2 Gathering terrestrial plants or plant products (non-timber)	L	There is some low level gathering of plants. The threat will increase as a result of population increase and improved road accessibility.
5.3a Logging and wood harvesting for local/customary use	L	Low now, but logging will become higher due to population increase. We need better management to manage the protected area.
5.3b Logging and wood harvesting – commercial logging	0	
5.4a Fishing, killing and harvesting aquatic resources for local/customary use	L	Knegai Creek has fish that are harvested for household consumption.
5.4b Fishing, killing and harvesting aquatic resources for commercial use	0	
6.1 Recreational activities and tourism	0	This may be a threat in the future, because now there are no tourist facilities, even though there is scenery and attractive animals, such as birds of paradise, to attract tourist.
6.2 War, civil unrest and military exercises	0	
6.3 Research, education and other work-related activities in protected areas	0	This may become a threat following the redevelopment of the park.
6.4 Activities of protected area managers (e.g. construction or vehicle use)	0	Currently there are no managers or rangers. However, when redevelopment happens there may be a low - medium threat to the PA. Additional information: redevelopment of the park's picnic facilities may lead to increased mud flowing into the river in the short term.
6.5 Deliberate vandalism, destructive activities or threats to protected area staff and visitors	0	Currently there is no vandalism, but this may happen in the future after the park is redeveloped.
7.1 Fire and fire suppression (including arson)	M	The last big fire was in 1997 and the park was burnt. The vegetation in the park (e.g. Araucaria) is prone to fire and may not regenerate.
7.2 Dams, hydrological modification and water management/use	0	
7.3a Increased fragmentation within protected area	0	
7.3b Isolation from other natural habitat (e.g. deforestation)	M	There are Timber Rights Permit areas in the area next to the park. There are outstanding payments that need to be paid to the landowners and if those are paid, then the area has potential for logging.
7.3c Other 'edge effects' on park values	0	
7.3d Loss of keystone species (e.g. top predators, pollinators etc.)	H	Cassowaries are declining in number.
8.1 Pest plants	H	Marmar (nihil grass [sensitive plant] and daka diwa (Piper).
8.1a Pest animals	0	
8.1b Diseases such as fungus or viruses that make native plants or animals sick	0	
8.2 Introduced genetic material (e.g. genetically modified organisms)	0	
9.1 Household sewage and urban waste water	0	
9.1a Sewage and waste water from protected area facilities	0	
9.2 Industrial, mining and military effluents	0	

Threat type	Score (H,M,L,0)	Notes
9.3 Agricultural and forestry effluents (e.g. excess fertilizers or pesticides)	0	
9.4 Garbage and solid waste	0	
9.5 Air-borne pollutants	0	
9.6 Excess energy (e.g. heat pollution, lights etc.)	0	
10.1 Volcanoes	0	
10.2 Earthquakes/Tsunamis	0	
10.3 Avalanches/Landslides	0	
10.4 Erosion and siltation/deposition (e.g. shoreline or riverbed changes)	0	
11.1 Habitat shifting and alteration	0	
11.2 Droughts	M	Droughts can encourage fire, which may impact severely on some of the forest species, such as Araucaria.
11.3 Temperature extremes	M	
11.4 Storms and flooding	0	
11.5 Coral bleaching	0	
11.6 Intrusion by saltwater into gardens etc.	0	
11.7 Sea level rise	0	
Other (please explain)	0	
12.1 Loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge and/or management practices	L	Lack of tourism has led to a decline in training and practice in traditional dances and songs and dressing up traditionally. The tourists used to provide an incentive for regular practice of our dances and other customs.
12.2 Natural deterioration of important cultural site values	L	
12.3 Destruction of cultural heritage buildings, gardens, sites etc.	L	
Other (please explain)		

Table 5. Worst threats and ways forward

Threat No.	Threat (Most significant first)	Threat number or name (copy no. from Table 4)	Nature of the threat, impact and how to reduce the impact.
1	Pest plants	8.1	Marmar and daka diwa (Piper) are the main species; develop a threat abatement plan and seek funding and assistance to implement the plan.
2	Hunting, killing and collecting terrestrial animals	5.1	Hunting occurs within the park; a staff/ranger presence is needed to stop this happening.
3	Isolation from other natural areas	7.3b	There is the potential for logging to take place next to the protected area; improved consultation with neighbours is necessary to minimise impacts on the park.

Part 4: What is the management like in the protected area?

Table 6. Management effectiveness scores, comments, next steps

Issue	Score (0,1,2,3, NA)	Comment	Next steps
1a. Legal status	3	The park was gazetted in 1991.	Enter into negotiations with the customary landowners and government to determine the future of the park and its potential status under the new national protected area legislation.
1b. Legal status			
2a. Protected area regulations	1	There are regulations relating to hunting, which is not permitted in the park, but there are major weaknesses due to lack of enforcement.	Improve enforcement so that regulations are adhered to. Develop a Management Plan to identify the agreed rules for the park.
2b. Protected area regulations			
3. Law enforcement	0	No enforcement takes place as there are no rangers/managers.	A ranger network is required to better manage the park and enforce the rules.
4. Protected area objectives	1	Not managed according to any stated objectives. Previously the Jimi Valley and Baiyer River Wildlife Sanctuary were managed together.	Revitalise the management systems for both Jimi Valley and Baiyer River, because they have the same objectives, districts, wards and culture and traditional relations (and there are only 16km apart).
5. Protected area design	2	The NP is relatively small and the boundary is relatively easily defined - the NP is a narrow 'tongue' of forest (3 km x 1.5 km), which extends along the Jimi River. Jimi River and Knegai Creek form two boundaries. On the east the boundary is at the edge of the agricultural land (RAPPAM 2006).	Consider reserve extension to include higher elevation areas and work to minimise the impact of logging that is proposed on adjacent areas.
6. Protected area boundaries	3	Boundaries are well known and defined. Money has been provided for fencing and fixing the roads.	
7. Management plan	0	No Management Plan.	Would like to have a Management Plan, with agreed objectives, targets and some funding to help implement the recommended actions.
7a. Planning process – input of rights' holders	0	Customary landowners have not had input into planning.	In the future, any management planning should involve the customary landowners.
7b. Planning process – regular plan review	0		
7c. Planning process – monitoring informs planning	0		
8. Regular work plan	0	No management plan and no regular work plan. Current activity would have a work plan	
9. Resource inventory	2	We have enough information and know the objectives of the PA and the people respect the park.	Knowledgeable people are needed to translate and simplify the existing information so it is more accessible to people in the village. The people need to know why they are protecting certain things.

Issue	Score (0,1,2,3, NA)	Comment	Next steps
10. Protection systems	0	No protection system is in place.	
11. Research and monitoring	0		
12. Resource management	0		
13a. Staff numbers	0	There are casual workers at present working on the redevelopment of the park	CEPA should employ the two existing volunteer workers (Wanpis and Mark) as permanent staff members to implement management directions and also implement project activities for both Jimi (Ruti) Valley National Park and Baiyer River Wildlife Sanctuary.
13b. Other people working on the protected area	1	Wanpis and Mark do work on a voluntary basis but have not been paid for the past four years.	CEPA should employ the two existing volunteer workers (Wanpis and Mark) as permanent staff members to implement management directions and also implement project activities for both Jimi (Ruti) Valley National Park and Baiyer River Wildlife Sanctuary.
14. Training and skills	0		
15. Current budget	0	There is no annual budget. However, PGK500,000 was given by the local member of parliament for development (capital works only).	
16. Security of budget	0		
17. Management of budget	NA		
18. Equipment	0	Equipment has been purchased by the customary landowners to redevelop the NP e.g. truck, front-loader and dump truck (it is unclear whether this belongs to the NP or LLG).	
19. Maintenance of equipment	NA		
20. Education and awareness	0		
21. Planning for land use or marine activities	0		
22. State and commercial neighbours	0		
23. Indigenous people/ Customary landowners	0	The customary landowners do not have much input into decision making as the national government makes all the decisions.	
24a. Impact on communities – open communication	0		
24b. Impact on communities – welfare programs	0		
24c. Impact on communities – landowner support	1	The customary landowners support the PA and the support is sufficient.	
25. Economic benefit	0		
26. Monitoring and evaluation	1	There is some observation and incidental monitoring of the NP by the customary landowners, but not planned or scientific monitoring of the values.	Will employ casual people as security and cleaners etc if the research centre is established.

Issue	Score (0,1,2,3, NA)	Comment	Next steps
27. Visitor facilities	0	There used to be good visitor facilities at the NP. Now there will be some redevelopment in the hope of attracting tourists back into the area. People are realising that they should have looked after the NP better as this generated a lot of money– when there were visitors, there was cash in the community.	
28. Commercial tourism operators	0	There are no commercial tourism operators. There is some thought for the local communities to organise commercial tourism.	
29. Fees	0	No tourists, no fees	
30. Condition of values	3	The general observation of the participating interview team was that the overall values of the NP are good.	Undertake a more scientific assessment of the values of the NP.
30a. Condition of values – basis for assessment	0	The assessment is based on observation only.	
30b. Condition of values – threat abatement	0	There are no threat abatement plans in place.	
30c. Condition of values – routine park management	0	There are no activities to maintain the values that are a routine part of park management.	

Part 5: Condition and trends of protected area values

Table 7. Values, condition and trend

Key value (from Table 2)	Condition Score (VG, G, F, P, DK)	Trend Score (I, S, D, DK)	Information source and justification for Assessment and HOW the condition can be IMPROVED
Forest and rest habitats	VG	S	Generally people do not go into the area, and it is good condition; improve planning, management and enforcement
Birds	VG	S	Many birds including birds or paradise, parrots, cassowary; no certain of the condition due to lack of research
Secret sites	VG	S	People don't go there but the condition is thought to be very good

Table 8. Recommendations and ways forward

1.	2.	3.
Funding is needed to revitalize and rehabilitate Jimi Valley National Park.	Management of Jimi Valley National Park must be amalgamated with the management of Baiyer River Wildlife Sanctuary and Wanpis and Mark should be given permanent staff status	Develop a management plan for the national park, in consultation with the customary landowners.

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

	Strengths	Challenges
1	High biodiversity values and is comparatively undisturbed and in very good condition.	Road construction can bring many new challenges included vulnerability of the area to new illegal settlers, illegal hunting and gathering, wildlife trading and road kill. Additional law enforcement is important in the immediate future.
2	High tourism potential as it is adjacent to a new highway being constructed, and new facilities are being built. Tourists did visit in the past and would be welcomed back by landholders.	Without management planning , there is a risk that the park might not be ready to spend money on the key priorities. Follow-up funds for maintenance and law enforcement are needed.
3	Project funding provided by the local member who is the Minister for Tourism and he has allocated K500,000 for works on the park.	Lack of accessible information on the national park values.

References

Rappam 2006

Below: map of Jimi Valley National Park

