



**CONSERVATION
AND ENVIRONMENT
PROTECTION AUTHORITY**

PAPUA NEW GUINEA BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE FUND Stakeholder Consultation Report

Key themes and findings from stakeholder
interviews for the Papua New Guinea Biodiversity
and Climate Fund

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Papua New Guinea Biodiversity and Climate Fund

Stakeholder Consultation Report

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Table of Contents

1. Background and Context	4
2. Interview Demographics	5
3. Interview Methodology	6
4. Key themes and Findings	7
5. Next Steps	10
6. Annex A: Interviewees	11
7. Annex B: Interview Guide	16



Photo: UNDP Papua New Guinea.

1. Background and Context



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) of Papua New Guinea (PNG), is implementing the Global Environment Facility funded project on the “Sustainable Financing of Papua New Guinea’s Protected Area Network” project. This seven-year project aims to support the Government of Papua New Guinea to (i) secure stable and long-term financial resources for the management of protected areas across the country; (ii) ensure that these financial resources are allocated to contribute to improving effectiveness of the management of the protected areas across the country; and (iii) ensure that they are managed cost-effectively and efficiently with respect to their conservation and other complementary development objectives.

A component of this project aims to establish and mobilise funding for a national, independent Biodiversity Fund to support the sustainable financing of the country’s Protected Area objectives. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

has been contracted by the project to conduct a series of assessments and plans to support the establishment of the Fund. As part of this process, stakeholder interviews have been conducted between July 2020 and October 2020 to gain an understanding of national expectations and needs. The following report summarizes key themes and findings from these interviews.

2. Interviewee Demographics



A list of proposed interviewees was generated in consultation with UNDP and CEPA. It reflected an intention to obtain input from a cross-section of representatives in the Government, civil society, and business sectors. This list was augmented by reaching out to teams from related projects, and via additional consultations with UNDP. As interviews progressed, the list expanded as interviewees suggested other individuals for inclusion.

Prospective interviewees were contacted by members of the project team, in many cases with a letter of introduction signed by the Managing Director of CEPA. Approximately 20 of the organizations or individuals who were contacted did not respond to the request for an interview.

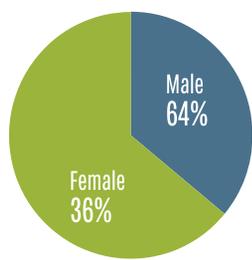
The project carried out 38 interview sessions and consultations to date, reaching 50 interviewees.

To ensure a range of perspectives, the team used three demographic considerations – gender (male/female); sector; and nationality (Papua New Guineans currently living in PNG; Expatriates living in PNG; and people outside PNG; Figure 1)

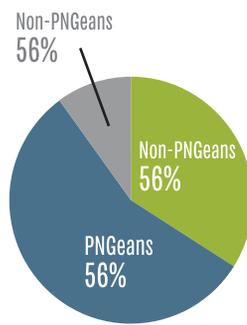
A list of all interviewees is included as Annex A.



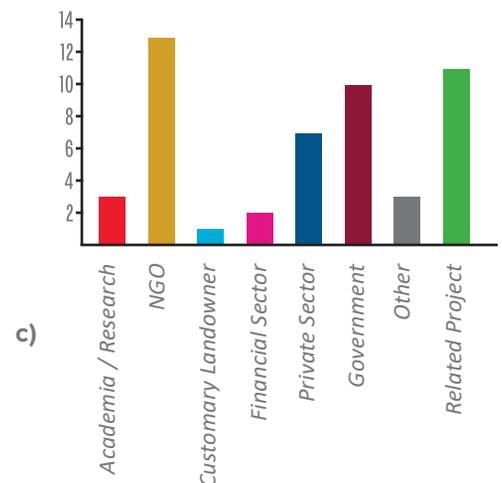
Photo: UNDP Papua New Guinea | Michael Sembenombo



a)



b)



c)

3. Interview Methodology

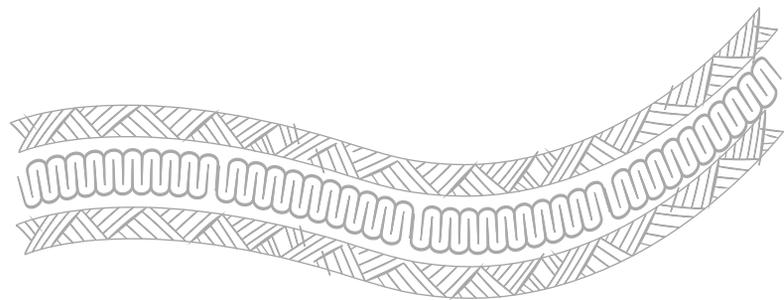


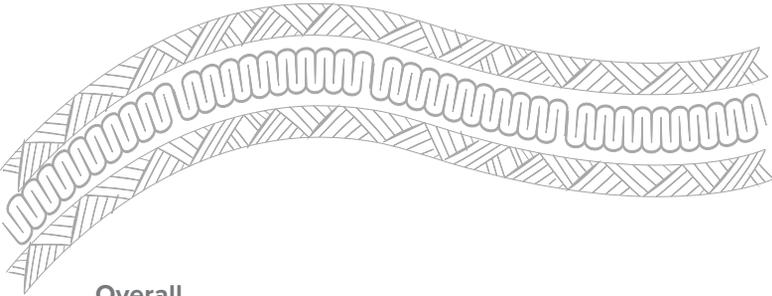
Photo: UNDP Papua New Guinea | Ted Mamu.

The project team developed an interview guide to facilitate the flow of the discussion and ensure key topics were covered, while still allowing interviewers the flexibility to add questions in the moment, thereby promoting conversation. The interview guide (see Annex B) covered similar topics for all interviewees, with additional tailored questions for specific audiences. In cases where the interviewee was being consulted for specific subject matter expertise, the interviewers used a customized set of questions. The interviews were designed to be flexible and to engage the interviewees in conversation to learn as much as possible about the opportunities and constraints for creating a Biodiversity Fund in the country and allow interviewees to raise specific topics of interest. The team prepared a short PowerPoint presentation with an overview on Biodiversity Funds, and shared that with interviewees if they required more background on Biodiversity Funds before getting started with the interview. Even in cases where the PowerPoint presentation was not used, the interviewers generally gave at least a brief verbal overview of Biodiversity Funds.

Interviews were conducted in person in Papua New Guinea when possible, and otherwise by Zoom. Interviews typically took 45 minutes to an hour, with a few cases going beyond an hour due to the flow of discussion. In a few cases, due to limited internet connectivity, interviewees agreed to provide their responses in writing.

Whenever possible, the project team had two team members on the interview, to ensure two sets of ears, and provide a back-up in case of loss of internet connectivity. This process also allowed for more efficient note taking. Interviewers then combined their notes into a single record of each conversation. While it was not stated explicitly in the interviews, anonymity was implied, and the team has reported input and feedback in general terms rather than attributed to any one individual.

4. Key themes and findings



Overall

Consistently throughout the interviews, people expressed a strong desire for a Biodiversity and Climate Fund and, for the most part, willingness to participate in and support the process. Almost unanimously, stakeholders outside Government expressed a strong desire to see the Biodiversity Fund set up as an independent institution, with Government involvement but not Government control. Some Government stakeholders expressed the same preference. Most interviewees stressed the importance of transparency, accountability, good governance, and fiduciary responsibility being embedded in the Fund's design. Some expressed concerns that the development of a Fund within the country could make independence difficult and suggested exploring creating the Fund outside the country. However, this was a minority view as most participants desired to see the creation of a Fund within the country. Again, each person stressed the need to design the Fund to safeguard its independence by developing appropriate structures and design considerations. Interviewees also highlight the need to structure the Fund to ensure, to the extent possible, that Government could not gain control over the Fund or its resources.

In general, stakeholders expressed a desire for a Fund with a broad scope, one that could make grants and fund programs in biodiversity conservation, climate mitigation and adaptation, water supply (quality and quantity) and watershed management, and sustainable land and resource management, with sustainable livelihoods a key consideration throughout the grant-making program. The importance of integrating the needs and rights of customary landowners was emphasized repeatedly. The importance of hiring professional investment managers was emphasized by many interviewees. Interviewees generally believed that assets of the Fund should be invested offshore to ensure fund preservation but believed that ideally the Fund should be established within PNG, but with a robust governance system to achieve the desired level of transparency and accountability.

More specific findings follow.

Value of a Biodiversity Fund

- General consensus that a Biodiversity Fund would be good for PNG.
- There has not been adequate funding for biodiversity conservation and it is greatly needed. PAs currently, for the most part, have to find their own funding and few have succeeded in doing so.
- Significant levels of unplanned and unsustainable development activities in PNG prevented the country from achieving the Aichi targets for conservation of 17% of land and 10% of marine territory by 2020, and have jeopardized the country's ability to achieve the Agenda 2030 goals.
- Economic and social pressures arising from population growth have put pressure on natural resources and created significant poverty issues.
- There has been little opportunity for a consolidated civil society voice with respect to the environment, and the Biodiversity Fund could provide a vehicle for that.
- Many communities would like to manage their land sustainably, but have trouble withstanding offers from logging companies or other industries. A fund can help to provide economic benefits and incentives for conservation. People felt that the Fund can help to create opportunities for ecosystem service payments that would allow people to have conservation as a realistic economic alternative.
- Having an independent Biodiversity Fund could attract funding from bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as (voluntary) offset funds from the private sector, and potentially be a vehicle for managing REDD+ funds and other climate funds.
- A Biodiversity Fund could also have an important role to play once a biodiversity offset regulation is completed; required payments could be made to the Fund for long-term management and oversight.
- Having a Fund that could be flexible and respond to the different conservation challenges, both terrestrial and marine, was considered very important. People raised concerns over the failure of Mama Graun and wanted to make sure that the any new Fund would avoid the problems encountered by that organization. Specifically, interviewees indicated that Mama Graun's challenges came



from (a) failure to capitalize the fund early on, including the loss of anticipated funding from a donor program; (b) leadership that did not adequately focus on, or have the skills for, fundraising; (c) changes in leadership that interrupted organizational momentum.

Governance Structure

- The Government does not inspire a sense of trust. There is little confidence that money flowing through a Government-controlled fund would reach the intended beneficiaries.
- The experience of the PNG Sustainable Development Fund (PNGSDF) adds to the concern that the Government might try to gain control of the Biodiversity and Climate Fund's resources. Learnings from the PNGSDF are two-fold: on one hand, the legal structure was able to withstand a challenge by Government to obtain the assets, because the Fund was legally registered in Singapore and therefore subject to the Singapore court system. Similarly, the fact that the assets were held offshore added another layer of protection. At the same time, though, it is important to note that the Fund's failure to make distributions to the beneficiaries is what prompted the Government's effort to try to seize the assets. Finding a legal and governance structure that protects the Fund's assets is important. It is also important for the Biodiversity and Climate Fund to establish a transparent and consistent system for funding projects and effectively demonstrate its impact and accomplishments, so that the public does not have cause to question whether it is fulfilling its mission.
- Multiple people expressed that offshore registration of the Fund might provide the greatest level of security that Government would not intervene in the Fund. At a minimum, interviewees felt that the financial assets should be located overseas to instill an acceptable level of confidence that the assets were secure. There was a mix of opinions on whether offshore registration would be politically viable.
- The value of creating a truly PNG institution was expressed repeatedly, with the caveat that independence and transparency must be guaranteed. Several interviewees indicated a preference for an in-country Secretariat, managed by well-qualified people of various professional backgrounds.
- Many people saw value in creating an independent Board in which Government had a voice, but not control, and in which the Biodiversity and Climate Fund's strategic plan was aligned with Governmental conservation priorities.
- Most interviewees stressed the importance of a Board composed of experienced, well-respected, and knowledgeable people.

Scope

- A broader scope that includes climate change (mitigation and adaptation), will promote collaboration between CEPA and CCDA, reduce overall management costs, and expand funding options.

- Diversified funding sources and mechanisms will be important for the financial success of the Fund.
- A broad scope can include clearly segregated sub-accounts for different priorities, possibly with different steering committees for each sub-account if necessary. It was recognized that the management systems would need to be flexible enough to respond to donor/client needs.
- The Fund should support both terrestrial and marine community conservation and protected areas.
- Everything is linked – biodiversity, climate, water, livelihoods – so the Fund's scope should reflect that.
- From the community perspective, the focus is on identified needs – water supply, education, healthcare, infrastructure, and income generation. It will not matter whether the focus is climate or biodiversity, as long as they are receiving benefits thereby offering opportunities for identifying nature based solutions to specific challenges.
- Some people, including those within CEPA, expressed the opinion that the Fund should be narrowly focused on biodiversity and protected areas, not REDD+ or other climate change programs. However, this was not a universal opinion of Government interviewees; some, even within CEPA, advocated for a more expansive scope.

Grant-making

- Consider ways to produce a sustainable revenue stream to communities that are demonstrating conservation outcomes according to a plan, rather than requiring them to re-apply for a series of grants.
- Budget realistically. There is a high cost of doing business due to transportation challenges, and staffing challenges due to internal mobility as well as people pursuing opportunities outside PNG (e.g. Australia).
- Working with Provincial governments has been an effective source of funding for conservation linked to community well-being, and such partnerships can be valuable.
- Effective grant-making programs will need to consider community needs. This can include education, health, infrastructure, and other well-being considerations. Funding should be linked to conservation outcomes, but should look at what will really benefit communities and what those communities need.
- Grant-making programs will need to recognize the current limited capacity of communities to manage grants, financial flows, and reporting, and be designed with this in mind. A common theme was that the Fund should support local community organizations and programs but, to do that, these groups would require greater project planning and implementation capabilities. Capacity building is an issue. The Biodiversity and Climate Fund will need to a focus on building capacity among communities and land managers in rural areas.
- The grant-making program will need to be designed to meet donor reporting expectations, while also allowing for the capacity of local communities and small NGOs.
- Questions of equity and fairness, in allocating funds to

communities, will be important to consider, and challenging to navigate.

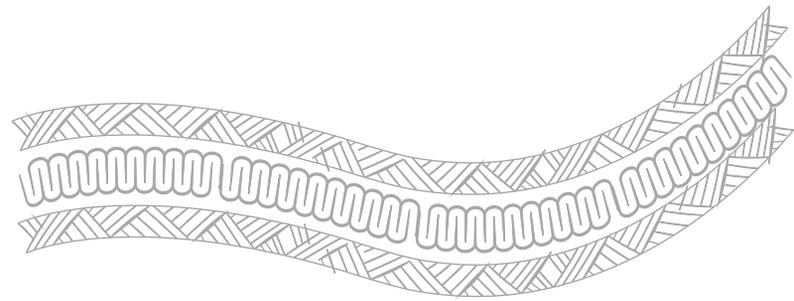
Funding Sources and Financing Mechanisms

- Interviewees mentioned, or were receptive to, a range of potential sources of funding and financing mechanisms (from donors, private sector, government).
- Many interviewees expressed concern that multilateral agencies would not fund biodiversity programs in PNG unless there was a transparent institution to manage the funding.
- Private sector interviewees from the natural resources industries (oil and gas, mining) expressed a willingness to be engaged in the creation of the Biodiversity and Climate Fund, an interest in remaining informed, and general support for the concept. All were cautious to avoid making any express funding commitments, but none ruled out the possibility of eventually providing financial support to the Fund. Private sector interviewees also expressed interest in participating in the process of creating the Fund and thought private sector representation on an advisory committee would be beneficial. Some companies were aware that the Fund could play a role as manager of offset funds and wanted to learn more about how the Fund would be structured and managed.



Photo: UNDP Papua New Guinea | Ted Mamu.

5. Next Steps



- Input from interviewees is being used to formulate the preliminary list of suggested Advisory Committee members, for UNDP and CEPA consideration.
- Interview findings will be used as the basis for the draft Vision, Mission, Scope, and Objectives of the Fund, to be presented to the Advisory Committee for refinement.

6. Annex A: Interviewees

Name Position/ Organization	Sector	Date	Interviewers	Format
<p>Simon Saulei Professor and Dean of Biology, University of Papua New Guinea</p> <p>Graham Sem Head of Environmental Science and Geography, University of Papua New Guinea</p>	Academia / Research	October 8, 2020	Biatus Bito	In person
<p>Vojtech Novotny Director, New Guinea Binatang Research Center</p>	Academia/ Research	September 3, 2020	Ray Victurine and Katy Mathias	Zoom
<p>Omorosi Asi Chairman and landowner, Kae Association of Koiari</p>	Customary landowner	October 7, 2020	Biatus Bito	In person
<p>Mike Hallinan Chief Risk Officer, Bank South Pacific</p>	Financial Sector	October 14, 2020	Ray Victurine, Katy Mathias, and Biatus Bito	Zoom
<p>Reg Monagi Chair, Numbawan Superfund</p>	Financial Sector	October 7, 2020	Ray Victurine, Barry Spengel, and Katy Mathias	Zoom
<p>Benside Thomas Manager, Terrestrial PAs, CEPA</p>	Government	October 6, 2020	Biatus Bito	In person
<p>Bernard Suruman Manager, Marine PAs, CEPA</p>	Government	October 6, 2020	Biatus Bito	In person

<p>Derek Warakai Director, Disaster, Environment and Climate Change, East Sepik Provincial Government</p> <p>Desmond Vagelo Director, Environment and Climate Change Unit, West New Britain Provincial Government</p> <p>Simon Simoi Director, Policy and Planning, Madang Provincial Government</p>	Government	September 11, 2020	Biatus Bito	In person
<p>Gerard Natara GIS Manager, CEPA</p>	Government	September 17, 2020	Biatus Bito	In person
<p>Moira Lunge Senior Exploration Geologist, Geological Survey Division, Mineral Resource Authority</p>	Government	October 13, 2020	Biatus Bito	In person
<p>Dr. Ruth Turia Director, Forest Policy and Planning Directorate PNG Forest Authority, National Forest Services</p>	Government	November 4, 2020	Ray Victurine, Katy Mathias and Biatus Bito	Zoom
<p>Chris Stone Managing Director, Global Conservation Fund, Conservation International</p>	NGO	September 23 & 28, 2020	Ray Victurine and Katy Mathias	Zoom
<p>Egide Cantin Retired, The Nature Conservancy</p>	NGO	October 26, 2020	Ray Victurine and Katy Mathias	Zoom

Lisa Dabek Director, Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program	NGO	August 5, 2020	Ray Victurine and Katy Mathias	Zoom
Maxine Anjiga Executive Director PNG Center for Locally Managed Marine Areas	NGO	September 16, 2020	Ray Victurine and Katy Mathias	Zoom
Michelle McGeorge CEO, Port Moresby Nature Park Brett Smith Curator, Port Moresby Nature Park	NGO	September 8, 2020	Ray Victurine and Katy Mathias	Zoom
Modi Pontio Associate Director, Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program	NGO	September 29, 2020	Ray Victurine, Lester Seri, and Katy Mathias	Zoom
Paul Barker Director, Institute of National Affairs	NGO	September 10, 2020	Ray Victurine and Katy Mathias	Zoom
Peter Bosip Director, Centre for Environmental Law and Community Rights (CELCOR)	NGO	September 8, 2020	Ray Victurine and Katy Mathias	Zoom
Pamela Avusi Team Leader, National Programs Peter Dam Technical Advisor FORCERT	NGO	September 10, 2020	Ray Victurine, Katy Mathias, Lester Seri, Biatus Bitu, and Grace Dom	Zoom
Rick Hamilton Melanesia Director Cosmas Apelis Senior Forest Officer The Nature Conservancy	NGO	October 21, 2020	Ray Victurine and Katy Mathias	Zoom
Wenceslaus Magun National Coordinator, MAKATA Association	NGO	October 2, 2020	Biatus Bito	In person

Robert Aisi Former PNG Ambassador to the United Nations	Other	October 21, 2020	Ray Victurine and Katy Mathias	Zoom
Guy Dutson Principal Consultant, The Biodiversity Consultancy	Other	September 14, 2020	Katy Mathias and Stephen McCormick	Zoom
Ian Clarke Retired, Dentons	Other	August 6, 2020	Ray Victurine	Zoom
Jane Mogina Exxon Mobil	Private Sector	July 27, 2020	Ray Victurine and Katy Mathias	Zoom
Lucinda Gulluman- Kisip Senior Sustainable Development Manager, Oil Search Ltd.	Private Sector	October 28, 2020	Katy Mathias and Stephen McCormick	Zoom
Anna Madgwick Manager, Social Investment & National Engagement (PNG) Stuart Roseby Manager, Environmental Permitting and Projects (PNG) Newcrest Mining Co.	Private Sector	November 11, 2020	Ray Victurine and Katy Mathias	Zoom
Banak Gamul Biodiversity Supervisor, Safety, Health & Environment Julia Hagonia Biodiversity Advisor Novita Khanim Manager, Safety, Security, Health and Environment ExxonMobil	Private Sector	November 10, 2020	Katy Mathias and Stephen McCormick	Zoom

Katie Eberle Senior Climate Change Advisor, CCDCA, and Head of Partnerships for Government of Australia Department of the Environment and Energy Achala Abeysinghe Jisu Min Global Green Growth Initiative Hitofumi Abe UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Forestry	Related Project	August 10, 2020	Andrew Rylance, Ray Victurine and Katy Mathias Zoom	Zoom
Alex Koch Ludwig Liagre Natural Strategies	Related Project	August 25, 2020	Ray Victurine and Katy Mathias	Zoom
Fiona Leverington Independent Consultant	Related Project	September 10, 2020	Katy Mathias	Zoom
Maurice Knight Cardno Corp, Chief of Party for USAID Biodiversity Project	Related Project	October 6, 2020	Ray Victurine and Katy Mathias	Zoom
Philip Summers/ Cowling	Related Project	October 8, 2020	Ray Victurine	Skype
Saina Jeffery Local Terrestrial Biodiversity Expert, CEPA-JICA Project	Related Project	October 13, 2020	Biatus Bito	In person
Yolarnie Amepou Director, Piku Biodiversity Network Inc	Related Project	October 26, 2020		Questionnaire

Gunther Joku, Managing Director, CEPA, was consulted as part of a group discussion on September 14, 2020. Ambroise Brenier, Lester Seri, Biatus Bito and Grace Dom attended in person; Ray Victurine and Katy Mathias participated via Zoom. The discussion covered many of the topics on the questionnaire, but additional discussions will be needed.

Kay Kalim, Director, Sustainable Environment Program, CEPA, was consulted as part of the project inception meeting and via multiple email exchanges with the team since then.

7. Annex B: Interview Guide



Background – this guide is intended for an interview setting. Its purpose is to prompt a conversation. Therefore it is not necessary to stick to the questions verbatim, especially as there may be a need for follow-up questions, and some questions may be covered elsewhere or may not be needed. Comments in the margins provide suggested prompts or follow-on questions.

Date:
Interviewer(s):
Method (Zoom, in person, other):

Interviewee(s)
Name:
Organization:
Position/Title:

Introductory

Introduction of interviewer(s)

Explanation of the project.

We are from the WCS and are working in coordination with UNDP and the Government to explore the creation of a Biodiversity Fund that could eventually provide funding for biodiversity conservation and protected area management. The Fund would be created to operate independently of, but supportive of government, and be able to receive funds from a variety of sources to give out as grants or payments for ecosystem services. In fact, it would be able to deploy a variety of financing mechanisms to support conservation outcomes.

We wanted to talk to you today to ask a few questions and get your ideas and input about the establishment of this Biodiversity Fund. We do not expect this to take more than around 45 minutes to an hour.

Introduction of the interviewee(s) – ask them to please give their background and current role.

Before we get started - are you at all familiar with Biodiversity Funds? Would more background be helpful?

If yes, either give a verbal overview or show the background slides.

General questions

Do you think it would be beneficial to have a Biodiversity Fund in the country focused on the conservation of biodiversity? Why or why not?

If you think a Biodiversity Fund could be beneficial, what would be some of the priorities of that Fund? In other words, what kind of program or activities might the Fund support?

A Biodiversity Fund can either have a limited or a relatively broad purpose. For example, it could be limited to protected areas and biodiversity conservation or it could have a broader purpose, potentially including all matters relating to the PNG natural environment (for example, land use, watershed management, climate change)?

If limited to biodiversity

What do you see as the potential benefits for a narrower scope?

What should it be limited to?

If broader,

What do you see as the potential benefits for a broader scope?

What should be the priority funding areas, what kind of activities should it be funding, and who should be the principal beneficiaries?

How do you think this new Biodiversity Fund could help PNG reach its conservation goals? What are the biggest benefits it can provide?

What do you see as the biggest challenges or issues related to creating a national level Biodiversity Fund? Can you identify any issues or concerns related to creating this Biodiversity Fund independent of government? What should we take into account moving forward?

Do you think the Fund should be established legally in the country or offshore? (in case we find the question appropriate given knowledge of the interviewee)

What would be the benefits and challenges of creating a larger conservation fund that included biodiversity conservation, climate finance, watershed management as well as sustainable livelihoods?

What do you see as the three or four best potential sources of funding for biodiversity conservation and protected area finance for PNG?

Who are the key stakeholders that you think need to have a voice in the creation of this new Fund? Who do you think we should talk to?

Also explain here the creation of a steering committee – how the process will work and ask about potential members of the Committee.

What are the key elements that need to be present for this Fund to be successful?

Specific stakeholder questions

National, Provincial, District government agencies

What are your conservation/natural resource goals and what is your strategy/plan to achieve them?

What are your biggest challenges in achieving these goals?

How could a BF help you achieve your conservation goals? What are the conditions required for this BF to be helpful?

Communities/Customary Owners

What are your conservation/natural resource goals and what is your strategy/plan to achieve them?

What are your biggest challenges in achieving these goals?

How could a BF help you achieve your conservation goals? What are the conditions required for this BF to be helpful?

Treasury/Finance

There are a number of potential funding mechanisms for biodiversity and Biodiversity Funds. From your perspective, what are the potential benefits/challenges to the following mechanisms:

- Sovereign bond issue tied to conservation or climate

outcomes (e.g. Green, Blue, Climate bond)

- Taxes or levies earmarked for conservation expenses (on what activities, on what basis)
- REDD+ activities
- Payment for Ecosystem Services, in which owners of natural resources are compensated by users/beneficiaries for maintaining these natural resources
- Compensatory payments from the private sector for residual environmental impact from mining, timber, oil & gas, and other extractive activities, after avoidance, minimization, rehabilitation and restoration efforts have been made, and/or to support the costs of new protected areas created to offset the environmental impact
- Concessionary loans to PNG with requirements for conservation or climate outcomes

Potential Donors

What are your programmatic and funding priorities in PNG?

What criteria influence your funding decisions?

What conditions would need to be in place for your organization to partner with a Biodiversity Fund to fulfill your objectives in PNG?

What kind of funding might you be able to provide? Funds for a grants program? A longer-term sinking fund? Capitalization of an endowment? Other types of funding? Do you have limitations or constraints on the types of funding you can provide?

Private Sector

What are your investment objectives in PNG?

How (if at all) does sustainable management of natural resources affect your enterprise's strategy?

Does your organization currently support conservation initiatives? If "yes," why, and what form has that support taken?

Under what conditions would your company partner with, or utilize the services of a Biodiversity Fund to achieve your objectives in PNG? Do you have any constraints in engaging with a BF?

[For financial institutions only.] What level of financial return, if any, would your institution expect from its involvement?

- o No return – our participation would be a contribution
- o Zero return – return of capital but no interest
- o Below-market – would accept lower rates of financial return for achieving other environmental or social outcomes
- o Market – expect to be fully compensated for risk

Academia

What do you see as the highest conservation priorities for PNG?

What has been working effectively, and what challenges do you see?

NGOs

What do you see as the highest conservation priorities for PNG?

What approaches have been working effectively, and what challenges do you see?

What have you seen as donor priorities?

Wrap-up

What questions do you have for us?

Discussion of next steps, if any

Thanks for participation



Photo: UNDP Papua New Guinea