



PAPUA NEW GUINEA PROTECTED AREA FORUM 2022

INTRODUCTION

The first National Protected Areas Forum was held in June 2021 in Port Moresby, organized by the Conservation Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Forum is an important platform for the discussion of important issues and an opportunity to communicate conservation and protected areas matters. Last year, attendance was limited due to existing national COVID restrictions, but the forum was livestreamed and watched by people across the country and from overseas. The full report of the 2021 Protected Area Forum is available here. This year, it is intended to expand the participation and duration of the Forum, bring more conservation stakeholders together for a longer period to exchange experiences, discuss challenges and propose solutions.

The Forum will be held over two weeks between 30th May and 10th June 2022 in Port Moresby. The first week will be dedicated to discussion around the five key pillars in the Protected Area Policy, namely:

- Governance and management
- Sustainable livelihoods for communities
- Effective and adaptive biodiversity management
- Managing the Protected Area network
- Sustainable and equitable financing

A day will be dedicated to each pillar with one session in the morning and one session in the afternoon. Protected Area partners are invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to lead specific sessions. Guidance and the template for EOI submissions are included below. The deadline for EOIs is 14th April 2022.

As with last year, there will also be a dedicated area for organisations to display their organisational and conserva-

tion achievements. All organisations leading sessions will be allocated a display booth at the forum. No additional financial support is provided for printing or transporting materials.

On Sunday 5th June, all participants will be invited to join World Environment Day celebrations organised by CEPA in Port Moresby. More details on the celebrations will be provided at the start of the Protected Area Forum.

The second week, starting 6th June, will consist of a training programme on Protected Area Management and Financing. A detailed schedule of the training will be circulated to participants in advance of the Protected Area Forum. As an overview the week's schedule will consist of the following:

Day	Training Event
Mon 6 th June	Protected Area Bill and regulations: What is included and what it means for your Protected Area?
Tues 7 th June	Protected Area establishment, planning and governance
Wed 8 th June	Protected Area management and monitoring
Thurs 9 th June	Business planning for Protected Areas
Fri 10 th June	Resource mobilisation for Protected Areas

Proceedings will close on Friday 10th June at 4.00pm. Participants from outside Port Moresby will be supported to fly back to their provinces on Saturday 11th June.



Participants of the 2021 National Protected Area Forum

GUIDANCE ON EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST APPLICATIONS TO LEAD SPECIFIC SESSIONS

Eligibility: Any legally registered non-profit organisation in Papua New Guinea that either currently manages a Protected Area, supports Protected Area Management actions or a prospective Protected Area may apply. Applicants may be asked to verify their credentials. Individuals or profit-making organisations are not eligible but may participate in other proposals as a partner.

Guiding Principles for leading sessions:

- Each session should last for a maximum of three (3) hours including any breaks;
- Sessions should be interactive and allow substantial time for discussion;
- Sessions should be grounded in i) the respective pillar objectives under the Protected Area Policy, and ii) draw upon the discuss and results from the 2021 Forum discussions under the respective pillar.
- The focus of the session should be on identifying and supporting solutions to common challenges;
- Sessions should address nationally-significant issues common across all Protected Areas. Session leads and panellists should avoid just giving a presentation of their work or their site. It is an opportunity to have a much wider discussion;

- Sessions should address both terrestrial and marine issues; and,

- Finally, sessions should aim to arrive at practical, actionable solutions to common challenges.

Funding availability: The Sustainable Financing of PNG's Protected Area network project will organise flights, accommodation and standard per diems for a maximum of three (3) people from the proposing organisation for the duration of the Forum. All proposed team members should be involved in leading the session. Any specific session materials (ie. Pens, paper etc) requested should be itemised on the applications and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Funding of equipment is not permitted.

EOI application: An application form should be completed following the template below. Applying organisations are asked to explicitly identify which pillar session they would like to lead. There a total of two sessions per pillar limited to a maximum of three hours. Please consider coffee/comfort breaks as well as innovative ways to engage stakeholders and show linkages between protected areas. There will also be a display area that participants can visit between sessions and during breaks.

Deadline for submission: The deadline for EOI submissions is 14th April 2022.



OVERVIEW OF PILLAR THEMES AND OUTCOMES:

PILLAR ONE: PROTECTED AREAS

Governance and management arrangements is focussed on how the complex network of protected areas in PNG will work, and how people from many different communities and institutions can best cooperate to share this management.

The **desired outcomes** for this pillar are:

- The PNG Protected Area Network consists of a range of protected area types which form the cornerstone of an integrated approach to conserve nature and provide resilience to climate change on both land and sea. The Network is established and governed to conserve the country's outstanding biodiversity and provide benefits for local communities, customary landowners and all our people.
- The Network is built and managed with free, prior and informed consent of customary landowners.
- National, Provincial, District and Local Level Governments provide effective legislation, policy and institutional support and assist with capacity development and practical management for all protected areas.
- Local, National and International partners assist with sustainable financial and practical support, including capacity building, training and mentoring.

For this Forum, two themes of Pillar One should be discussed.

Protected area types: A range of new protected area types were proposed in the PA Policy. These have been adjusted slightly after public consultation, and are presented in the management guideline "Protected area types in PNG". Note that these protected area types will not be operational until the PA Bill has been passed, however CEPA has undertaken considerable work in proposing how these might apply to existing protected areas. There will be full discussions and negotiations with customary landowners before these decisions are made.

The new protected area types are designed to reflect PNG's culture and legal system and to ensure that 'conservation

PNG way' can be implemented, while at the same time being compatible with the international standards for protected area categories and with the approach to governance types. The proposed types can be used in conjunction with zoning systems and management plans to deliver locally-relevant mechanisms to prioritise conservation outcomes while also contributing to cultural renewal and community well-being.

Support for management committees: Management committees and management boards will remain as key mechanisms for managing protected areas in PNG, providing local, devolved community-based management. However, many management committees are not functional, and most are requesting further support and capacity building. There is currently little coordinated knowledge about which committees are being supported. Many committees have stated they would like to learn from other places and be better networked.

Recommendations have been made in the Protected Area Policy, the Management Effectiveness Study and a Guideline on Capacity building for Management Committees, but there has been no coordinated action to review, discuss and implement these actions.

PILLAR TWO: SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR COMMUNITIES

The **desired outcomes** for this pillar are:

- In recognition of the PNG Constitution, customary practices for enhancing and protecting the environment and traditional livelihoods are strengthened through protected area establishment and management.
- The support and enthusiasm of customary landowners for Protected Areas are nurtured and encouraged through government recognition and through practical assistance. For this Forum, two themes of Pillar Two should be discussed.

Principles for livelihood projects: A number of summits, evaluations and documents have expressed some clear principles as to how working with communities in PNG should be undertaken. Panellists will be invited to contribute in advance to a list of such principles, and to discuss their experiences (successes and failures) and learnings.



Support for communities to undertake conservation initiatives and to manage sustainably: The meeting will discuss how actions can be implemented and how people across the country can better work together to improve management on the ground. In particular, the discussion will focus on how sustainable activities and practices can be supported and built into local practices.

PLLAR THREE: EFFECTIVE AND ADAPTIVE BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

The **desired outcome** for this pillar is:

- Effective and adaptive management supports the network and ensures that the values of the Protected Areas are maintained to the highest possible extent.

For this Forum, two themes of Pillar Three should be discussed.

A protected area workforce: PNG's Policy on Protected Areas includes a national commitment to staffing protected areas with a capable and well-resourced workforce. It comments that "A workforce to manage Protected Areas in PNG will consist of people from diverse organisations – including government agencies, NGOs, industry and local community groups - as well as individual customary landowners. However, over time, this Policy encourages and supports the development of a nation-wide Protected Area Workforce community, where this diverse group has some common training, standards and access to a common support network of information and resources such as internet-based systems."

However, the lack of field-based staff remains a major impediment to meaningful management of almost all protected areas in the country. A management effectiveness study over 2016-17 assessed all protected areas and some other reserves across PNG through workshops and discussions. Two key recommendations from the management effectiveness study related to a Ranger and community volunteer workforce:

- (a) Establish and train a ranger workforce: Representatives from almost all protected areas felt strongly that a permanent, paid ranger presence is essential, and that people need to be trained and supported in these roles. The roles and responsibilities of the ranger workforce need to be discussed and agreed. In places where community members are currently carrying out these roles, people thought

that at least some Rangers should be paid and formally recognised.

- (b) Encourage self-help and a volunteer workforce: Overall, the requests for staff and support were quite modest, and most protected areas recognised the importance of voluntary work by the community.

Management plans and evaluation: Considerable progress has been made in management planning and evaluation since the Protected Area Policy was approved. A management effectiveness study was conducted across all protected areas in 2016-17, and the results collated in a report which details the current situation and the recommendations from management committees and other involved people. The PNG_METT tool for evaluation is currently under review and a revised version will be trialled in a number of protected areas this year.

A proposed mechanism for management plans on the protected areas has been developed, based on the Open Standards for Conservations and with reference to Healthy Country Plans created in Australian Indigenous Protected Areas. CEPA staff have been trained in this methodology and 'statements of interim management intent' have been developed based on information obtained in the management effectiveness work and other sources. The statements then need to be taken to management committees and customary landowners to be developed over time into full and useful management plans with community ownership and support, and with spatial planning, rules and guidelines for how the protected areas are used. Covid restrictions have delayed trialling this process.

Many communities have specifically requested management plans to give them guidance in the future. Support from many different places and people will be needed to assist with the development of these plans, but there will be a common starting point with the planning templates and guidelines.

PILLAR FOUR: MANAGING THE PROTECTED AREA NETWORK

The **desired outcome** for this pillar in the Protected Area Policy is:

- The PNG Protected Area Network is relevant to the PNG people, protects the diversity of life, landscapes and seascapes, and forms a well-connected, adequate and resilient system.



For this Forum, two themes of Pillar Four should be discussed.

Expanding the network: Guidelines for expansion of the protected area network are included in the Policy, and explanations of the proposed new protected area types and processes for selection and designation have been prepared as part of the GEF5 project. In addition, solid work has been completed in identifying the most important areas for biodiversity and connectivity on land and sea, and there have been recent advances with the gazettal of several new protected areas and the agreement to protect the marine area in Bootless Bay (Kay Kalim, personal communication). Processes are well underway for establishment of a number of other significant protected areas, such as those in New Britain, the Torricelli Mountains, and the Kokoda Interim Protection Zone. Tentative World Heritage Areas have been identified and their importance confirmed, and further work has been undertaken in investigating the values of several of these areas.

There is now a large backlog of protected area and World Heritage Area proposals that need to be further investigated and negotiated, and this task is well beyond the current meagre resources of CEPA. In some areas time-consuming social mapping or tenure clarification is needed, and all proposals need to be researched and documented, with mapping and boundary clarification. This endeavour needs further support from experts both within PNG and internationally but employing international consultants could be prohibitively expensive on the scale required. Possible avenues for support are to formally seek assistance from University students and staff, other research agencies, SPREP, NGOs, PNG conservation groups, and expert volunteers from IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. Private enterprise may also be prepared to assist if this was appropriate. A cooperative working group could tackle the tasks under the direction of CEPA, so rapid progress could be made.

Consent and support: The Policy commits to free, prior and informed consent by customary landowners to any new protected areas, and negotiations with a range of other stakeholders and rightsholder must be undertaken. These processes have always been challenging but are made more so by the current imperatives for rapid economic development, increasing populations and mobility and strong influence of resources interests. How then can these negotiations best be undertaken to bring about fair results for communities and conservation in a reasonable timeframe? What approaches are being taken to social mapping and

community negotiations? Can common guidelines be drawn up?

PILLAR FIVE: SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE FINANCING FOR PROTECTED AREAS

The **desired outcome** for this pillar in the Protected Area Policy is:

- Sustainable and equitable financing supports the Protected Area Network and established Protected Areas

For this Forum, two themes of Pillar Five will be discussed.

Generating revenue for conservation: This section should focus on what positive actions Protected Areas can do to generate revenue to support their conservation and sustainable livelihood actions. Discussions should draw upon examples in the country as well as outside to identify and share new initiatives that might be applicable to other Protected Areas or organisations. What does the future of funding look like in PNG?

Ensuring that funding results in improved protected area management: A challenge for all partners in protected area management is ensuring that funds raised reach the protected areas and result in real improvement. As discussed in earlier sessions, the capacity of communities in remote areas to apply for and manage funds is very limited. Systems, capacity and equipment are not yet in place in many communities to enable grant applications, financial management and accountability, payment of workers, or asset acquisition and management.

How can we work together to ensure future improved financing results in improved management? What can we do to prepare for an increase in funding opportunities? How can we maximise current opportunities to lay a foundation for enhanced management?

APPLICATION FORM

Contact Details	
Lead applicant details	Name:
	Organisation:
	Address:
	Telephone number (mobile):
	Email address:
<p>What type of organisation do you represent? (tick <u>one</u> box only)</p> <p>Please review the eligibility criteria.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Regional body <input type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental organisation <input type="checkbox"/> International organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Community-based organization <input type="checkbox"/> Youth organization/ network <input type="checkbox"/> Organization representing Indigenous Peoples & Local Communities <input type="checkbox"/> Academic organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Training college <input type="checkbox"/> Service provider/technology provider <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)
Proposal to lead specific session theme	
<p>All proposals should be linked to a specific pillar and correspond with the overview of themes and desired outcomes provided above.</p> <p>Indicate if a slot for a display booth is required to showcase the Protected Area you are involved with</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pillar 1: Governance and management <input type="checkbox"/> Pillar 2: Sustainable livelihoods for communities <input type="checkbox"/> Pillar 3: Effective and adaptive biodiversity management <input type="checkbox"/> Pillar 4: Managing the Protected Area network <input type="checkbox"/> Pillar 5: Sustainable and equitable financing

Proposal to Lead Pillar Session

Duration: Each session is limited to three (3) hours. Please include at least one coffee/comfort break in your planning of a minimum of 15 minutes.

Title of the Session	Maximum 100 characters (including spaces)
Summary	Please provide a summary of your session (250 words maximum), its objectives and how the session will be facilitated.
Draft Agenda	Please provide an outline agenda for your session, including the timings as well as name of all involved facilitators, presenters or panelists.
Co-Leaders	Please identify any other organisations that will work with you to develop and co-lead this session.
Materials	Please provide details of any materials required for the session or access to equipment (i.e. projector screen or internet).

Please send your Expression of Interests to protectedareaforum@gmail.com as well as patricia.kila@undp.org by the 14th April 2022.

All applications will be reviewed by the Protected Area Forum Committee. We aim to let applicants know the outcome of the review process by **1st May 2022**.