

Name of Protected Area: Wewak War Memorial Site (known as the East Sepik Japanese Peace 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>	Ann Peterson, SPREP/Protected Area Solutions, 283 Madill Road, Tandur, Q4570, Australia, a.peterson@uq.edu.au, 0414300955
<i>Person 2: Name, Organisation, Address, Email, Phone</i>	
Today's Date	18/08/2016
Name (or names) of protected area	Wewak War Memorial Site (known as the East Sepik Japanese Peace Park)
Size of protected area (ha)	1.09
PNG Code or number	
World Database of Protected Areas site code (these codes can be found on www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/)	377711
What level or kind of protected area is it? (National Park, Wildlife Management Area, Sanctuary, Reserve, Locally Managed Marine Area etc)	Historic Memorial Site
IUCN Category	
International protected area? e.g. World Heritage or Ramsar?	
Country	Papua New Guinea
Province/s	East Sepik
District/s	Wewak
Local level governments	Wewak Urban
Ward/s	15
Nearest big town	Wewak
Location of protected area (brief description)	The memorial is located about 4km outside of Wewak town next to the Windjammer Beach Motel. It is about 100m from the coast. The land is flat and the site is surrounded by open grass land. It has road access and parking facilities. The Memorial structures were built in 13/9/1981.
Map references	
When was the protected area gazetted or formally established?	24/4/1969
Reference for gazettal or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)	
Who owns the protected area? please enter Government Private Community/ customary	Government

landowners, private, Other (name) and include Clan name(s)	
Number of households living in the protected area	0
Population size within the protected area	0
Who manages the protected area? (e.g. please enter government, customary landowners [add clan names] management committee [how many and what gender])	Division of Culture, Sports and Tourism, East Sepik Provincial Administration. One person is responsible for managing the site. He is the advisor for the Culture, Sports and Tourism Division.
Total number of staff (this means anyone working on the protected area in paid jobs – whether NGOs, community, rangers or customary landowners	1
<i>Temporary paid workers</i>	Some temporary cleaners.
<i>Permanent paid workers</i>	
Annual budget (US\$) – excluding staff salary costs	Unknown
Operational (recurrent) funds	Unknown
Project or special funds	0
Reason for park establishment	The park commemorates the Japanese troops who died during the second World War.
What are the main values for which the area is designated (Fill this out after data sheet 2)	Commemorate the loss of Japanese soldiers during the second World War.
List the primary protected area management objectives (add lines if needed after the most important objectives): <i>Management objective 1</i>	Maintain the historical site to enable visitation.
<i>Management objective 2</i>	
<i>Management objective 3</i>	
Number of people involved in answering the assessment questions	3
Name/organisation/contact details of people participating the assessment (<i>Please do not insert return/enter or dot points</i>)	<i>Sabina Ewwa</i> , Provincial Festival Officer, Division of Culture, Sports and Tourism, East Sepik Provincial Administration, <i>sabbieewa60ske@gmail.com</i> , 4561408/72115513; <i>Anthony Kentis Sakarai</i> , Volunteer Tourism Officer, Division of Culture, Sports and Tourism, East Sepik Provincial Administration, <i>sakaraianthony@gmail.com</i> , 4561408; <i>Salome Pondangu</i> , Executive Officer, Mayor's Office, Wewak Urban Local Level Government, East Sepik Province, <i>pondangu.salome@gmail.com</i> , 4563138.
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	Provincial Government, Local Level Government.
Please note if assessment was carried out in association with a particular project, on behalf of an organisation or donor.	SPREP through the PNG Protected Area Assessment Project, which is a component of the GEF Community-based Forest and Coastal Conservation and Resource Management Project in PNG.

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

The site contains two open structures with some seating and a fish pond, and mown grass. The site is fully enclosed in a razor wire fence with a locked gate. It is a site to commemorate the loss of Japanese soldiers who died during the Second World War. The remains of the Japanese soldiers are found throughout the area. There are groups of Japanese people who continue to search for the remains of the soldiers. When found, the families of the dead soldiers are contacted. Their remains are cremated and once every year a ceremony is held to commemorate the dead and the ashes are returned to Japan. The site has special significance for the Japanese people. It is also a tourist attraction within Wewak and is advertised in the city's tourism brochures and online information sources. The site was formerly leased by the Catholic Mission, but the 99 year has lapsed and the site was returned to the government. The customary landowners are seeking the return of this site to their ownership.

Table 2. Key values of the protected area

No.	Key values	Brief description	Note if endangered species or ecosystem (IUCN)
1	Historic site	To commemorate the loss of Japanese soldiers who died during WWII	

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	0	
2. Presence of rare, threatened, or endangered species (plants and animals)	0	
3. Ecosystems (e.g. wetlands, grasslands, coral reefs etc) that are rare because they have been cleared or destroyed in other areas	0	
4. Protecting clean, fresh water	0	
5. Sustaining important species in big enough numbers that they are able to survive here	0	
6. Providing a source of employment for local communities now	0	
7. Providing resources for local subsistence (food, building materials, medicines etc.)	0	
8. Providing community development opportunities through sustainable resource use	0	
9. Religious or spiritual significance (e.g. tambu places)	2	Japanese people mainly come to the site and pay respect to their dead. Once the bones are cremated there is a ritual and they pay respect for their lives and their contribution to Japan.
10. Plant species of high social, cultural, or economic importance	0	
11. Animal species of high social, cultural, or economic importance	0	
12. Attractive scenery	0	
13. Tourism now	1	Information about the site is displayed in tourist brochures and online. Every year there is a ceremony at the site and many Japanese come. It is not currently important for other tourists.
14. Potential value for tourism in the future	1	The Provincial Government would like to develop the site and promote it to tourists.
15. Educational and/or scientific value	1	However, there is little information about the site currently.

16. Maintaining culture and tradition on customary land and passing this on to future generations	0	
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Part 3: What are the threats to the protected area?

Table 4: Threats to the protected area

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

Threat type	Score (H,M,L,0)	Notes
1.1 Housing and settlement	H	There are settlers near the site and they may cause problems for the site (e.g. removing roofing material, taking light fittings and other equipment). This is costing the government a lot of money in upkeep.
1.1a Population increase in the protected area community	H	The population around the site is increasing and placing pressure on the memorial site e.g. through removal of infrastructure.
1.2 Commercial and industrial areas	H	There is the prospect of increased development surrounding the site. There are complex issues surrounding land ownership in this area.
1.3 Tourism and recreation infrastructure	0	
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	0	
2.4 Marine and freshwater aquaculture	0	
3.1 Oil and gas drilling	0	
3.2 Mining and quarrying	0	
3.3 Energy generation	0	
4.1 Roads and railroads (include road-killed animals)	0	
4.2 Utility and service lines (e.g. electricity cables, telephone lines)	0	
4.3 Shipping lanes	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)	0	
5.2 Gathering terrestrial plants or plant products (non-timber)	0	
5.3a Logging and wood harvesting for local/customary use	0	
5.3b Logging and wood harvesting – commercial logging	0	
5.4a Fishing, killing and harvesting aquatic resources for local/customary use	0	
5.4b Fishing, killing and harvesting aquatic resources for commercial use	0	
6.1 Recreational activities and tourism	0	
6.2 War, civil unrest and military exercises	0	

Threat type	Score (H,M,L,0)	Notes
6.3 Research, education and other work-related activities in protected areas	0	
6.4 Activities of protected area managers (e.g. construction or vehicle use)	0	
6.5 Deliberate vandalism, destructive activities or threats to protected area staff and visitors	H	There is a problem with local people taking the resources from the site. They breach the fence and take material. We need a high, iron fencing with barbed wire.
7.1 Fire and fire suppression (including arson)	H	People do start fires and this is a problem.
7.2 Dams, hydrological modification and water management/use	0	
7.3a Increased fragmentation within protected area	0	
7.3b Isolation from other natural habitat (e.g. deforestation)	0	
7.3c Other 'edge effects' on park values	0	
7.3d Loss of keystone species (e.g. top predators, pollinators etc.)	0	
8.1 Pest plants	0	
8.1a Pest animals	0	
8.1b Diseases such as fungus or viruses that make native plants or animals sick	0	
8.2 Introduced genetic material (e.g. genetically modified organisms)	0	
9.1 Household sewage and urban waste water	0	
9.1a Sewage and waste water from protected area facilities	0	
9.2 Industrial, mining and military effluents	0	
9.3 Agricultural and forestry effluents (e.g. excess fertilizers or pesticides)	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	0	
11.3 Temperature extremes	0	
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	M	Waves have breached the coastline and entered the site.
Other (please explain)		
12.1 Loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge and/or management practices	0	
12.2 Natural deterioration of important cultural site values	0	
12.3 Destruction of cultural heritage buildings, gardens, sites etc.	0	
Other (please explain)		Lack of finance

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	Vandalism	6.5	Lack of on-site caretaker and limited security have resulted in people entering the site, causing damage and removing material (e.g. roofing, seats and lights). Investment is needed for improved security and on-site management.
2	Lack of finance	Other	Money is needed to re-develop the site; to improve security; to provide training to look after the site's values and inform the local people and visitors about the site, thus improving its educational value.

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	Formally gazetted.	
1b. Legal status			
2a. Protected area regulations	1	Formal regulations are unknown to the participants. However, there are rules controlling entry and the site is managed or administered through the East Sepik Province, Division of Culture, Sports and Tourism.	
2b. Protected area regulations			
3. Law enforcement	0	The site has a locked gate and visitors must get permission to enter the site. This was necessary due to the vandalism that occurs on the site. There is no on-site caretaker or manager to secure the site.	We need a secure, paid position where the person can be on site and look after the site.
4. Protected area objectives	0		
5. Protected area design	3	The size is sufficient to meet the historic conservation objectives of the site, which are primarily focussed on commemoration of the war dead.	
6. Protected area boundaries	3	The boundaries are defined by a fence and are clearly seen by all. However, there is illegal entry to the site.	
7. Management plan	0	There is no formal plan, although there are an understanding about the purpose of the site. Lack of funding prevents implementation of management actions.	

Issue	Score (0,1,2,3, NA)	Comment	Next steps
7a. Planning process	0	The customary landowners dispute the current ownership and want the land returned to them. The site had a 99 year lease with the Catholic Church. That has lapsed and the land has reverted to State land. However, the customary landowners have made representation to the Provincial Government for its return.	Negotiate with the customary landowners to reach agreement on the disputed land. This would need to involve the national government and consider the needs of the Japanese Government.
7b. Planning process	0		
7c. Planning process	0		
8. Regular work plan	0		
9. Resource inventory	1		The administrators of the site would like to have more information about the history and events surrounding the Japanese presence in PNG.
10. Protection systems	1		Higher fence, security guards and lighting are needed to secure the site and prevent loss of material.
11. Research and monitoring	0		
12. Resource management	0		
13a. Staff numbers	0		
13b. Other people working on the protected area	0		There needs to be greater collaboration with the customary landowners and possible engagement in the management of the site.
14. Training and skills	0		Training would be useful so that we could improve our knowledge of the site and how to collect information about it.
15. Current budget	0		
16. Security of budget	0		
17. Management of budget	NA		
18. Equipment	0		A car would be useful to help with the collection of Japanese remains and war relics. These relics could be displayed in a museum or secure structure.
19. Maintenance of equipment	NA		
20. Education and awareness	0		We would like a good information system to record the necessary information and make this accessible to others (students, teachers, administrators etc).
21. Planning for land use or marine activities	0	There are proposals for development adjacent to the site and to date there has been no consideration of the possible impacts on the site.	We need more communication with the Provincial Planning Office and the Governor of the province and other elected representatives and also the customary landowners. The landowners want any changes in their site to be discussed with them.
22. State and commercial neighbours	0		

Issue	Score (0,1,2,3, NA)	Comment	Next steps
23. Indigenous people/ Customary landowners	0		They want the government to respond to their grievances and this should happen through the Ward member.
24a. Impact on communities	0		
24b. Impact on communities	0		
24c. Impact on communities	1	The customary landowners are seeking payment by the Japanese government for the use of their land.	
25. Economic benefit	0		
26. Monitoring and evaluation	0		
27. Visitor facilities	0	There were signs and other facilities but they are no longer there.	
28. Commercial tourism operators	0		
29. Fees	0		
30. Condition of values	1		
30a. Condition of values	0		
30b. Condition of values	0		
30c. Condition of values	0		

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
Historic	F	D	Lack of investment in the site and lack of on-site management is resulting in deterioration of the site (e.g. through vandalism).

Table 8. Recommendations and ways forward

1.	2.	3.	4.
Involve the PNG national government and the Japanese government and encourage them to provide funding to better manage the site.	Prepare a re-development plan for the site. It should be a site that looks attractive and has information to improve education. This would include signage. Make it like a park and children could sit in there. It is important to include information about PNG's role in the WWII and especially how they worked with the allied forces during the war.	Training for all staff involved with the site e.g. management, information system development, facility management.	Improved engagement of customary landowners in the decision making.

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

	Strengths	Challenges
1	The site has some facilities including two buildings, landscaping, a car park and security fencing.	Addressing land disputes involving the customary landowners who would like the land returned to them.
2	The site commemorates the Japanese soldiers who died in PNG during the second World War and hence the site has special historical significance to the Japanese.	Financing the re-development of the site to ensure its improve security and so that it is a site of educational and historic importance.