

GEF Quarterly Operational Report – Q1/2014
Community-based Forest and Coastal Conservation and Resource Management Project
Papua New Guinea

Background

New Guinea is one of the world's megadiverse regions, containing an estimated 7% of the world's biodiversity in less than 1% of the land area where approximately 4% of PNG's terrestrial area is protected in 53 PAs. The island of New Guinea as a whole (combining mainland PNG and Indonesia's West Papua region) contains the largest contiguous area of forest remaining in the Asia-Pacific region and constitutes the third largest-tropical rainforest in the world. PNG has more than 18,894 described plant species, 719 birds, 271 mammals, 227 reptiles, 266 amphibians and 341 freshwater fish species. Endemism probably exceeds 30% for PNG and is well over 70% for Papuaasia (the region from New Guinea to the Solomon Islands). It is also important to note that large gaps remain in the scientific knowledge of Papua New Guinea's biodiversity, and new species are constantly being discovered.

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the *Community-based Forest and Coastal Conservation and Resource Management in PNG (CbFCCRM)* Project has committed GEF funds of \$6.9 million to develop models for conservation in New Britain Island.

Accomplishments for First Quarter of 2014

Deliverables	Actual Accomplishments
Final Draft of PNG's first Protected Area Policy	Options paper on the National Protected Area Policy reviewed thoroughly through a workshop by DEC management and senior officers with international experts (18-20 February 2014) as well as group discussion and interview with decision and policy makers based in Port Moresby Preparation and completed 4 regional consultation meetings from 28 March- 8 April 2014, in time of HC visit;
Biodiversity Gap Analysis for New Britain Island including recommendations for field surveys of high biodiversity priority areas	Preparation for sharing results on the study scheduled in April with major stakeholders for both East and West New Britain provinces.
Updating of PNG's Species Information Management System	Draft interim report from Bishop Museum submitted on 2 February 2014 but listing for birds requiring further validation
Updating of NBSAP	Signed TOR sent out to international and national experts in February and completed selection on 21 March 2014. However, DEC requested funding from UNEP to support NBSAP and 5NR on with signed letter dated 25 March.
Roadmap to design the Biodiversity Offset for PNG	Appraisal of proposals submitted by Forest Trend and The Biodiversity Consultancy completed on 28 March 2014. The Project was about to engage TBC however, the Office the

Deliverables	Actual Accomplishments
	Secretary advised the Project Manager that DEC will take lead in developing the biodiversity offset mechanism including the (i) design of the Trust Fund arrangement and legal arrangement, (ii) the development of an Interim Financial Model for costs to establish and manage national Protected Areas and (iii) drafting instructions to amend the Conservation Act of 1978. The call for consultancy was to be published on the first week of April 2014.
Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy	TOR to engage a national communication specialist to development the Project's strategy on communication and stakeholder engagement signed by DEC. Appraisal of applications were completed in February however issuance of contract were finalized only in 26 March 2014.

Other activities completed: Project Advisory Board meeting (19 March 2014), completed recruitment of the Provincial Field Coordinator (to officially report to office on 1 April 2014)

GEF Quarterly Operational Report – Q2/2014
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Papua New Guinea

Deliverables	Actual Accomplishments
Final Draft of PNG's first Protected Area Policy	<p>completed 4 regional consultation meetings from 28 March- 8 April 2014, in time for Administrator's visit;</p> <p>Internal lobbying for the national policy to acknowledge role of provinces/LLGs and civil society by articulating role and responsibilities of all stakeholders as opposed to position of senior government advisor for the new policy to cover only national priority biodiversity sites (April 2014)</p>
Capacity Assessment Report and Capacity Development Plan	TOR to engage an international consultant was signed by the DEC Secretary in April 2014. Direct invites to experts using UNDP RBAP roster were emailed on 6 May 2014, with a deadline of submission on 30 May.
Updating of NBSAP	As of 30 April, UNEP advised that they have already closed for new intakes. Instructions and application templates for the Direct Access modality by the Government provided to DEC on 6 May 2014.
Report of the Biodiversity Gap Analysis for New Britain Island including recommendations for field surveys of high biodiversity priority areas	Completed presentation of results on the Gap analysis for biodiversity knowledge in New Britain Island with major stakeholders from both East and West New Britain provinces, including representatives from existing Wildlife Management Area, and Area of Interest for Conservation. An initial of 19 villages came forward to express their interest of conserving their land located in Nakanai Range (29 April 2014)
Options Paper for New Britain Island Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) Scheme	TOR approved by DEC Secretary on 23 May 2014 however original signed document was lost before it was sent out to potential candidates. This required for the TOR to be signed again.
Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy	Draft strategy paper on communication and stakeholder engagement submitted on 25 April 2014 for review.
Community engagement	<p>Series of mission to Nakanai undertaken by the project team with DEC since its commencement in June 2013 to orient local stakeholders on the project. From the most recent field mission, a total of 120 villages/wards within Nakanai Range including 19 villages in the Baining Mountains have stepped forward for inclusion as a Conservation Area</p> <p>DEC through this Project is partnering with New Britain provinces with a legal instrument or a Memorandum of Agreement, which is</p>

	<p>the first ever in the Department. The provincial governments of New Britain officially confirmed their contribute totalling to 3 million kina or equivalent to USD 1.15 million to support the implementation of this Project. Memorandum of Agreements are for final endorsement of the respective Provincial Executive Council</p>
<p>Parallel funding for community initiatives in New Britain through GEF Small Grants Programme</p>	<p>Existing Wildlife Management Areas of Pokili and Tavalo are to extend the coverage of the No Go Zone within the WMA. The Project is facilitating for these communities to access financial assistance from the GEF Small Grants Programme.</p>

Other activities completed: Although not under the purview of the Project, project team and DEC counterparts joined consultation process to vet the licensing application of a limestone mining operation near the Kavakuna Cave located within the Nakanai Range. The Project liaised with the East New Britain provincial government to officially submit their assessment report to be included as one of the stipulations for the private company to operate.