

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
PAPUA NEW GUINEA COUNTRY OFFICE
ONE PAGE MISSION REPORT SUMMARY**



Date:

Name: Raymond Unasi		Unit Energy & Environment	Tel No. 71122815	Travel Authorization #s:
Approved Mission Itinerary: Available		List of Annexes: 1. List of Participants in community meeting 2. List of LLG and their Wards 3. Photos from Field Trip		
(From)	Inclusive Travel Dates	(To)	Key counterpart (s) in each District/LLG :	
	19th to 26th June 2014		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Palmalmal Sub District Community ii. Pomio District Administrator and officers iii. Tavallo WMA Committee, Melkoi LLG iv. Central Inland Pomio LLG Manager and Community v. Palmalmal Secondary School Teachers and Students. vi. Eco Tourism service providers (Guest Houses and Tour Operators) vii. Villages and Wards in Pomio district 	
Purpose of Mission:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Small Grant Program application process and concept paper development with Pomio district CBO's/NGO's and community groups ii. Meeting with Officials of Pomio LLG and District Administrator to outline CbFCCRM project objectives, goals and target activities iii. Establish dialogue with WMA committees of Kavakuna, Klampun, Tavallo Protected areas and assess current conservation needs/situation. iv. Assess community land use plans and determine level and type of land use within project scope. 				
Brief Summary of Mission Findings:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are five LLG's in Pomio district; Melkoi LLG, West Pomio Mamus LLG (WPM), Central Inland Pomi LLG (CIP), Sinivit LLG and East Pomio LLG. Melkoi LLG has 19 Wards, CIP LLG has 35 Wards, WPM LLG has 36 Wards, Sinivit LLG has 19 Wards and East Pomio has 13 Wards. Our project focus area is mostly within the CIP LLG, WPM LLG, East Pomio LLG and Melkoi LLG. List of Wards for the focus LLG's are attached in this report. 2. The district administration is not properly functional with the district administrator living in Kokopo (2 years since) and district administration is run by a deputy administrator. This arrangement is not helping to get major infrastructure projects and key decisions implemented. Continuous change in LLG managers and district officers as mentioned by the DDA is a course for concern. As such this mission determined that the district leadership level is not fluid and that continuous changes in the three LLG management is not in the best interest of perceived developments. 3. Serious threat from Mining and Logging with much of the forest under Logging and Mining lease. Illegal SABL project has seriously damaged intact forest along the West Pomio Mamusi and Melkoi LLG with almost 30 000 + ha of virgin rainforest stripped off to make way for Palm Oil Planting. Kavakuna Cave system and WMA area under threat from Lime stone mining which is due to take place any time awaiting environmental permit. Serious intervention is needed from all sectors concerned with conservation and species protection. 4. Conflicting views from local community leaders on development and conservation seem to be the root course of discomfort and conflict amongst villagers and between clan groups. It can be deduced that certain individuals within villages propose development agenda's at the same time shift the blame to government and NGO's when obvious environmental impacts arise from the proposed developments. 				

5. There is a vacuum in coordination amongst communities advocating conservation and eco-tourism. Networking process needs to be undertaken to immediately consolidate and pull together resources for synergy amongst likeminded leaders within wards and villages.
6. District administration officers and government workers need to have proper training on para legal aid, conflict resolution and business management plans so that they can in turn assist communities to make well informed decisions to manage their natural resources sustainably. In addition, permanent appointment of district administrator and LLG managers will consolidate development and conservation agendas.
7. Women although claim to be the landowners (matrilineal society) they seem to be spectators in their own land as far as resource use decisions are made. There is a need for gender empowerment workshops, trainings and advocacy.
8. Palmal high school has attained secondary status this year, it is important that senior students (years 11 and 12) be drawn into participate in conservation and development agendas as they will be a focal point for information dissemination to remote and target area communities.

Key Challenges:

- **Communities too far from each other and accessibility is possible by boat and foot which might take several days in some instances. This is a challenge UNDP/DEC needs to take on and move with it so that isolated communities are covered in the program.**
- **Logistics issues (Safety gear at open sea, camping gear, etc)**
- **Different resource use interest strongly emphasized and openly discussed therefor there is enormous challenge in convincing leadership hierarchy in respective communities to allow conservation and sustainable resource use options to take precedence.**
- **Threat of logging and mining imminent (a huge challenge on its own)**
- **Observed confusion amongst communities on resource use options, people are not stubborn/committed to a single course, they are easily convinced thus working with them can be a challenge.**
- **Misinterpretation of conservation by communities and individuals as a” lock it up approach”**
- **Communities divided by different interests, thus sustainable land use options difficult to plan/execute**
- **Eco-Tourism potential very high but resource and infrastructure possess great challenge.**
- **Ability to convince communities and leaders on benefits of conservation beyond the intrinsic values is an issue. People have learnt to be materialistic and conservation does not provide that apart from the flora and fauna that surrounds them.**
- **District administration officers are not well versed with impacts of logging, agriculture and overfishing thus their ability to help communities deter external pressure is a challenge.**
- **Communication and internet access to assist community’s access SGP funds and other donor funds for environmental protection is a dilemma.**

Expected Results and Follow-up actions:	Distribution: (Copies to)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community awareness and field visits ➤ Land use planning review at district and LLG level and eventually to the Ward/village level at later project stage. ➤ Provincial government initiatives along with MOA agreements needs to be followed through to the district level. ➤ Women empowered to make development and resource use decision ➤ Government workers and community leaders empowered to drive conservation values and promote sustainable natural resource use. ➤ Communities aided with legal knowledge/rights to resource ownership and environmental hazards. Communities attain knowledge of citizens’ rights to be sued and can sue for damages. ➤ Students empowered to inform parents and communities about importance of ecosystem and their livelihood. 	<p>DEC-Environment Protection Wing UNDP-Environment and Energy GEF-Small Grant Program</p>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Help strengthen the establishment of organised green tour operators and working committee to promote eco-tourism within project area.➤ At least one or two communities and civil groups access Small Grant Funding for community initiatives. Project to assist formulation of proposal submission. | |
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