



**Community-based Forest and Coastal Conservation
and Resource Management Project for
Papua New Guinea**

**West New Britain Provincial Consultative Workshop
Kimbe Bay Hotel, Kimbe, WNB
4th December, 2012**

Prepared by:

**Rose Alphonse, Policy Analyst
DEC Policy Coordination Wing**

for

**Terrestrial Ecosystems Division
DEC Sustainable Environment Programs Wing**

1. BACKGROUND

Conservation in Papua New Guinea is hindered by a combination of systemic and policy barriers to effectively manage PAs in combination with the capacity and economic development barriers at the local (community/ clan) level that directly affect the decisions communities make about the use of their natural resources. The challenge lies in devising resource-allocation decision-making models that allow communities to fulfill their social and economic developmental aspirations, while ensuring that a viable, representative proportion of the country's unique terrestrial and marine resources are conserved for national and global environmental benefits. However, the large-scale establishment of Community-based Conservation Areas (CCA) in PNG continues to be hindered by the range of policy, capacity and financial barriers described above.

It is clear that one of the key mechanism by which these two goals can be aligned is through the model of CCAs. This model is expected to be trialed through the Community-based Forest and Marine Conservation and Resource Management Project for PNG targeting the Whiteman and Nakanai Ranges on New Britain Island and Owen Stanley Ranges between Central and Northern Provinces. The project proposes to deal with community conservation as a resource management issue and align national conservation needs with landowner values systems. Therefore, **overall objective** of the project will be to develop effective natural resource management and financing systems for community conservation areas.

This project funded through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) will be implemented by Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In terms of project trials, the first model will be developed through the ongoing DEC Kokoda Initiative in the Owen Stanley Ranges as proof of concept of the Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth (ESEG) approach, before being expanded to demonstration sites on New Britain Island. The outcomes to achieve will be delivered in the following four sequential components:

Component 1: To establish a national enabling environment for a community-based sustainable national system of protected areas (PAs) containing globally and nationally significant biodiversity. This component will focus on improved institutional coordination, consolidated policy and legislation, improved DEC/CEPA staff capacity and development of funding structures to underpin conservation planning.

Component 2: Identification and establishment of conservation areas through a structured science-based process. This component aims to add 1 million hectares to the sustainable national system of PAs through the establishment of new Conservation Areas (CAs) and/or conversion of viable existing Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) into CAs which can effectively remove current and future pressures for forest degradation and conversion.

Component 3: Conservation Area management planning and partnership agreements with communities will ensure that CAs are effectively managed according to agreed criteria to maintain biodiversity values. In addition, this component will create the service delivery,

community development and economic development outcomes required to compensate community landholders for the opportunity costs of keeping their lands under protection. Integral to this will be the development of sustainable financing plans for each CA; to this end, communities in prospective project sites will be provided with the tools, resources and capacities to develop conservation-compatible livelihood opportunities in sectors such as PES, tourism, forest monitoring and sustainable agriculture.

Component 4: Capacity development and support for implementation of CA Management Plans will deliver the training and capacity development tools needed for Provincial, District and Local Level Government officials to help community management groups to deliver improved services, income, planning and education opportunities for communities within and around CAs. This component will also help increase the capacity of landowners and communities to manage the CA and generate income from associated business activities. Finally, this component will also coordinate ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the project.

2. CONSULTATION WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The Consultation Workshop, the first activity to begin project implementation following signing of the project document aims to re-engaged with all key stakeholders at the provincial level after the last consultative meeting in 2010 to design the project. Most importantly, the provincial engagement aims to assist all provincial stakeholders and involved parties to understand and take ownership of the project's goals and objectives, define roles and responsibilities as well as to clarify technical and managerial aspects. The expected outcomes from the provincial consultation workshop include:

- Improved understanding and agreement on project goals and objectives;
- Agree on the project implementation modality at selected provincial project sites;
- Agree on the provincial representation for the composition of the Project Steering Committee; and
- Agree on project management oversight arrangements at the provincial level.

3. PARTICIPANTS

The participants who attended the workshop included representatives from DEC, UNDP, West New Britain (WNB) provincial government, the private sector and civil society organizations: The full attendance details are given in **Annex 2**.

4. PROGRAM AND MAIN DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Introduction and Opening Remarks

The Chairman and facilitator, Mr. John Michael, Manager, Special Projects called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the workshop. Open request was made to the participants for

someone to open the workshop with a word of prayer; to which, Reuben from Bialla opened the meeting with a word of prayer. The chairman then, introduces himself and then there was a round-the-table introduction of participants.

4.2 Provincial Workshop Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The objectives of the provincial workshop again was to begin project implementation following signing of the project document aims to assist all stakeholders and involved parties to understand and take ownership of the project's goals and objectives, define roles and responsibilities as well as to clarify technical and managerial aspects. And the intended outcomes were;

- Improved understanding and agreement on project goals and objectives;
- Agree on the project implementation modality at selected provincial project sites;
- Agree on the provincial representation for the composition of the Project Steering Committee; and
- Agree on project management oversight arrangements at the provincial level.

4.3 Project Presentation (Rationale, Goals, Objectives, Outcomes, Budget)

The background and purpose of the project including the outcomes, outputs and the immediate short term and long term activities were presented to the participants. The GEF endorsement date of the project and the budget of the project including the financial contributors were also presented. There was very constructive discussions and feedback from the participants following the presentation of the background of the project. The main questions raised included the following;

- *Information and data on the project sites:* The stakeholders especially the NGOs and the private sector/ industries raised the questions about the criteria used in selecting the project sites and/or any other hot spots of conservation areas. Concerns were also raised on the poor monitoring of the reports when different researchers came into the country and take with them, especially results on the biodiversity surveys and important data on the endangered species, flagship plants and animals found in the country. It was pointed out that for certain studies or surveys, copies were never made available to the relevant government authorities to guide the decision makers particularly for decision-making to facilitate and coordination delivery of basic services to the people.

For example, there was a report done from a research done few years ago on the Nakanai Ranges and the Whiteman Range however the stakeholders in the provinces do not know where those information are now kept. This important information was needed to plan out the activities of the project properly to suit the interest and the aspirations of the local landowners. With the absence of such reports now, more money is going to be waste on establishing the same information such as the data on the animal and plant species in the

area, social study on the people, genealogy studies and so forth. Proper and thorough research and awareness to the community is of paramount importance before any implementation of the project.

The challenges with information management including data collection and collation were highlighted in the proposed draft Protected Area Policy currently under review by DEC. The provincial stakeholders cautioned DEC and UNDP to try not to reinvent the wheel and start all over which could lead to wastage of resources. An important factor to consider at all times is the involvement of communities into the project consultations or engagement initiatives because they certainly have the information and so they will be interested when other people are interest in them. The underlying issue is that communities should benefit socioeconomically to conserve their areas. It was therefore recommended that the project should aim to look at the data gaps as well as new and innovative ways to provide basic services to the local people prior to discussions on conserving their areas.

- *Project Boundaries:* Stakeholders were informed that the identification of the hot spots of the conservation areas and the actual boundaries of the project area will be discussed further with the East and West New Britain Provincial governments to determine the priority areas that need to be conserved. Initially when the project was discussed and designed, only the West New Britain side of Nakanai and Whiteman Ranges identified and selected however the East New Britain Provincial Government has also experienced interest based on their ongoing initiatives on their side of the same ranges. The provincial governments in consultation with the landowners and communities within the vicinity of the area will have to identify the actual hot spots using the results of the biodiversity surveys.
- *Project Sustainability:* Concerns were also raised on the sustainability of the project after the 7 years project cycle. Will it be the national government's responsibility or the provincial government as it is important to know so that the partners especially the industries operating in the Province can support the conservation initiatives wherever they can including funding of project activities as part of their sustainable livelihood programmes. An example is the Hargy Oil Palm limited which has a conservation programme that aims at helping the communities along the Nakanai ranges. They look forward to partner in working with the government in this project and will look into the continuity of the project.

For the sustainability of the project, it is envisaged that the project will be institutionalized into the existing structure of the WNB Provincial Government to take ownership as already proposed by the Forest Division. The oil palm companies in the province like the Hargy were acknowledge for their interest to support the sustainability of the project.

The DEC has realized the importance of sustainable financing of the Protected Areas over the years and is looking forward to develop a framework on sustainable financing. With the support of the stakeholders, we can develop a framework on the sustainable financing mechanism. It is therefore hoped that sustainable financing will be captured in the National Protected Areas Policy that is currently being developed. One option is the idea of a Biodiversity Trust Fund to support the local people. At a smaller scale, the NGOs are developing something similar to DEC plans on sustainable financing of PAs to work the communities hence is keen hear and learn from these stakeholders progress and lessons learnt that will definitely be useful for the project.

4.4 DEC Experience from Kokoda Initiative

To give the participants, especially the provincial government representatives the emphasis on whole-of-government approach including administrative management and institutional arrangements envisioned for the project, James Sabi gave an overview of the Kokoda Initiative Program. Kokoda Initiative is a collaboration program between the Government of Papua New Guinea through DEC and Government of Australia to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

The questions and concerns raised include;

- *Institutional arrangement and linkages:* What is the difference between this project and the CTI and the climate change projects? This kind of developments when it comes from top down, it's very dangerous. It's best to work with the communities. So it is important to really work well with the people on the ground to avoid what has already happened and see the REAL gaps so that the project adequately addresses those issues.

In terms of the linkages, this project is to protect the biodiversity. In terms of Climate change, issues like the PES, if the communities are interest in conserving their areas, we can look at the economic values of the areas. If the communities are willing, they could tap into the other opportunities that are available in protecting their environment. The focus is on the conservation of the forests. This project is not working separately from the Office of Climate Change and Development (OCCD) and the PNG Forest Authority (PNGFA). Other resource related agencies will be involved later on in the implementation of this project.

The DEC presence is not seen in the Provinces apart from the forestry, fisheries and now climate change. This has caused setbacks in the conservation practices. Environment and Conservation is cross-cutting and includes the other three areas mentioned above (fisheries, forestry and climate change). Through such projects, there should be a project

management team that comprises officers from the natural resource/environment related agencies in the province to run the project and report to the National Steering Committee.

DEC as the regulatory agency has no capacity to go right down to the communities to implement the projects so the idea of the Project Management Unit (PMU) in the province is very important.

- *Local Communities Participation is crucial*: In order for the locals to participate actively, they will have to be involved at the initial stages of the project. The perceptions of the communities are very complex therefore it is not easy to say that the concepts can be easily accepted so awareness is very important at the initial stages. There can be very fancy written project proposals from the national or provincial government for implementation in the communities but if the interests of the landowners are not captured, then it won't work. The communities' participation is crucial at the initial stages of the project discussions.

A one man/group assurance claiming to represent the community's aspirations is not good enough. The project details including the outcome, outputs and the activities, have to be properly discussed with the local communities who will be affected either directly or indirectly whether it be positive or negative from the project.

Some high priority areas that need to be conserved in terms of their biodiversity values may not be agreed to by the landowners due to the fact that they rely on these areas for their livelihoods. Also, they farm the land for food consumption. Issues such as land use management must be taught to the locals and once they clearly understand its importance and the process for landuse planning to cater for different community needs, then it should be certain that there is ownership and the project.

The Provincial government has a huge task on hand with regards to the community participation in this project together with assistance of the locally based NGOs and CBOs. The main challenge in the Climate change and environment sustainability programmes is the awareness to the communities.

PNG is very unique in terms of the land tenure system and thus a benefit sharing mechanism should be in place to provide incentives for the local communities (landowners). The landowner's view to conserve their land is to have money and other services that will improve their livelihoods.

An important issue to consider is **“what is the view of the local communities in terms of conserving their environment?”**

4.5 Provincial Environment Program for the WNB Provincial Government

The Environment Officer (Desmond) gave an outline of the WNB Provincial Plans for Forestry and Terrestrial conservation. The highlights that the WNB government has achieved are;

- The Provincial government has embarked on conservation activities including the drafting of the Provincial Forestry Bill (Policy) which is still at its draft stage.
- The Provincial Forest Protection Bill (draft)...aim is to see changes to the environment conservation.

The main challenges that the WNB governments faced in terms of effective implementation of their conservation plans and strategies include;

- Financial resource: lack of funding and government support
- Slow and cumbersome process in the Government financing procurement process
- Limited Human capacity and technical expertise to write up the project proposal to access the funds.

One of the approaches that the WNB Provincial Administration (WNBPA) took to implement conservation programmes is the Public Private Partnership. This has given the provincial administration the opportunity tap into resources and expertise of the partners in the Province to assist implement the province's conservation programmes.

4.5.1 Conservation Management Plan for the WNB Provincial Government

Participants felt that there is a need for the formation of an Interim Committee to oversee the implementation plans and activities. The committee should be comprised of representatives from the NGOs, industries and government agencies. Any from the provinces can be represented in the committee. The issue is on the coordination part of all the environmentally sustainable programmes running at the provinces at the same time. There has to be partners on the ground and DEC officers coordinate so that no wastage of resources and duplication of responsibilities.

Clearly, the project should identify capacity needs on the ground and support wherever it can using the existing conservation management plan in the province. As this is a model project where lessons learnt can be used to better implementing other initiative in the country, the provincial stakeholders are keen to see how they can contribute towards the project. It is about time we share our experiences and see that the project is captured somewhere in the Provincial government structure as it will complement some of the ongoing and planned initiatives. Mostly importantly, participants argue that institutionalizing the project into the provincial administration is an effort to promote ownership and sustainability of the project.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMODATIONS

The provincial workshop was concluded with the following recommendations from the participants:

1. **Criteria for Project Site Selection** – since there was not set criteria for the selection of project sites, Nakanai and Whiteman Ranges apart from its recognition as a potential World Heritage Site, biodiversity surveys should commence immediately to identify the hotspots.
2. **Available Data** – project is encouraged to collect and review available studies for the proposed sites to identify the gaps to ensure biodiversity surveys are costs effective and produce the desire results required for establishment of Community Conservation Areas/Protected Areas
3. **Management of Biodiversity Data and Information** – many of the scientific reports that were done in West New Britain Province is not easily accessible therefore project could assist establish a database of important plant and animal species and other information important to determine Conservation Areas.
4. **Community Ownership** – UNDP/DEC were reminded to ensure communities are involved at the onset of the project design and implementation. Since the project administration has ongoing and planned initiatives for the proposed project sites, the project will build on and continue these initiatives. One important issue to undertake simultaneously with conservation activities is identification of opportunities to access basic services.
5. **Awareness** – this is an important activity for the duration of the project and should commence immediately for all key stakeholders in the province.
6. **Project Sustainability** – Clarity is required from provincial stakeholder in particular the provincial administration on what roles it plays and what are the responsibilities of DEC. The project has to be institutionalised into the existing structure of the WNBPA as it already has ongoing and planned initiatives under its marine and terrestrial divisions. Equally important is the interest from private sector to be maintained and utilised as they also have ongoing and planned activities for the proposed project sites.
7. **Coordination Mechanism** – A provincial coordination committee comprising representatives from government, private sectors, churches, NGOs/CBOs and communities is required as there are many ongoing environment and climate change initiatives by NGOs and CBOs in the province. This committee will also oversee the implementation of the project and could be an established mechanims in the province to use.
8. **Provincial Steering committee** – DEC will inform the WNBPA on the outcomes of the workshop and recommend the representatives for the Provincial Steering/Coordination Committee.
9. **Provincial Implementation Arrangements** – WNBPA Forestry Division was the preferred office through which the project could be implemented and DEC was requested to inform the Provincial Administrator.

6. Annexes

- Annex 1: Workshop program for provincial consultation
- Annex 2: Participants List
- Annex 3: West New Britain Provincial Structure
- Annex 4: Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) & Management Structure (as presented by WNBPA) in West New Britain Province

Annex 1: Workshop program for provincial consultation

Community-based Forest and Coastal Conservation and Resource Management Project
Provincial Consultation Workshop: 4th December, 2012
Kimbe, West New Britain Province

1. Background

Conservation in Papua New Guinea is hindered by a combination of systemic and policy barriers to effectively manage PAs in combination with the capacity and economic development barriers at the local (community/ clan) level that directly affect the decisions communities make about the use of their natural resources. The challenge lies in devising resource-allocation decision-making models that allow communities to fulfill their social and economic developmental aspirations, while ensuring that a viable, representative proportion of the country's unique terrestrial and marine resources are conserved for national and global environmental benefits. However, the large-scale establishment of Community-based Conservation Areas (CCA) in PNG continues to be hindered by the range of policy, capacity and financial barriers described above.

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2. Inception Workshop Objectives

The Inception Workshop, the first activity to begin project implementation following signing of the project document aims to assist all stakeholders and involved parties to understand and take ownership of the project's goals and objectives, define roles and responsibilities as well as to clarify technical and managerial aspects. The expected outcomes from the inception workshop include:

- Improved understanding and agreement on project goals and objectives;
- Agree on the project implementation modality at selected provincial project sites;
- Agree on the provincial representation for the composition of the Project Steering Committee; and
- Agree on project management oversight arrangements at the provincial level.

3. Participants

The participants include representatives from the following public, private and civil society organisations:

- West New Britain Provincial Government - Planning Division, Forestry, Fisheries, Finance and Treasury at provincial, district and local level governments within the Nakanai and Whiteman Range Area
- Civil Society Organisations and Media Organisations – TNC, Live & Learn, Mahonia Na Dari etc
- Private Sector – Walindi Resort, NBPOL, Logging Industry
- Nakanai and White Range Area community representatives

4. Workshop Program - Tuesday 4th December, 2012

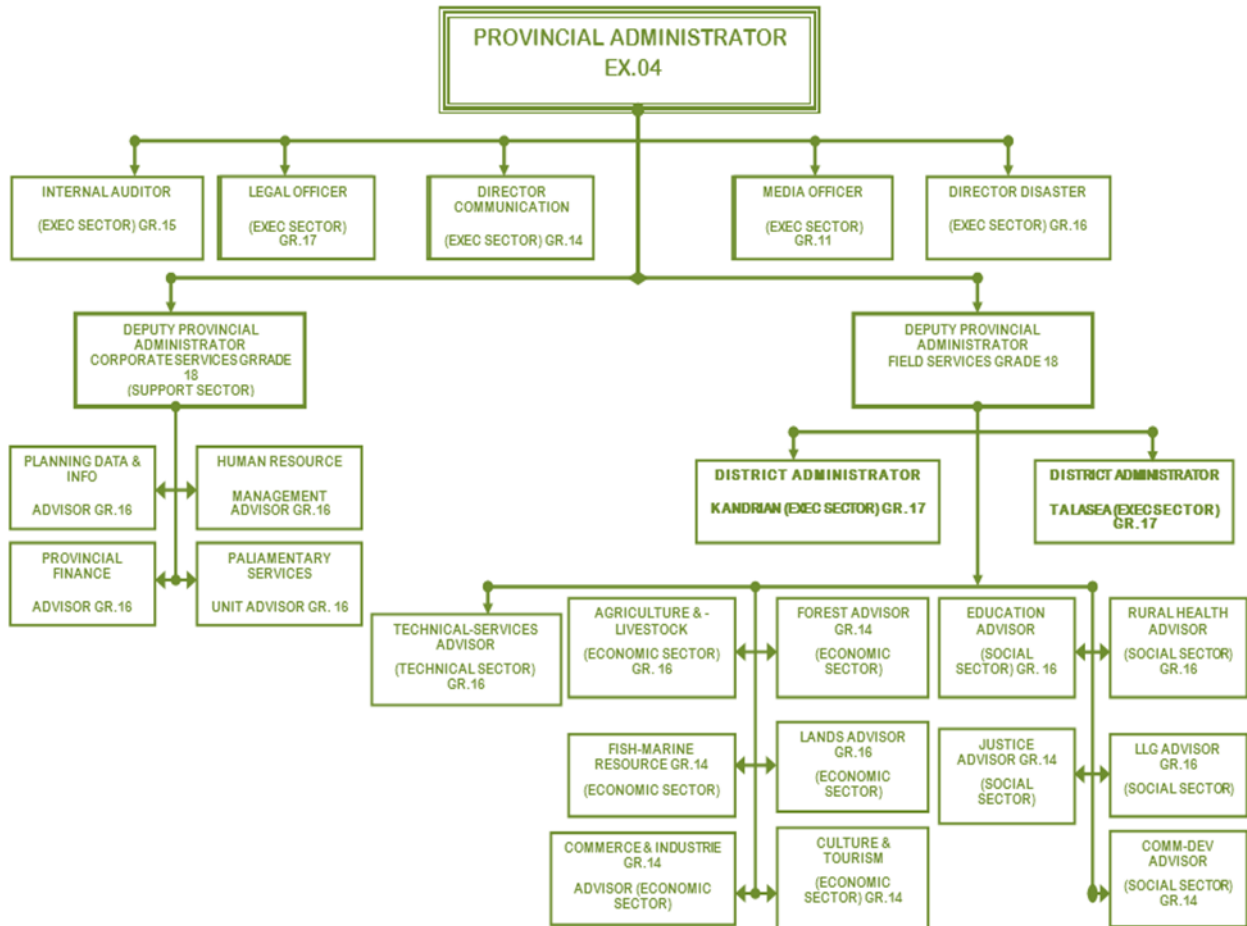
Main Facilitator: John Michael, Manager, Special Projects, Department of Environment and Conservation

Time	Item Description	Facilitator or Lead
8: 30am	Participants' Registration	
9:00am	Workshop Prayer	<i>A member of the workshop participants</i>
9:10am	Opening and Welcome	<i>John Michael, DEC</i>
9:15am	Introduction of Workshop Participants and IW Objectives	<i>James Sabi, DEC</i>
10:00am	Coffee/Tea Break	
10:15am	DEC Experience from Kokoda Initiative	<i>James Sabi, DEC</i>
10:45am	Project Presentation (Rationale, Goals, Objectives, Outcomes, Budget)	<i>James Sabi, DEC</i>
11:45am	Questions and Answers (open forum discussions)	<i>Gwen Maru, UNDP PNG</i>
12:00pm	Lunch Break	
1:00pm	Group Discussions	<i>John Michael, DEC</i>
2:30pm	Tea/Coffee Break	
2:45pm	Group Feedback	<i>John Michael, DEC</i>
3:45pm	Next Steps for Project Implementation	<i>John Michael, DEC</i>
4:00pm	Closing Remarks	<i>John Michael, DEC</i>
4:15pm	End of workshop	

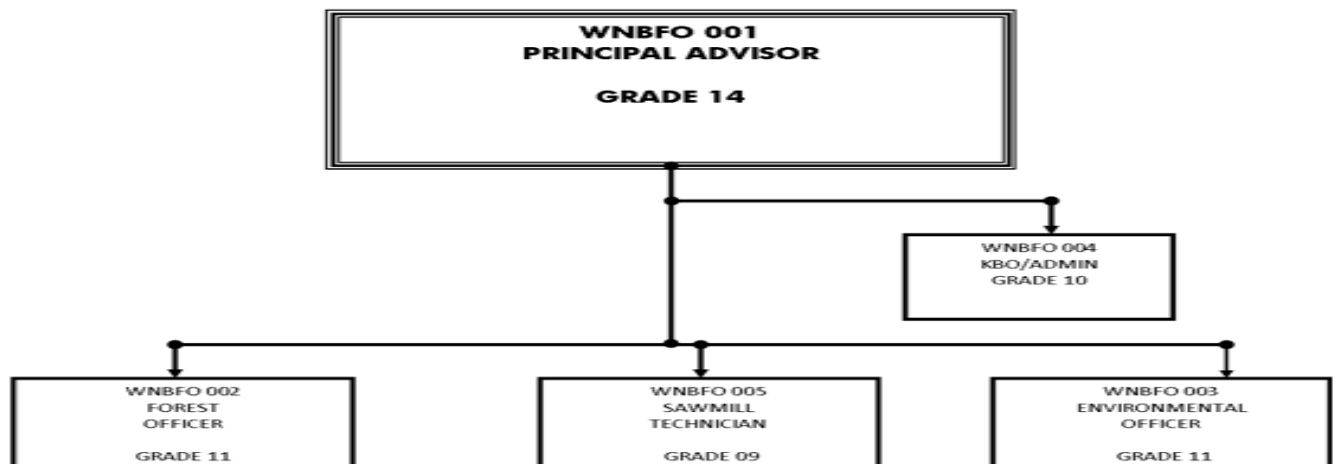
Annex 2: Participants List

Name	Designation	Organization	Phone/Email	Signed
John Michael	Director, Special Projects, Office of the Secretary	Department of Environment and Conservation, P.O.Box 6601, BKO, NCD	jumbamik@yahoo.com	√
James Sabi	Manager, Terrestrial Ecosystems Management	Department of Environment and Conservation, P.O.Box 6601, BKO, NCD	7182 3100 7688 8794 James.sabi.roaming@gmail.com	√
Gwen Maru	Programme Analyst – Energy & Environment	UNDP PNG, P.O.Box 1041, Port Moresby	Gwen.maru@undp.org	√
Bernard Suruman	Manager, Marine Protected Areas	Department of Environment & Conservation, P.O.Box 6601, BKO, NCD	bsuruman@gmail.com	√
Rose Alphonse	Policy Officer,	Department of Environment and Conservation, P.O.Box 6601, BKO, NCD	72159844 rwalphonse@gmail.com	√
John Suarim	Forest Officer	Forest Division, West New Britain Provincial Administration (WNBPA)	983 5558	√
George Laume	Sustainability Officer	Hargy Oil Palm Limited (HOPL)	glaume@hargy.com.pg 73952600	√
Sophie Mission	Sustainability Manager	Hargy Oil Palm Limited (HOPL)	72230117 smission@hargy.com.pg	√
Mark Hadfield	Environment Officer	New Britain Palm Oil Limited (NBPOL)	Mark.hadfield@nbpol.com.pg 72071668	√
John Piniau	Coordinator – Small holder	New Britain Palm Oil Limited (NBPOL)	71697195 John.pinau@nbpol.com.pg	√
Charles Dewhursh	Head of Entomology	PNG Oil Palm Research Association (OPRA)	Charlesf.dewhursh@pngopra.org.pg	√
Cecilie Benjamin	Chair and Acting Program Director	Mahonia Na Dari	ceciliebenjamin@gmail.com	√
Cheyne Benjamin	General Manager	Walindi Plantation Resort	Cheyne_benjamin@yahoo.com.au	√
Desmond Vaghelo	Environment Officer	WNBPA	dmvaghelo@gmail.com	√
George Ulae	Government relations officer	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	gulae@tnc.org	√
Ruben		FORCERT	rtaminza@gmail.com	√
Dorcas Kubaki	District Fisheries Officer	WNBPA	72067307	√

Annex 3: West New Britain Provincial & Division of Forest Structure (Source: WNBPA)



DIVISION OF FOREST



Annex 4: Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) & Management Structure (as presented by WNBPA) in West New Britain Province (Source: WNBPA)

