



## JOB DESCRIPTION

**Position Title:** Technical Forest Officer

**Reports directly to:** Conservation Officer

**Office:** WWF-Pacific Papua New Guinea (PNG) Country Programme

**Location:** Madang/Port Moresby, PNG

**Date:** March 2016

### I. Background:

WWF has a long established presence in the Pacific region, starting out of Australia in 1990 when the Pacific Programme was established in the Solomon Islands, PNG, Fiji and later Cook Islands. It moved to Fiji in 1995, where the countries' and regional programme oversight is now headquartered. In 2008 the regional programme was split into the Western Melanesia Programme Office (WMPO - PNG & SI) and South Pacific Programme Office (SPPO - Fiji, Cook Islands and Regional Tuna Programme). The three country programmes (Fiji, PNG & SI) came together as one Pacific Programme in February 2014, as the network restructured to magnify its global conservation impact in the Pacific Region.

The overarching Pacific Programme Office is hosted in the Fiji Office in the capital, Suva. The WWF Fiji Office is currently undergoing the process of being legally-registered as WWF-Pacific. To the WWF network it is known as WWF-Pacific Programme Office (PPO). Internally each programme office is known as Fiji Country Programme, Papua New Guinea (PNG) Country Programme and Solomon Islands (SI) Country Programme.

WWF-Pacific PNG Country Programme is a legal presence in PNG, registered on 01<sup>st</sup> March 2002 under the Companies Act 1997 as an overseas company NO.3-45379.

WWF-Pacific PNG Country Programme has had an influential role in both policy and achieving strong conservation wins in the recent past, including guidance on protected area policy (*Review of the Management and Status of Protected Areas and Action Plan – WWF/DEC 1992*) and conservation area policy (*PNG Conservation Areas Strengthening Project 1994-2000. WWF/DEC*). In partnership with the extractives industry and others, it has also delivered wins to adjust gas/oil pipeline routes to avoid High Conservation Value Areas, delivered successful livelihood development programmes, including a UNDP award-winning crocodile farming project in the Sepik, and engaged with communities to form wildlife management areas in both the Kikori Basin, Transfly and Madang Province. However, in the last four years, both its influence and visibility has waned, largely due to restructuring in 2013 and a consequent reduction in capacity. It remains a recognizable player in the conservation network, but has lost ground, particularly to The Nature Conservancy and Conservation International and to national NGOs like Partners with Melanesians, Eco-Forestry Forum and Forcert.

Currently WWF-Pacific PNG has a strong niche role in community related 'grassroots' projects, leading on work in eco-forestry, developing more sustainable livelihoods through micro-financing, and climate change related mangrove rehabilitation on a 2014 budget of PGK1.5m. Additionally, a tuna fisheries policy, management and certification project has recently commenced.

In July 2015, WWF-Pacific Programme Office (PPO) embarked on the implementation of a five year (2016 to 2020) strategic plan, with a strong emphasis on a green growth solutions to development. The new strategy outlines key changes in the way the organization will operate, both in conservation and operationally. The strategy in PNG is embedded in this (PPO) strategy and focusses on the two priority programme areas – Madang Province within the Bismarck and Solomon Seas ecoregion and the Kikori Basin, part of WWF's New Guinea and Islands priority place. WWF is currently the only international conservation NGO working in this remote region (Kikori) which is recognized as of global significance both for its cultural and its biological diversity.

## **1. Vision, Mission & Goals:**

**1.1 WWF Pacific Programme Vision:** *For empowered and resilient Pacific Island communities living our unique culture to conserve and manage our ocean, forests and rivers for improved food security, human wellbeing and a sustainable future.*

**1.2 WWF Mission:** *to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature by:*

- Conserving the world's biological diversity;
- Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable;
- Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption

**1.3 Terrestrial Programme Goal:** *By 2020, forest cover in high conservation value areas (HCVAs) as identified by the Kikori River Basin Conservation Blueprint is maintained from its 2011 baseline, protecting iconic species and supporting and improving community livelihoods with an allowance to respond rapidly to emerging threats.*

The focus of the terrestrial goal will be on:

- WWF global priority place, New Guinea and Offshore Islands (NGI).
- WWF Priority Species (flagship and footprint), including tree kangaroos and other iconic species.
- Influencing land-use planning and protected areas policy with key stakeholders, including national and provincial government and the extractives industry.
- Enhancing livelihoods through a Green Economy approach, including eco-tourism and sustainable forestry focused on Lake Kutubu RAMSAR site and Bosavi WMAs candidate Conservation Area.

## **II. Major Functions:**

The Technical Forest Officer will contribute to the management of Kikori and Madang Programmes on forest protection and help safeguard the health of the forests in special reference to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards.

## **III. Major Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Develop capacity of the Kutubu Kikori Eco-forestry Association members by being involved in providing support training programmes:
  - a. Work with the Kutubu Kikori Eco-forestry Association executives and establish current membership registration and create database of sawmills in the Kikori Basin.

- b. Evaluate Kutubu Kikori Eco-forestry Association membership and prioritize training needs in Forest Management, Timber Harvesting & Marketing, Business Management, Good Governance, FSC Forest Certification, and other associated training needs.
- Provide technical support to the registered Kutubu Kikori Eco-forestry Association members by:
  - a. Conduct participatory rural appraisal/social mapping.
  - b. Conduct Community/clan land-use planning exercises and update land-use plan/map accordingly.
  - c. Conduct forest survey inventory and complete forest management and timber harvesting set-up plans for respective community/clan sawmills.
  - d. Train local owners of portable sawmills who are registered members of Kutubu Kikori Eco-forestry Association in the above process and involve them in understanding SFM and FSC Forest Certification.
  - e. Provide Forest Nursery Training and assist in the establishment of reforestation nurseries.
  - f. Create, update and maintain a database of the above activities.
- Liaise with FORCERT and key stakeholders such as PNG Forest Authority and Conservation Environment Protection Authority, Oil Palm Industry and other conservation NGO's on issues relating to forest compliance, sustainable forest management, and protected areas.
- Work with Kikori Project officer and WWF Conservation Officer to deliver Bird Of Paradise Conservation Activities:
  - a. Carry out essential research into the BOP population in KRB region to identify the areas of high concentration of selected priority species.
  - b. Create a locally managed forest reserve & develop forest management plan strategy plan involving all relevant stakeholders to ensure the long term protection of identified BOP species.
  - c. Develop A Communication Plan & implement to engage with local communities in the target area, as well as local governments bodies and where applicable the small logging companies operating around the vicinity
  - d. Develop management plans and or work with partner organisations to develop management plans for at least two priority flagship species (pig-nosed turtles, and bird of paradise (BOP)), and facilitate implementation across Kikori with local level governments and their communities to reduce over-exploitation and habitat destruction, maintaining populations at least at their 2011 levels. Where there is no baseline, to set baseline.
  - e. Support Sustainable Income Generation: Improve sustainable income generation and cultural use of the Kikori River Basin forest, for the protection of iconic species and landscapes for the betterment of community cohesion & livelihoods.
- Reporting: Complete return back to office (RBTO) reports, Technical Progress reports (TPR), contribute to Donor Reports and other associated work relating to this position.
- Contribute to fundraising and proposal writing: this role is able to contribute ideas and concepts to WWF efforts in fundraising and proposal writing and budgeting.
- Be resilient and adapt to changes.
- Flexibility to work with, manage and maintain good relationships with partners and stakeholders.
- Undertake any other tasks pertaining to this duty or outside this role.

#### **IV. Requirements:**

##### **Qualifications & Experience:**

- A Graduate degree in forestry from a nationally recognised university or college.
- Minimum work experience of at least three (3) years with NGO, Government and Private sector on forest management with demonstrated work history.
- Experience working in rural areas and local people and ability to endure field challenges and dealing with community issues.

- Background in community forestry, FSC Forest Management Certification and livelihood development is added advantage.
- Understanding of gender and knowledge on forestry issues and resource management issues in Papua New Guinea with activities in conservation and/or development projects in PNG or elsewhere is essential.

### **Required Skills and Competencies**

- Ability to manage integrated conservation and community forestry projects in PNG.
- Project implementation and planning skills.
- Report writing and proposal writing.
- Excellent oral and written English communication.
- Possess a demonstrated ability to work as a member of a multidisciplinary team.
- Good understanding on Climate Change and associated impact.
- Knowledge of use of GPS & GIS OR MAPINFO Software's for mapping would be an added advantage.
- Self-motivated, accountable, and able to work collaboratively as part of a team.
- Experience in working closely with rural communities, government agencies and non-government organizations in conservation area and resource management.
- Experience in advocacy and campaigning work is desirable.
- Adheres to WWF's values, which are: *Knowledgeable, Optimistic, Determined and Engaging.*

### **Working Relationships:**

**Internal** - Work in close collaboration as part of the WWF-Pacific PNG Forest team and other staff in both Kikori and Madang on forestry related matters and community forestry and climate change impact and supporting local people in coastal regions building resilience through mangrove restoration work and adaptation to climate change impacts.

**External** - Represents WWF and builds network relationships and partnerships with WWF's key stakeholders and partner agencies throughout PNG. Supports provincial authorities, communities, and their leader. Works with donors and with field assistants and terrestrial programme staff of WWF-Pacific PNG.

This job description covers the main tasks and conveys the spirit of the sort of tasks that are anticipated proactively from staff. Other tasks may be assigned as necessary according to organizational needs.

Approved by WWF-Country Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted by Staff Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_