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NEWSLETTER
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Nuigini Toksave

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PROTECTING OUR ICONIC BIRD OF PARADISE



Douglas Awa from Daga 2 village registering his interest in BOP conservation.
Photo: opileng@wwfpacific/2017



Clan members during a discussion after the workshop in Daga 2 village.
Photo: opileng@wwfpacific/2017



Bird of Paradise

Did you know that;

- Of the 31-different species found in PNG,
- 24 are confirmed to be in Kikori basin as recorded by WWF and
- 6 are in the Kutubu region.

Local landowners from Kutubu have confirmed their support to protect our iconic Bird of Paradise affectionately known as Kumul in tokpisin.

These local community groups have renewed their commitment to work with WWF promote the conservation and management of key sites and species of this iconic bird found in the region.

Of the 31-different species found in PNG, about 24 are confirmed to be in Kikori basin as recorded by WWF and 6 are in the Kutubu region.

However, these majestic birds face increasing threats due to harmful and unsustainable land use practices such as unsustainable logging and clearing lands for development that tops the list.

These birds are also hunted for their beautiful array of plumes for decorations, traditional headdresses and gifts for either personal use or traded.

In December 2017, WWF held a workshop in Tugiri and Daga 2 attended by 30 people who owned Bird of Paradise watching sites.

They demonstrated their intentions to be proactive in preventing the extinction of these beautiful species and reversing the population drops in common the bird species and lessening the threats to their habitats.

WWF Program Development Manager, Kafuri Yaro said, WWF is looking at strengthening their work in the Kikori Basin to promote sustainable livelihood issues and increasing local community engagement in the Bird of Paradise conservation to ensure long-term conservation benefits.

He said this will complement the existing work on the ecotourism by

promoting the Bird of Paradise sites, improving its conservation status of migratory birds and initiating specific plans for specific threatened species.

“WWF hopes to identify and utilize opportunities for increased awareness and appreciation on the importance of regions unique native wildlife, amazing landmarks and rare cultural way of life which is celebrated annually at the Kutubu Kundu and Digaso Festival,” Mr Yaro said.

In March 2017, WWF conducted a Bird of Paradise workshop and 34 representatives from four wildlife management areas – Kutubu Festival Committees, Mt Bosavi Eco Tourism Group, Suguniga Cultural Resource Centre and Kutubu Youth Development Groups attended.

Through this workshop, forest reserves and local land use planned for community adaptation and use were agreed with each committee adopting respective by-laws of the wildlife management areas to govern the implementation of the plan.

Strategies were developed to protect the Bird of Paradise, for example, erecting sign boards to inform hunters on the prohibition of hunting the species and establishing proper agreement with the festival team to guarantee the tourists that the sites were secured for Bird of Paradise watching and to manage tourist expectations.

WWF PNG is supporting the local communities to register their landowning clans' interests in the Kutubu area who wish to conserve BOP sites, habitats and linking with local guesthouses and the festival as means of generating alternative income from tourism.

For more information, email:
opileng@wwfpacific.org

A COMMUNITY THAT SAVES TOGETHER, GROWS TOGETHER



Members of Murin VSL group from Bilbil Village discussing and noting their updates, progress and future plan before presentation. Tusbab Hall, Madang. Photo by Nicko Kananawa.



Nama savings group (Siar village) during payout sessions in December 2017. Photo by Nicko Kananawa.

Thirteen communities in Madang are using the power of Village Savings and Loans (VSL) Scheme to transform lives.

Three years since WWF initiated Financial Inclusion to support its conservation objectives, more than 3,000 people from 13 communities are experiencing financial independence through this innovative project that is allowing them to improve their financial literacy, save, lend and invest for a much more improved community and family life.

After trialling couple of concepts, the Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) scheme was adopted as part of the Financial Inclusion program under WWF's Community-Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) project promoting micro-financing for community-based enterprises linked to coastal fisheries in Madang.

Funded by DFAT Australia and John West fishing company through WWF Australia, this project has reached people in the Madang Lagoon and the North Coast region of Sumkar and Bogia since 2015. Nearly 50 percent are women and girls.

This project aims to increase the capacity of often vulnerable families and individuals to become better financial managers by providing access to basic financial literacy training and savings scheme. This is a

community led project, with WWF providing training and technical support for savings clubs to govern themselves transparently and manage their financial resources effectively with the help of an agent.

Rebecca Samuel, WWF Coastal Marine Officer manages the project with the support of the Financial Inclusion Officer Belinda Chokoli and a consultant from World Vision, Paul Kauke.

Ms Samuel says the project is allowing these communities who are usually financially burdened have access to these self-managed financial services and instil some discipline to save money for the "rainy season" or to meet priorities for their families and improve their capability to invest in alternative income-generating activities.

Under this initiative, a group in a village saves money together and let members take small loans from those savings. The goal of the group is to promote the savings culture at the village level due to difficulties faced by a villager to access commercial banking services as a result of their stringent processes. Additionally, it was to allow the villagers to take loans from their savings to invest in other micro businesses so they diversify and grow their investments.

Only a few group members of the groups, who were fortunate enough to go to school

and properly learn basic book keeping and the importance of financial management so the training of village agents ensures, the groups thrives.

Members in the village attend regular meetings save, take loans and participate in open discussions, for answers to queries so they understand how best they can grow under this program.

WWF has trained 20 village VSLA agents, to ensure a lifeline is available at their door step. A major component of the project is to equip local partners to increase their abilities to run and support VSLA services in the future.

"The aim of the activity is to build the Savings Culture into the people's daily lifestyle. We hope people in these targeted communities will have transformed to a more sustainable and effectively managed fishery which will have contributed to improved women's empowerment, food security and poverty alleviation," said Ms Samuel said.

Last December, WWF facilitated pay-outs for 27 savings groups in 12 target communities of Kranget, Bilia, Tavulte, Korak, Meiwok, Toto, Sikor, Sarar, Siar, Sek, Riwo and Bilbil.

For more information, email: rsamuel@wwfpacific.org

Upcoming Key Dates

Dates	Upcoming Events
March 03, 2018	World Wildlife day
March 21, 2018	World Forest Day
March 24, 2018 8:30pm - 9:30pm	Earth Hour

To date, WWF has helped;

- 3000 people become members of 27 operational VSLAS, from 13 targeted communities.
- 50 % of whom are women, increasing women's control of resources and their input into household and business decision-making.



TOKSAVE FROM THE PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Hello and welcome to our second edition of WWF PNG programme's bimonthly newsletter - the *Niugini Toksave*!

We hope you enjoyed our last edition as we look forward to bringing you, news and information on our progress through this channel.

Already, 2018 is shaping up to be a big year for WWF PNG Programme and we have hit the ground running.

In early February, I was joined by members of the Senior Management team in Fiji to meet and discuss strategies to guide our work to continue promoting WWF's global mission to stop the degradation of our planet's natural environment and to support efforts to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature

You will learn from this edition, work we commenced at the end of last year on our projects in the Kutubu where WWF is working with local landowners to protect our Iconic Bird of Paradise.

In Madang, we continue our climate resilient work through our community led mangrove project along the north coast area.

We bring you a special report on how we are working to build financial resilience for 23 communities through a micro village savings and loans initiative. This project aims to increase the capacity of often vulnerable families and individuals to become better financial manager by providing access to basic financial literacy training and savings scheme.

You will meet and learn from our hardworking staff talk about their experiences at WWF.

I would like to convey our best wishes to Saina Jeffery, who has been an integral and valued member as Project Officer for the WWF Kikori project for the last 9 years and is leaving us.

We wish Saina, all the very best in her endeavours. She will be remembered for her work in the Kikori basin especially with Kutubu Kundu and Digaso Festival – a community initiative that brings together mostly conservation communities to celebrate the importance of these protected areas, their cultures and experiences, share stories and ideas for the last seven years.

We hope, you will enjoy this newsletter, snippets of our work are also available on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/WWF-Papua-New-Guinea/>).

Thank you!

Kafuri Yaro

STAFF PROFILES

A day in the life of



Dominica Maire Aitule

Dominica Aitule is from the beautiful Cape Gloucester, West New Britain, also known as Tuluvu.

She is the Administration Officer at the WWF Madang Field Office.

Dominica shares her WWF journey and experience:

What do you like about working at WWF?

I have been privileged to know the real purpose and importance of conserving. I have learnt many innovative and interesting aspects of marine and terrestrial conservation.

What is one thing you enjoy about your role and why do you think it is important?

I am responsible for office supplies. I like to think that my role is making sure WWF staff and teams get the right kind of tools and support to deliver and complete their daily tasks.

What is one thought, quote or thing that motivates you in life generally?

"Always good to listen, before you speak, pause and think before you act!"

Dominica can be reached via email: officepng@wwfpacific.org



Anthony Mawi

Anthony Mawi is from the iconic and culturally rich East Sepik province. Anthony works as the programme's Finance Officer. A role that is considered the engine room of the organisation by making sure bills are paid, and checks and balances are maintained and in place regularly.

Anthony shares his WWF journey and experience:

What do you like about working at WWF?

WWF is an International Conservation Organisation with the main aim of conserving the environment. Being with the organisation has given me that responsibility to be able to advocate more on the importance of conservation in Papua New Guinea.

What is one thing you enjoy about your role and why do you think it is important?

I enjoy being able to work with different international donors and to know their financial policies and requirements is indeed an opportunity for learning and growth for me.

What is one thought, quote or thing that motivates in life generally?

"Do not let your past dictate your future"

Anthony works out of our Port Moresby office and can be contacted via email: amawi@wwfpacific.org

MANGROVE PLANTING EXPANDS



Theresia Mamot standing in a Mangrove nursery.



Theresia Mamot with locals during a site visit.

WWF continues to support the community led mangrove forest rehabilitation project along Madang's northern coast, with four more awareness and planting exercise completed just before Christmas last year.

A total of 84 people from the communities of Kupukam, Sarang, Sikor and Uligan have now been trained and are equipped with increased knowledge about climate change and with appropriate mangrove nursery operations and management skills to help in restoration and to monitor progress.

Mangrove forests provide valuable and wide-ranging ecosystem support to nature and society – they help prevent coastal erosion, filter pollutants, provide a safe haven for juvenile fish and are highly efficient carbon sinks, reducing the impact of carbon emissions.

In Papua New Guinea, many local communities also rely on these trees for their livelihoods, for instance for firewood and craft making and for mud crabs and mussels from mangrove swamps.

Despite their many benefits, mangrove forests are being destroyed at an alarming rate by coastal development, logging and the increasing effect of climate change threatening food security.

Delivered through a partnership with the United National Climate Change Adaption Fund, WWF is working with 14 coastal communities to increase potential mangrove coverage and to alleviate impacts from coastal erosion and depleting mangrove forest.

Under this project, it is hoped that planting of more than 40,000 mangrove trees to restoration of 40 hectares of degraded land, by training and motivating hundreds of community members, including leaders, local schoolchildren and students through a series of workshops that teaches about the importance of mangroves preservation and sustainable use.

Community members also act as facilitators and have developed the skills to negotiate and encourage support for this initiative.

Of 24 community facilitators trained, two women Veronica Bok of Yambaryambar Village in Bogia district and Teresa Mamot from Sarang have been trained and are valued as partner facilitators.

Both women say since becoming community facilitators, they feel more confident and have developed improved communications and negotiation skills.

They are now recognised as women leaders in their communities.

"Climate change has no boundaries. This mangrove rehabilitation training workshops has given us knowledge and skills on the importance of mangroves and has motivated us to continue to manage and nurse mangroves," Veronica said.

These are just examples on how this community based project is helping to change behaviours and hopefully improve community lives for these communities.

For more information, email:

opileng@wwfpacific.org

LUKIM YU!



Saina Jeffrey Philyara

In February, we bid farewell to our fun loving and passionate Engan, Saina Jeffrey Philyara.

Saina is leaving us after serving WWF for 9 years as the Kikori Project Officer to take up her next big adventure in life.

Saina shares with us a snippet of her WWF experience.

What did you like about working with WWF?

What a journey it has been. WWF

known for its ever-challenging network has motivated and pushed me to be more accountable in all work and it has been a quite a rewarding experience. I take with me lifelong skills and knowledge.

What is one thing you enjoyed about your role?

My role gave me many new opportunities to share ideas, live, understand, do things together and appreciate people are and the way they do things. That is what I

take away from this experience.

What is one thought, quote or thing that motivates in life generally?

"Always believe in yourself!"

We wish Saina all the best!

Saina can be reached via email: jeffreysaina@gmail.com

Contact us

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Why we are here

WWF has a global mission to stop the degradation of our planet's natural environment and to support efforts to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.