

WWF ADVANCES COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL LOGGING	1
TOKSAVE FROM THE PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	1
STAFF PROFILE	2
KEYDATES	2
MADANG ON A MANGROVE MISSION	3
KUTUBU KUNDU AND DIGASO FESTIVAL - AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE	4

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Toksave from the Programme Development Manager



Welcome to our revived newsletter - the Nuigini Toksave, through this publication, we hope to give you a glimpse of our work across the communities in Papua New Guinea and the region.

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 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.

WWF PNG Programme's focus for 2016-2020 is to build and promote conservation activities in both marine (seascape) and forest (landscape) areas in two priority landscapes; - the Kikori River Basin and the Madang Lagoon. Thus, our long term Vision is, "Lukautim na usim bus, graun, wara na solwara bilong gutpela sindaun nau, na bilong ol tumbuna bihain taim" which translates to 'Looking after and wisely using our forests, land, rivers and seas for better lives for now and for future generations'. This is directly linked to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and PNG National Development Priorities.

WWF is working in the Kikori River Basin to explore opportunities to influence land-use planning and to protect 'flagship' species in High Conservation Value Areas, as well as developing sustainable community livelihoods and alternative income generation opportunities built around eco-forestry and eco-tourism.

In Madang, our seascape program focuses on Community Based Sustainable Development through Coastal Fisheries and Financial Inclusion where we are encouraging communities and women's groups to apply micro-finance schemes. We are also working with local communities to build climate change resilience.

In this edition, we bring you stories on our efforts to promoting sustainable timber trade with China, and how we are working with local communities to combat climate change in Madang and our continued efforts to promote the annual Kutubu Kundu and Digaso Festival as an amazing experience in partnership with PNG Tourism Promotion Authority and other key players in the region.

I also take this opportunity on behalf of our WWF Pacific Representative, Kesaia Marama Tabunakawai at WWF Fiji and the 15 local staff (including consultants), to thank you for your support in 2017.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Kafuri Yaro
 Programme Development Manager

WWF Advances Collaboration with International Partners to Address Illegal Logging



Anna Sipona, a landowner from Pomio who was part of the CSO panel, speaking at the meeting.

Illegal logging has become widespread, for example, Small Agriculture Business Lease (SABL) in PNG contributes to half of all tropical timber traded internationally from forest conversion, of which nearly two-thirds is thought to be illegal.

WWF PNG is therefore connecting with international partners to promote timber legality issues and forest certification in PNG.

WWF China and Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN) member delegates are now hoping to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between PNG Government soon.

Last month, WWF China's Head of Markets Mr Zhonghao Jin led a 10-member delegation from China, including representatives from the Division of Foreign Economic and Trade, Department of Development Planning and Finance Management, State Forestry Administration, Nature Home, China National Forest Products Industry Association, FSC Representatives for a series of meetings from Nov 5-10, 2017.

They also visited two forestry concession licensed areas in Vaimo, West Sepik Province followed by a stakeholder

consultation meeting in Port Moresby attended by Dr Ruth Turia, Director Policy and Planning and representatives from PNG Forest Authority, Bank of PNG, Mr Bob Tate representing PNG Forest Industry Association and representatives from the civil society organisations led by Act Now PNG.

This study tour was in response to a recent Global Witness report alleging that illegal timber trade was driving the deforestation of the world third largest tropical rainforest found in PNG.

The report claimed that a third of the timber coming from PNG were involved in clear cutting of rain forest 'stolen' from local communities.

Most of PNG's timber from the taun species shipped to China is turned into flooring, furniture, plywood and other products that are sold local and exported. The US is currently the largest buyer of wood production from China, a trade worth \$15 billion annually.

With deforestation as a top concern, WWF China and PNG are keen to work with PNGFA, PNGFIA, CSO and local to communities help manage risks linked to deforestation especially for those from high conservation value forest and to ensure that timber is legally and sustainably sourced.

Recommendations from the meeting will allow WWF to create an initiative that will forge greater partnerships from key stakeholders.

Contact Kafuri Yaro on,
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Staff Profile - A day in the life of...



Rebecca Samuel

Meet Rebecca Samuel, from the idyllic Admiralty Group of Islands in the Bismarck sea – Manus but now calls Madang her home. Rebecca works as the Coastal Marine Officer managing the Community-Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) project promoting micro-financing for community-based enterprises linked to coastal fisheries in Madang.

Funded by John West fishing company and DFAT Australia through WWF Australia, this project has reached 3000 people since 2015. Nearly 50 percent are women and girls.

Rebecca shares her WWF journey and experience:

What do you like about working at WWF?

As an international NGO, WWF offers international professional standards, practices and approaches that encourage and train staff with up-to-date but environmentally friendly practices, skills, knowledge and technologies available in the world. These projects are targeted at communities to improve their outlook of the world we live in thus empowering them to act within their means to address some of the many environmental issues and problems being faced on the planet in these current day and time.

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

Being able to share my knowledge, skills and experiences with fellow Papua New Guineans, thus educating and empowering them is very satisfying. WWF as an organisation provides the avenue and means for me to do that which is very important and enjoyable.

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

“My job is my passion”. This in itself is what motivates me to do what I do. I enjoy sharing my knowledge, skills and experiences with my fellow Papua New Guineans so they take control of managing and wisely using their resources for their well-being. I wish more people are passionate about their jobs because they want to do it and not only because they have to.

Rebecca works out of the Madang Office and can be reached on e: rsamuel@wwfpacific.org



Benjamin Kerua

Meet Benjamin Kerua, from the cloud capped mountainous region of Western Highlands. Ben has the job of managing WWF PNG Programme's Finance and Administration operations in the country. He holds this job with high regard since most of WWF's work requires a great deal of accountability.

Ben shares with us some insights on his WWF experience:

What do you like about working at WWF?

I love to contribute to making a difference to impact people's lives. I am passionate to work with likeminded professionals to revive the WWF PNG Programme by improving and strengthening the financial processes and policies to restore the donor's confidence to invest in conservation work in PNG. I had a little break since 2010 and now feel inspired and energised to join the panda family again.

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

I enjoy challenges which allows me to explore and learn new skills to build my career professionally, particularly in helping to promote established financial process and systems then to work in already well establish systematic processes. The program is now at a cross road for prosperity and I want to play a key pivotal role as a leader to enhance growth here.

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

A proverb - “Rome was not built in a day”. It takes time, commitment, hard work, honesty, determination and enthusiasm for every success and prosperous stories.

Benjamin is based in the Port Moresby office and can be reached on e: bkerua@wwfpacific.org

Upcoming Key Dates

Dates	Upcoming Events
Dec 9-20, 2017	Financial Inclusion Savings and Loans Groups Formation and Rollout
Dec 22-Jan 3, 2018	Office Closure. WWF PNG Offices are closed for the festive season.
Feb 29, 2018	Consultation & Workshop for Kikori River Basin information for World Heritage Site listings.



Madang on a Mangrove Mission

Communities along the Northern Coast of Madang are on a massive mangrove planting mission to plant at least 40,000 seedlings as a possible defence against the negative effects of climate change and other environmental disasters.

Like most coastal communities in the Pacific, there is an increasing concern over human induced changes leading to the depletion of this very important lifeline affecting fish and other marine life, water quality, erosion and threatening food security.

These communities know too well that the demand for both personal and commercial uses has resulted in the over cultivation of mangroves for firewood, art and or simply cleared to give way for development expansion.

Conservation organisation, WWF PNG is working in partnership with local communities to raise education and awareness on the importance of mangrove preservation and sustainable use as part of community mangrove restoration and climate change adaptation project supported by United Nations Climate Change Adaptation Fund.

WWF Officers Oscar Pileng and Bonti Krasi are engaged with local community leaders in Madang to restore mangrove ecosystem through a series of training programs to empower participants to set up nurseries, reforestation and monitoring programs and networks within respective communities.

To date, WWF has trained 160 community members including more than 20 community leaders from 10 communities in Bogia and Sumkar Districts in Madang. Out of the total trained 30 are women.

They are on a roadmap and so far have planted 4,600 of the targeted number of 40,000 seedlings to be planted over 40 hectares of land approximately over 30 km of degraded land since 2016.

Four local schools are also involved in the upkeep and awareness programs. Philip Kanong from Boroi village is now a certified community trainer after attending a training program held in his village in August 2017.

“Through this workshop, the Boroi community now understands the important role and value of mangroves. As a community facilitator, I am pleased to see people interested and taking ownership of the initiative. There is now a growing interest from nearby communities,” Philip said.

Mr Pileng said it is through such programs that WWF is equipping local communities with skills and knowledge to appreciate the importance of local action against a global problem such as climate change and are taking steps to remain resilient.

Contact Oscar Pileng for more information on e: opileng@wwf.panda.org

Did you know that

Mangroves:

- Are the most productive ecosystems that support a wealth of life.
- Are important to the health of the planet.
- Grow in the intertidal zone and are known as guardians of sea and land.
- Mangroves act as buffers, filtering water coming out from rivers, preventing siltation of sea grass beds and coral reefs.
- Provide a barrier against beach erosion.
- Act as carbon sinks.
- Are breeding nurseries, feeding grounds for marine life and other living organisms.
- Provide cost-effective protection against coastal flooding.
- Can reduce wave energy by 90%, they are cheap to create and are self-sustaining.
- Can migrate inland to accommodate sea level rise, and can provide increased protection and benefits over time.

From page 1

Global Witness is a UK-based NGO that has been campaigning to stop elites getting away with looting entire states, from armed factions militarising the natural resource business, and for an end to the exploitation of our environment that is destroying lives, habitats and ecosystems.

Note: WWF is no way affiliated to GW.



Local communities from Numuru Village, Malala Area, Bogia District, planting mangroves at Crown Princess Bay.



Community members from Boroi village in community mapping exercise.

Kutubu Kundu and Digaso Festival - An Amazing Experience

The annual Kutubu Kundu and Digaso Festival celebrates the importance of the Lake Kutubu in shaping the lives of its local communities.

It is part of a vast protected area that stretches from the Kandep District in Enga, Nipa-Kutubu, Komo-Magarima and part of Hela, in the north to the Kikori District and the south covering more than 200,000 population in predominantly rural communities with very diverse and rich wildlife, landscapes and cultures.

Lake Kutubu lies in the heart of the Kikori River Basin, a vast area of wetlands, grasslands, and rain forest. Its water is clear, still, and about 230 feet (70 meters) deep. Lake Kutubu is a natural fresh water lake, an important wetland of international significance and a designated Ramsar site.

The festival is an opportunity to promote sustainable tourism, which hopes to increase socio-economic benefits and capacity building opportunities for local communities from Bosavi, Kutubu, Semberigi, Kikori, Hela, Poroma, Nipa, Margarima and the country

since 2010. Sixty percent of them are women and girls.

This year's event from Sept 22-24 was attended by 28 different groups and featured a colourful array of amazing traditional singsings, arts or crafts and cultural demonstration, ended with an inaugural canoe racing on Lake Kutubu.

Visitors included 16 tourists, representatives of international tour operators from Europe, RAMSAR (Asia Pacific representatives from the International Wetland Convention), PNG Tourism Promotion Authority and representative from key partners working in the region, Oil Search and MRDC.

TPA media coordinator Colin Taimbari described Lake Kutubu as truly an amazing experience and must be promoted. He called for a stronger partnership towards improved roads and infrastructures for increased accessibility in the future, especially for tourism.

World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) hopes to promote the natural significance

of the unique Kikori River Basin as a high conservation value area by protecting iconic species and supporting improved community livelihoods to build empowered and resilient communities who are able to live with our unique cultures and will continue to conserve and manage our resources for the long term sustainable development of their future.

"Despite the challenges and threats that are faced today, areas that are of culturally, naturally and historically significance must be maintained and valued by our wonderful customary owners hoping that one day, its global significance will be honoured through its recognition," Saina Jeffrey, WWF Kikori Project Officer, said.

The Festival is an event that brings in mostly conservation communities to celebrate the importance of these protected areas, their cultures and experiences, share stories and ideas.

Saina Jeffrey can be contacted on e: sjeffrey@wwfpacific.org



Girls from Daga village.



Male dancers from Daga Village.



A tourist from Switzerland with locals from Daga village.



Canoe racing on Lake Kutubu on day 3 of the festival.



Local weaver Joshua Kamo and his father Kamo at the festival.



Local women selling food and products at the festival.

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