

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## Strengthening non-state actor involvement in forest governance



### CAPACITY BUILDING



Training has come to a halt due to COVID19 restrictions. Nevertheless, UPNG has been coordinating with TCA to organise the forest carbon stock assessment and training that will take place in the second half of 2020.

### INCREASED TRANSPARENCY & ACCESS TO INFO



Villagers are using the Lukim Gather phone app to report on environmental issues and threats directly to CEPA to complement the other Biodiversity datasets including data from the monitoring app Cybertracker.

### SUSTAINABLE & INFORMED NETWORKS



UPNG continues to advocate for forest governance at the national level. Dr Gowae is one of the facilitators for the revision of the Provincial Forest Plans (PFPs) for three of the REDD+ Pilot Provinces using the recently approved Guidelines PFPs.

### INFORMED & EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION



A total of 43 out of 50 villages completed boundary mapping and drafted land use plans as part of establishing the Torricelli Mountain Range Conservation Area (TMRCA).

**The Tenkile Conservation Alliance (TCA) and the University of PNG GIS/Remote Sensing Centre (UPNG)** continued their collaboration to work with communities of the Torricelli Mountain Range and forest governance issues. Key activities included:

- TCA staff have been working closely with 43 villages to finalise customary land boundary mapping. Local Level Government (LLG) Land mediators have been engaged in these processes voluntarily.
- UPNG has used the land boundary coordinates to map the area and carry out a deforestation mapping historical assessment. Initial analysis shows that deforestation increased most between 2015 and 2019 due to increased oil palm and logging activities.
- A TCA Rep meeting was held on the 15th March 2020 with over 140 village representatives and TCA staff attending. Project activities and plans were discussed with the village representatives including Health and Hygiene practices during COVID-19.
- The Torricelli Mountain Range Conservation Area (TMRCA) submission has been assessed by the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA). CEPA staff visited the TCA Base in Lumi and other areas to conduct Community Consultations as part of their Protected Area process. CEPA have informed TCA that the gazettal process is likely to occur in November 2020.
- UPNG's Freddie Alei and Dr Gae Gowae led a presentation on their experience with carbon stock monitoring in a virtual webinar on Carbon Stocks Assessment organised by BirdLife International on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2020. The webinar was attended by 35 individuals including BirdLife, Malaysian, Indonesians and Filipino partners' staff members.

# TCA ASSISTED 43 VILLAGES TO DRAFT LAND USE PLANS PART OF THE TORRICELLI MOUNTAIN RANGE CONSERVATION AREA AWAITING GAZETAL

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- TCA COO Jean Thomas and CEO Jim Thomas as well as UPNG Project Coordinator Dr Gae Gowae and Project Officer Freddie Alei attended the two-day virtual Project Management Team Meeting which took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2020.
- UPNG is assessing socio-economic condition of the TCA project area to incorporate within its spatial assessments of the area and future publications. It is also updating the PNG species inventory database based on Biodiversity data received.
- TCA's Institutional governance is continually improving. Financial, HR and Values policies have been developed. Three TCA Board Meetings have taken place. The inclusion of another female Board Member this year gives TCA Board 50% gender.
- TCA is progressing with a "A history of the tree kangaroos of the TMRCA – Tenkile (*Dendrolagus scottae*), Weimang (*D. pulcherrimus*) and Grizzled (*D. inustus finschi*) – Papua New Guinea", which will be completed in the third quarter of 2020.
- TCA has won the Best Conservation Film award at the New York Film Festival in March, 2020 for its film "Into the Jungle" (<https://intothejungle.net>).
- TCA secured European Union funding to support the purchase and training of technology used to monitor forests under the BIOPAMA Technical Grant. This grant will ensure there is access to technology to use Cyber tracker and Lukim Gather in every village, laptop computers for TCA staff and training in research equipment.



Identifying land boundaries for land-use planning is essential for the conservation and sustainable use of the Torricelli Mountain Range ecosystem

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2020

- August – TCA Staff training with IUCN on SMART; UPNG GIS training of TCA Staff
- September – TCA and UPNG to work together to conduct a carbon assessment in the TCA targeted villages
- November – TCA and UPNG to start analysing the carbon assessment data and debrief the staff
- December – Report Writing



[WWW.BIRDLIFE.ORG/FORESTGOVERNANCE](http://WWW.BIRDLIFE.ORG/FORESTGOVERNANCE)

This project is funded by the European Union



This project is led by



THE UNIVERSITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA