



FOLUR
Food Systems • Land Use • Restoration
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Establishing Systems for Sustainable Integrated Land Use Planning across New Britain Island in Papua New Guinea

GEF 7 - FOLUR PROJECT: YEAR 2023 IN REVIEW



The GEF7-FOLUR project aims to improve Agricultural Ecosystems on New Britain Island

With a seven-year budget of US\$345 million, the Food Systems, Land Use, and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR) is a global initiative to improve land management and food production practices around the globe. The programme, which is led by the World Bank and supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), composes of 27 projects in 27 countries, as well as a global knowledge platform.

One of these projects is being implemented in Papua New Guinea's New Britain Island. While known for its exceptional biodiversity, the

island has experienced increasing deforestation due to harmful agricultural practices in recent decades. The project aims to restore 50,000 hectares of forests on the island by supporting the local authorities in establishing a plan for sustainable land use. These efforts are expected to benefit over 66,000 inhabitants and reduce the island's carbon emissions by around 32 million metric tons.

These results will be achieved through the following four interrelated components:

- Component 1: Development of integrated landscape management systems
- Component 2: Promotion of sustainable food production practices and responsible value chains to reduce land stress and avert degradation and deforestation
- Component 3: Conservation and restoration of natural habitats
- Component 4: Knowledge management and impact monitoring



Data collectors with community representatives in a village in Baining LLG, East New Britain Province.

Data collection field mission to New Britain Island

From March to April 2023, the project team undertook two field missions to West and East New Britain Provinces alongside key stakeholders.

The primary goal of the missions was to gather crucial data for the Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Gender Analysis Fieldwork at project sites within Gazelle (ENBP), Pomio (ENBP) and Nakanai (WNBPP) Districts.

The team conducted awareness sessions on the project and the importance of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with ward members and in the community and emphasized the significance of advanced communication and solidified community connections.

They collaborated with local authorities and worked diligently to collect data for submission and further analysis by the respective consultants. The gender analysis focused on how the project could potentially impact women and marginalized groups within the local communities.

The data collected were used to draft the Environment Social Management Plan (ESMP), the Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) and the Gender Action Plan (GAP), which will guide the team in minimizing risks related to the project implementation, as well as ensuring that the project benefits the island's most marginalized groups.

The Provincial Administration of East New Britain commits to co-finance the project

On 18 August 2023, the East New Britain Provincial Administration officially committed to support the implementation of the project with a co-financing contribution of K1.25 million over the next 5 years.

Provincial Administrator, Mr. Levi Mano confirmed this support as a result of ENB's commitment to implementation of the project which is a team effort between different stakeholders working to support and strengthen the country's action towards sustainable agricultural development and integrated land use planning.



The Sustainable Environment Programs Director, Ms. Kumaras Kay Kalim (left), being interviewed at the FOLUR meeting in Sao Paulo.

Mission to Brazil for FOLUR annual meeting

On 17-20 April 2023, a delegation of three representatives of the project attended the first annual FOLUR conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The mission was led by the project Chief Technical Advisor, Adam Starr who was joined by the Director for Sustainable Environment Programs of the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA), Ms. Kumaras Kay Kalim, and Chief Physical Planner of the Department of Lands and Physical Planning, Mr. Gibson Pitz.

The meeting provided the participants from the different country projects with a valuable opportunity to learn from each other, strengthen networks and discuss global issues related to forest and land use.



The project's Chief Technical Advisor, Adam Starr (left-center) handing over the equipment to DLPP Secretary, Benjamin Samson (right-center) and his team..

Project equipment is handed over to government partners

On 15 August 2023, the project handed over the first batch of project equipment to the Department of Lands and Physical Planning.

The equipment included drones,

cameras, laptops and GPS systems, which will be used for the establishment of an Information Management System on New Britain Island as the project progresses.

The Project team validates the Environmental and Social Assessment

Between 28 August and 7 September 2023, the project hosted two validation workshops for Government representatives from Pomio, Gazelle and Nakanai Districts.

The purpose of the workshops was to review and validate the data for the project's Environmental Social Impact Assessment, Environmental and Social Management Plan, the Indigenous People's Plan and Gender Action Plan, which the team had collected during their data collection trip to 38 villages in March and April of 2023.



Participants at the validation workshop in Kimbe, West New Britain Province.



The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Lands, Physical Planning and Urbanisation, Hon. John Rosso, MP at the launching ceremony of the policy alongside UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Edward Vrkic.

The Papua New Guinean Government launches its National Sustainable Land Use Policy for 2022-2032

On 13 September 2023, at a landmark ceremony held in Port Moresby, the Department of Lands and Physical Planning launched the National Sustainable Land Use Policy for 2022-2032.

The ceremony was hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister

of Lands, Physical Planning and Urbanization, Hon. John Rosso, MP. The policy was completed with extensive support provided by UNDP through its now-completed 'Forest Carbon Partnership Facility' project.

The new policy aims to harmonize the country's need for both stronger

economic development and environmental conservation by enhancing the efficient and ethical use of the country's vast natural resources, and strengthening mechanisms for protecting land rights and settling land disputes.



Oil Palm Minister, Hon Francis Maneke and UNDP Resident Representative, Nicholas Booth.

UNDP Resident Representative and the Minister for Oil Palm meet to advance oil palm policy development

On 27 September 2023, UNDP Resident Representative, Nicholas Booth met with the Minister for Oil Palm, Hon. Francis Galia Maneke, MP to discuss about the project's potential contributions to the development of Papua New Guinea's new oil palm policy.

The Oil Palm Industry Corporation (OPIC) is coordinating and leading the policy formulation, which may change the scope of the project's

activities and their implementation.

It was decided during the meeting that the Minister's office will provide UNDP with the draft policy and bill for their review and feedback.

The two also discussed the need to promote responsive value chains to reduce land degradation and deforestation both in New Britain and Papua New Guinea as a whole.



Department of Lands and Physical Planning, Mapping Bureau Director, Linus Billy presenting at Liamore Reef Resort, Kimbe, West New Britain Province.

Advocating for sustainable land use on New Britain Island

In November 2023, the project team and the Department of Lands and Physical Planning (DLPP) hosted two roadshows in East and West New Britain Provinces to raise awareness of the Government's new National Sustainable Land Use Policy for 2022-2032.

In recent decades, competing demands for land use for different socio-economic ends has given rise to unsustainable land management practices in various parts of Papua New Guinea (PNG). This has resulted in negative environmental and social outcomes for the local communities, such as land degradation and deforestation.

The new landmark policy aims to

chart a course towards greener and more sustainable land management practices across Papua New Guinea by harmonizing the country's need for both stronger economic development and environmental conservation. Among many things, the policy seeks to enhance the efficient and ethical use of the country's vast natural resources, and strengthen mechanisms for protecting land rights and settling land disputes.

The roadshows provided an opportunity for representatives of the provincial administrations, the private sector, civil society, NGOs and community-based organizations to learn about the policy.

Residents from both provinces were also able to share their knowledge and concerns about land use in their respective communities.

In his remarks to the participants, the Deputy Chief Physical Planner of the Department of Lands and Physical Planning, Gibson Pitz, stressed that the policy aims to put an end to harmful land management practices in Papua New Guinea, while simultaneously, improving the livelihoods of different stakeholders depending on land use. "The success of this policy depends on all sectors and stakeholders coming together for its implementation," Mr. Pitz stated.



ESIA Gender Fieldwork in Gazelle District



ESIA Gender Fieldwork in Nakanai District



ESIA Gender Fieldwork in Pomio District



ESIA Gender Fieldwork in Nakanai District



FOLUR meeting at Sao Paulo.



ESIA Gender Fieldwork in Gazelle District



Kimbe ROADSHOW participants



Kokopo ROADSHOW participants