



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 2024 IN REVIEW



Meeting between DLPP Staff, UNDP GEF 7 - FOLUR team and Mammoth Geospatial at the DLPP office and online

January: Productive Discussions and Key Progress

The project team started the year with a collaborative meeting between the Department of Lands and Physical Planning (DLPP) and Finnish Overseas Consultants (FinnOC). FinnOC was engaged by the project to implement Outputs 1.1 (National Sustainable Land Use Planning Policy Framework, supporting effective Management of development activities, formulated,

legalized and mainstreamed into the development planning process for two provinces, three districts and four Local Level Governments [LLGs] and 1.3 (Provincial level sustainable landscape management plans developed, consulted on and integrated into the development planning across 2 provinces, 4 districts and 4 LLGs across New Britain) of **Component 1**.

Following the meeting, FinnOC began preparations for a March inception mission to New Britain Island, in collaboration with the East and West

New Britain Provincial Administrations.

Mammoth Geospatial, also involved in the project under the implementation of Output 1.2 (Sustainable land use planning information and coordination systems and tools established at the national and subnational levels in targeted provinces) submitted their inception report to DLPP.

A scoping mission aimed at assessing land use and Geographical Information System (GIS) data, building contacts, and gathering insights on GIS capacity and training needs within DLPP was undertaken in March.

Welcome to the second issue of our project update newsletter. This edition focuses on the year 2024 in review.

February: Scoping Mission and Cocoa IWG Engagement

In February, FinnOC successfully completed their initial scoping mission in East New Britain (ENB) Province. Their team, along with the Project Team and DLPP, reviewed the terms of reference and set expectations for the project.

Despite weather-related flight disruptions preventing a visit to West New Britain (WNB), the team managed to engage with various stakeholders in ENB, including Provincial Officers, National

Agriculture Research Institute (NARI) experts, district officers in Gazelle, and LLG representatives in Inland Baining. The findings from this mission will be outlined in their inception report.

The project team also participated in a Cocoa Industry Working Group (IWG) meeting facilitated by Pharma Plus. During the meeting, it was announced that Pharma Plus will be phased out by June 2024, with Australia-PNG Economic Partnership

(APEP) assuming responsibility for the IWG platform. A follow-up meeting with Pharma Plus was scheduled for May to explore how the project can further support the platform. Additionally, the team engaged with the Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) regarding the National Agriculture Strategic Plan, which is awaiting NEC approval. Once approved, the project will assist in sector plans consultations and the Cocoa subsector.

March: Inception Report Feedback and Key Consultations

March saw the review of Finnish Overseas Consultants (FinnOC's) inception report by the Department of Lands and Physical Planning (DLPP) and the project team, with feedback emphasizing the importance of integrating environmental and social standards, particularly gender and Indigenous Peoples plans. FinnOC is now working to incorporate these suggestions, with a finalized report to follow soon.

Mammoth Geospatial also conducted its first in-person mission to the

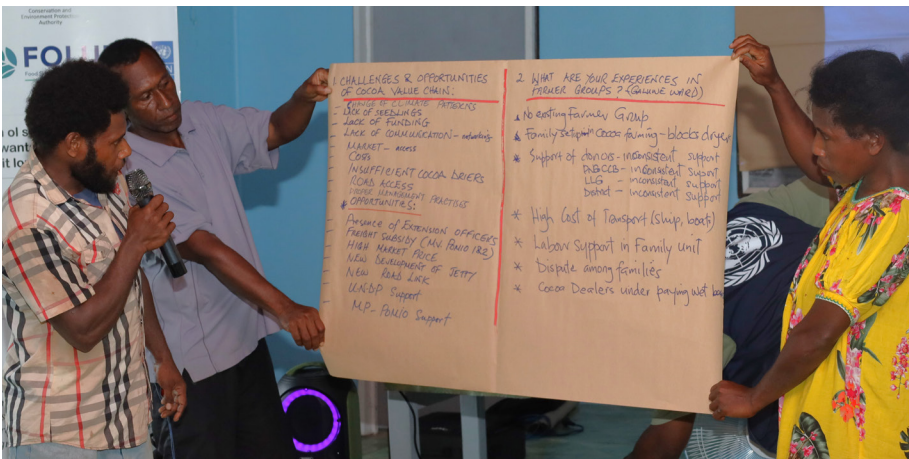
country, where consultations with DLPP identified sustainable strategies for long-term support, including:

- Strengthening DLPP's Geographical Information Systems (GIS) capacity.
- Training system custodians to maintain data security.
- Enhancing data governance and sharing across sectors.
- Ensuring the sustainability of system hosting and support services.

Additionally, the project team held a crucial meeting with the

Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA), Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA), and the Papua New Guinea Forest Authority (PNGFA) to discuss **Component 3** of the project, focusing on governance improvements, community engagement, and inter-agency collaboration. The meeting clarified the roles of the different stakeholders and highlighted the need for a centralized monitoring system.

April: Strengthening Land Use Planning and Cocoa Farming in Pomio District



Smallholder farmers presenting during the Awareness and Situational Assessment in Central Pomio LLG.

The project team, alongside key government partner, Department of Lands and Physical Planning (DLPP), completed a series of important field missions in Pomio District, East New Britain Province in April. Several activities were conducted to strengthen land use planning, cocoa farming, and integrated landscape management.

- **National Sustainable Land Use Policy (NSLUP) roadshow in Pomio district:** 62 participants, including district and Local Level Government (LLG) officers, Ward Development Committee (WDC) members, and

farmers, attended. Participants are now well-informed on the NSLUP and its importance for land use planning at the community level. Targeted communities are eager to collaborate with the project for their land use plans.

- **Finnish Overseas Consultants (FinnOC's) first scoping mission to West New Britain Province:** Key information was collected to help develop land use plans, including local perceptions of climate change and current land-use practices. Participatory appraisal methods helped retrieve community-level

data on socio-economic conditions and service access.

- **Cocoa awareness workshop in Pomio:** 44 participants, including 23% women, engaged in workshops focusing on situational and diagnostic assessments of cocoa farming practices. The Central Pomio Local Level Government (LLG) aims to develop a cocoa market pathway by establishing farmer groups, receiving strong support from the community.

- **Baseline Assessments:** The project team, in collaboration with UNDP Programme Support Unit (PSU), conducted thorough assessments in Pomio to gather baseline data, aiding in tracking project progress. The report will be made available in July.

Gender and Social Inclusion:

Notably, 23% of participants in both the NSLUP roadshow and the cocoa situational assessment, as well as 44% of those attending the leadership training, were women.

April: Systems Leadership Capacity Building training for project stakeholders

In April, 18 participants representing 8 stakeholder organizations with the project, participated in a leadership workshop focusing on ecosystem conservation, integrated landscape management, and sustainable production of palm oil and cocoa.

The participants learned approaches to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration and drive transformative systems change.

In the past decades, unsustainable production of palm oil and cocoa has posed severe threats to local ecosystems in New Britain Island. This has impacted the food security and traditional livelihoods of local communities.

With the skills acquired at the



Participants looking on as David Bennet doing his presentation during the Systems Leadership workshop.

training, the participants will be able to lead the systems transformation

towards more sustainable land management practices.



UNDP RR Nicholas Booth shaking hands with a student from Silanga Primary School during the NSLUP Awareness Raising mission to Kimbe, West New Britain Province.

May: Expanding NSLUP Awareness and Strengthening Cocoa and Oil Palm Smallholder Production

May saw the project expanded its field missions to Gazelle and Nakanai Districts on New Britain Island, carrying out various activities related to National Sustainable Land Use Policy (NSLUP) awareness and situational assessments of cocoa and oil palm smallholder production.

Key Achievements:

- **NSLUP roadshow in Nakanai District:** 48 participants, including 29% of women, took part that saw UNDP Resident Representative,

Nicholas Booth attending. The roadshow enhanced understanding of the NSLUP and its connection to land use planning in the district administrations.

- **Situational assessment of smallholder farmers:** The assessment identified training needs in financial literacy and good agricultural practices, especially for cocoa and oil palm farmers. Existing cocoa training materials will be utilized, and new manuals will be developed for oil palm training.

- **Finnish Overseas Consultants (FinnOC) in Gazelle District:** FinnOC was introduced to Gazelle communities as the lead consultant for land use planning. Communities are eager to collaborate with the consultant to finalize their land use plans.
- **Gender and social inclusion:** Active community participation was encouraged, with 22% female participation in the cocoa situational assessment.

June: Strengthening Technical Capacities and Expanding Collaborations

Quite a number of deliverables were achieved in June and are listed below.

1. Geospatial Capacity Building for the Department of Lands and Physical Planning (DLPP) staff: A week-long series of training sessions was conducted to enhance the DLPPs technical expertise in managing land resources using Land Management Information Systems (LIMS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The training focused on:

- **Introduction to QGIS:** Technical staff learned how to utilize QGIS for land management and data analysis.
- **Data Management in LIMS:** Administrators received hands-on training to efficiently manage data within the LIMS framework.
- **End-User Training:** Staff were trained on how to effectively

use LIMS to improve overall land management processes.

2. FinnOc’s Consultancy for National Palm Oil Platform: FinnOc has been awarded a key consultancy contract to support the development of the **National Palm Oil Platform**, an initiative designed to promote sustainability across the cocoa and palm oil sectors. By integrating landscape management principles, the platform seeks to enhance sustainable production practices.

3. Project staff in Kimbe meets with New Britain Palm Oil Limited (NBPOL): The project staff met with NBPOL in Kimbe to explore ways to improve smallholder extension services in both the Hoskins and Bialla regions. Discussions centered around addressing challenges and identifying opportunities for collaboration,

including the sharing of knowledge and extension materials to better support smallholder farmers. Future meetings are planned with Hargy Oil Palms, Oil Palm Industry Corporation (OPIC), and PNG Oil Palm Research Association (OPRA) to strengthen this initiative further.

- 4. Output 3.2 – Identifying existing extension materials:** As part of Output 3.2, the project identified a variety of extension training materials in collaboration with OPIC, NBPOL, and Hargy Oil Palms, resulting in:
- A list of available training materials from NBPOL
 - Contribution from PNG OPRA, with further follow-ups for additional resources
 - Hargy’s commitment to provide their **Standard Operating Procedures** and **inspection checklists**.

July: Progression on cocoa farm extension training in Gazelle

The month of July was primarily focused on progressing cocoa farm extension training in Gazelle District, East New Britain. Contract management matters under Component 2 were also addressed. Key activities included:

- **Land Use Information Management System (LUIMS):** Mammoth Geospatial, in consultation with the Project Team and DLPP, initiated the development of LUIMS, a web-based mapping application built upon GeoNode software. This system aims to enhance land-use information coordination.
- **Oil Palm Platform Support:** An inception meeting was held with 22 participants from various key agencies to discuss re-establishing the National Palm Oil Platform. There was unanimous support for the initiative.
- **Cocoa Farming Best Practices Training** (July 8-21, 2024):
 - o Conducted in Kokopo with 20

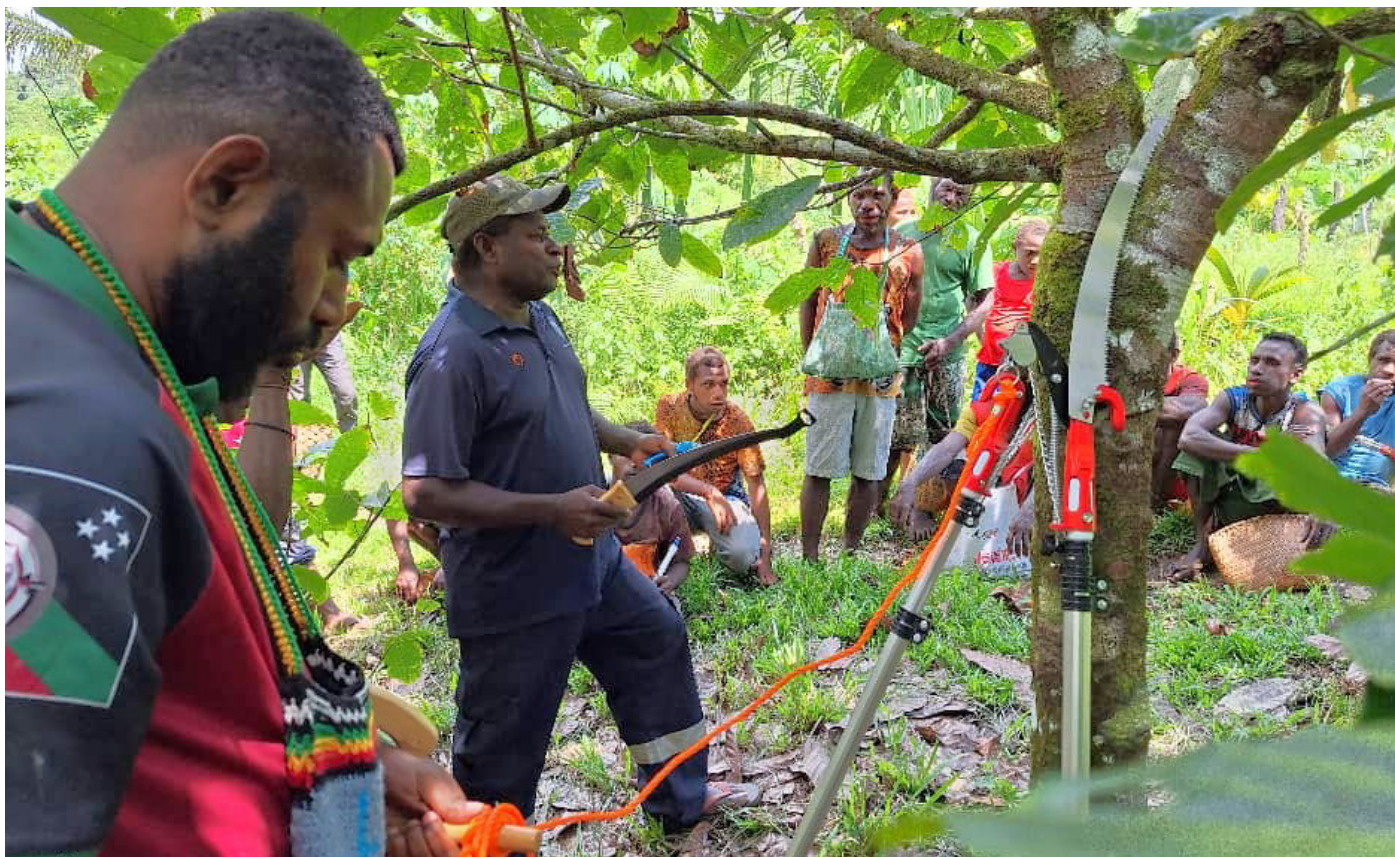


Cocoa Board’s Regional Coordinator (Field Extension Services), Albina Rarau conducting farm management training at Hetwara-Manapki ward, East New Britain Province.

- participants, including cocoa farmers, community leaders, and women leaders.
- o Topics included improved planting materials, pruning, sanitation, weed control, and fertilizer application.
- o Key recommendations included
 - providing training handouts, simplifying language, and conducting follow-up sessions focused on cocoa processing.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Meetings with lead agencies (CEPA, PNGFA, CCDA) were held to finalize the work plan for Component 3.

UNDP Nature Pledge

UNDP reaffirmed its global commitment to environmental protection through the Nature Pledge, an initiative aimed at safeguarding biodiversity, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and leveraging nature’s potential to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



August: Cocoa farm extension training continues in Pomio

August saw further cocoa farm extension training in Pomio District, alongside the validation of baseline indicators. Key highlights included:

- **LUIMS Development Continues:**

Work progressed on the system specifications and LUIMS hosting costs.

- **Palm Oil Platform Support:**

Revised inception reports and policy document reviews were completed in preparation for an inception meeting with Grant Thornton.

- **Cocoa Farming Best Practices Training in Pomio District:**

- o 20 participants (50% female) attended.

- o Similar training content as in July, with an emphasis on practical demonstrations.

- o Post-training assessments reinforced the need for handouts, simplified language, and additional practical sessions.

- **Community Engagement on Cocoa Fermentaries:**

- o 614 farmers engaged, with 50% attending practical demonstrations.

- o Discussions revealed 43

fermentaries in Inland Baining, with 32 requiring maintenance.

- o Plans were initiated to support existing fermentaries and establish community fermentaries.

- **Baseline Validation Workshops:**

- o Held in East and West New Britain to verify data collected earlier in the year.

- o Participants included Cocoa Board, OPIC, and other provincial departments.

September: Completion of training and policy-related work

September focused on farm extension training completion and policy-related work. Key activities included:

- **Policy and Strategy Development:**

Finnoc continued working on refining

existing policies and finalizing reports.

- **Backstopping Support for Palm Oil Platform:** Consultations and inception report finalization took place.

- **Farm Extension Training in Pomio District:**

- o Final training sessions conducted with cocoa farmers and community leaders.

- o Discussions with communities on managing common cocoa processing facilities.

October: Community outreach, research and infrastructure development

October focused on community outreach, research, and infrastructure development. Highlights included:

- **Cocoa Processing Infrastructure Support:**

- o 11 fermentaries identified as functional; 32 needed repairs.

- o Community-led initiatives explored for sustainable processing practices.

- **Land Use Planning Coordination:**

- o Strengthened partnerships with DLPP and CEPA to integrate land-use data into LUIMS.

- o Further consultations held to refine land-use strategies.

- **Training Follow-ups:**

- o Monitoring visits to project sites to assess the impact of previous cocoa training sessions.



November: Conclusion of land degradation assessment

The month of November was mainly spent on concluding Land Degradation assessment for Gazelle District and working on remaining TORs to progress delivery.

The key highlights were:

- **Land Degradation Assessment Concluded for Gazelle District:** Partnership with CEPA, CCDA, and PNGFA resulted in the successful completion of assessments.

- **TORs in Progress for Outcome 5, Output 5.2:** TORs for key project areas were drafted and refined.

- **Policy Refinement by Finnoc under Outcome 1, Output 1.1:** Ongoing consultations to improve reports on existing policies.

- **Targeted Scenario Analysis (TSA) Follow-Up by Grant Thornton:** TSA workshop feedback from October incorporated into ongoing refinements.

- **Finalization of Backstopping Inception Report for Oil Palm by Finnoc:** The report serves as the groundwork for supporting sustainable oil palm development.

- **2025 Annual Work Plan (AWP) Endorsed:** The 2024 Second Project Board Meeting approved and signed the AWP.

December: Project progress reflections and planning



GEF-7 FOLUR Board members and project team with UNDP Deputy Resident Representative: Aadil Mansoor with CEPA's Sustainable Environment Programs Director, Kumaras Kay Kalim.

December wrapped up with reflections on project progress and planning for the coming year.

Key highlights:

- **End-of-Year Review Meetings:**

- o Project teams assessed progress on farm extension and land-use planning.

- o Discussions held on refining the 2025 work plan.

- **Capacity Building for Farmers:**

- o Practical demonstrations on post-harvest cocoa processing.

- o Farmers equipped with new techniques to enhance yield and quality.

- **Community Awareness Activities:**

- o Information sessions held on climate-smart agriculture.

- o Farmers and stakeholders engaged in sustainability dialogues.

Looking Ahead to 2025

As the project moves into the new year, emphasis will be placed on:

- Expanding farm extension training.
- Strengthening LUIMS implementation.
- Continuing community engagement on sustainable land-use planning.
- Enhancing support for cocoa and oil palm value chains.
- Increasing stakeholder collaboration for effective policy implementation.



Olaipun 1 villagers in Pomio, East New Britain Province looked on as Martin Umba and Karau Kuna from the Finnish Overseas Consultants showed their land boundaries



Silanga Primary School students in West New Britain Province, holding up their posters during the NSLUP roadshow.



Small scale Oil Palm farmers in West New Britain Province attending a comprehensive training on sustainable agriculture practices.



National Sustainable Land Use Policy Roadshow in Palmalmal, East New Britain Province.



Morgan Kai of CCDA talking to an Oil Palm Farmer in West New Britain Province.



Farm management training at Hetwara-Manapki ward, East New Britain Province.



Mammoth Geospatial Capacity Building with DLPP staff.