Rivers and Rainforest: Catchment Management in the Heart of the Great Papuan Plateau, Papua New Guinea

Mr. Amos Ona
WWF PNG Kikori River Programme

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One of the world’s four great tropical rainforests
Six landscapes covering 19 million hectares capturing a representative sample of New Guinea’s biodiversity. Managed by local communities for a mixture of protection, sustainable production and cultural heritage.
• Conservation Needs Assessment - 1993
• Kikori River Programme endorsed by the PNG Government – 1994
• 2.3 million hectares
• Approximate population of 10,000
• About 6 language groups – customary land tenure
• Cuts through 5 ecoregions
• Biological diversity - (flora and fauna)
• Programme approaches
  – Integrated Conservation and Development Project (ICAD)
  – Integrated Catchment Management (ICM)
Goal

To conserve the biodiversity and ecological processes of a world class landscape in the Kikori Basin (the Great Papuan Plateau) and ensure sustainable management of its natural resources by local communities; and

To demonstrate world best practice in sustainable development and conservation through the results of the partnership in the Kikori Basin.
Programme components:

- Catchment Management
- Protected Areas
- Sustainable Forest Management
- Species Management
Catchment Management

Stakeholder consultation
Community visioning
Biological visioning
Catchment Management Plan
Map of Lake Kutubu Catchment Area

Catchment area: 72,000 ha
Lake Kutubu Ramsar site: 24,000 ha
One of the largest and most intact wetlands in the Asia Pacific

Lake Kutubu ecoregion - 12 endemic fish species
Protected Areas

- Facilitate and assist local communities to develop and manage Protected Areas (Wildlife Management Areas)
- Environmental policies developed by the oil and gas sector are sympathetic to the environment
BOSAVI WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

HOSE WMA
4,830.47 ha

ARISAI WMA
4,661.04 ha

SULAMESI WMA
70,159.04 ha

Proposed WMA Merge
(Henamo+Beneane)

Legend
- Lake Kutubu
- Sulamesi WMA
- Hose WMA
- Arisai WMA
- Proposed WMAs

Map shows the proposed WMA merge of Henamo and Beneane, with areas of HOSE, ARISAI, and SULAMESI WMAs marked.

Geographic markers include locations such as Sisibia, Lake Kutubu High School, Gesege, Wasoweido, Muluma Government Station, Bogomaiyu, Ubogo, Lake Cambell, Igisalebo, Musula, Iwatubu, Waley, and Haivar.
Sustainable Forest Management

High Conservation Value Forests fully protected in the Great Papuan Plateau

Non-Timber Forest Products

Certified community-based eco-forestry operations
Species Management

- Flagship species (Pig-nosed turtle, Boelen’s python, 12 endemic freshwater fish species of Lake Kutubu)
- Invasive species
- Management and monitoring system for Pig-nosed turtle and other threatened species
- OSL environmental policies are sympathetic to the environment (invasives, water systems, etc.)
Relationships:

- Industries – Oil Search & JVP
- AusAID
- Asian Development Bank
- Research institutions
- PNG Government (Local, Provincial & National)
- Local communities
- Community-Based Organisations
Challenges:

• Exploration and drilling activities within the catchment

• Existing roads becoming public roads – increased logging, in-migration and spread/introduction of invasive species

• Government policy - TCEMP

• Stakeholder commitment

• Intactness of the basin – challenge to motivate for management

• Political support