

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

GRANT TITLE

Engaging Communities and Government in Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Adaptation

OBJECTIVES

To promote biodiversity conservation and resilience through community engagement processes that identify ecosystem services and impacts from climate change and development.

LOCATION

Madang Province (Ohu, Riwo and Bundi communities) and Chimbu Province (Kegesugu community)

GRANT AMOUNT

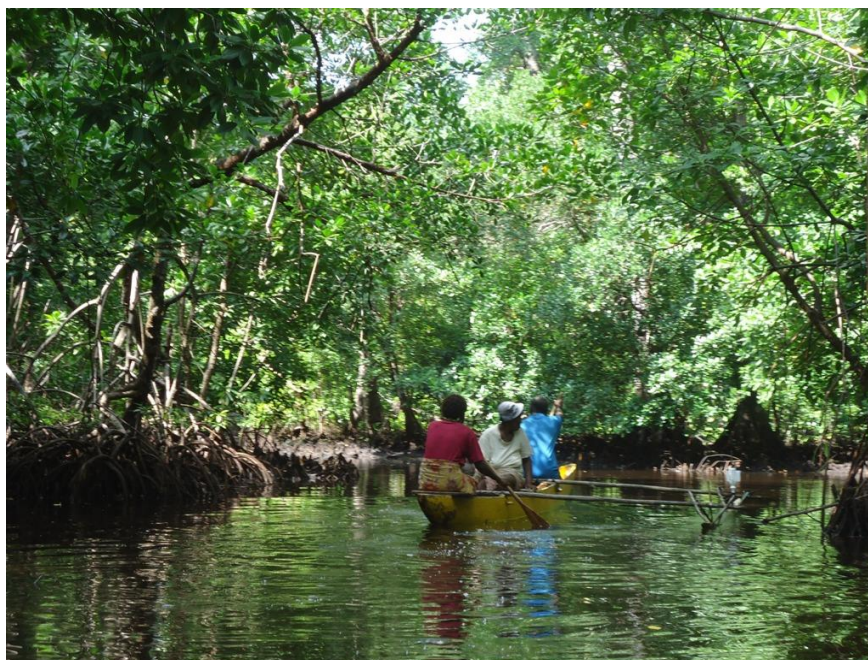
US \$294,945

DURATION

18 months

KEY PARTNERS

New Guinea Binatang Research Centre
Provincial governments of Madang and Chimbu



Participants en route to a PACAM-supported livelihood workshop in eastern Papua New Guinea.
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PROJECT SUMMARY

Papua New Guinea's (PNG) mainland consists of 33 million hectares of forests, which represents one of the last intact rainforests in the world. However, the forest ecosystem is under threat with a deforestation rate of 1.4 percent per annum. It is estimated that by 2021, 83 percent of the forest ecosystem that is not in designated protected areas will be cleared or degraded due to agriculture and logging as well as oil palm developments.

The challenge facing PNG is how to pursue economic development while conserving biodiversity. With 26.3 percent of the population living below the national poverty line, the PNG government is keen to expand commercial agricultural activities. This cash-poor rural segment of population owns significant areas of land, as PNG legally recognizes customary land tenure. Although landowners have a strong incentive to agree to developments on their land as a source of income, concerns have been raised about the impact that changes such as deforestation will have on the ecosystem services that communities rely upon.

This project works directly with villages in two regions of PNG to address threats to PNG's forest ecosystems, and enhance biodiversity conservation, improve rural livelihoods and improve environmental resilience.

ABOUT THE GRANTEE

The Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) is a self-funding university research institute that creates change towards sustainable futures by conducting independent project-based research for clients. ISF research areas include climate change adaptation and international development, and it has been involved in several large research projects in the Pacific Islands.

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ABOUT THE FUND

The Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM), is a grant-making facility funded by the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and administered by Partners for Global Research and Development, LLC (PGRD) that assists twelve Pacific Island countries to reduce long-term vulnerabilities associated with climate change. PACAM awards grants to civil society organizations in support of climate change adaptation measures and related “co-benefits”, such as livelihoods enhancement, improved health, food security, disaster risk reduction, or sustainable natural resources management.

In addition to building climate resiliency, the Pacific-American Climate Fund, through the awarded grants, strengthens the managerial and financial capacity of civil society organizations. The countries in which PACAM operates are: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Conduct a scoping workshop with community facilitators and staff of local partner New Guinea Binatang Research Centre to design engagement processes that are sensitive to local context
2. Conduct a Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation workshop to test data-gathering processes
3. Conduct semi-structured interviews with provincial government decision-makers to gather information on proposed regional developments
4. Conduct three regional Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation workshops with communities in Madang and Chimbu Provinces
5. Conduct two Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation workshops with regional government officials

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Workshop materials, including a handbook on how to undertake vulnerability assessments and ecosystem valuation, designed for PNG communities and government representatives
2. At least 100 community members trained in biodiversity and climate change adaptation
3. Community awareness of biodiversity and climate change adaptation raised, and capacity developed to advocate for the protection of valued ecosystems, as well as make informed decisions about future developments
4. Buy-in of relevant provincial government agencies secured
5. Relevant provincial government agencies and non-governmental organizations adopting and utilizing the handbook for more informed resource valuation and decision-making concerning biodiversity and climate change adaptation

