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Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM)

September 2017

Live and Learn Environmental Education (LLEE)

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

GRANT TITLE

Managing Fire to Conserve Biodiversity and Reduce Climate Vulnerability

OBJECTIVES

Reduce the vulnerability to a future major fire event of local communities' biodiversity conservation area, homesteads, and agricultural and forest resources through the development of a fire management plan.

LOCATION

Central West New Britain, Papua New Guinea

GRANT AMOUNT

\$300,000

DURATION

20 months

KEY PARTNERS

Nakau Programme
University of Papua New Guinea



LLEE pursues sustainable development in Papua New Guinea through education and partnership-building with communities and stakeholders. Photo © LLEE

PROJECT SUMMARY

The province of West New Britain in Papua New Guinea is the most intensively logged province of PNG, and is very susceptible to fire during drought conditions. The north coast of the province suffered widespread fires resulting from the major El Niño induced drought in 2015. The fire negatively impacted the plant and animal biodiversity in the proposed Gimalapira conservation area on the north coast of West New Britain, and damaged the surrounding food gardens and hunting areas of local communities.

Future large-scale fire events are the most significant threat to the integrity of the Gimalapira conservation zone and its surrounding villages and agroforestry zone. Based on current projections, climate change will increase the incidence and intensity of drought conditions and increase the vulnerability of the whole province to future fire events.

The spread of fires in PNG has been observed to be closely linked to human activity as fire is used as a land management tool in slash and burn practices. The project will study the communities' use of fire, and develop a fire management and implementation plan based on this assessment. The fire management plan will include a range of fire preventive measures that will help enable the regeneration of forest areas. A regenerated forest will be less susceptible to future fire events. The fire management plan will also specify actions to take in case of a fire event. Fire management will reduce the risk not only to the conservation areas but also to the subsistence and cash crop agricultural areas and hunting grounds that local villages depend upon for their livelihoods and food security.

ABOUT THE GRANTEE

Live & Learn is a dynamic learning network of locally registered organizations operating in 11 countries across the Pacific, Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean. The Live & Learn Australia Office is located in Melbourne, Australia and provides strategic and technical support to the Live & Learn network. Local partner Live & Learn PNG is part of this network and is locally managed and staffed and has extensive partnerships within PNG's civil society and communities.

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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 forest inventory to assess the extent and impact of the 2015 fire event and the propensity of different forest areas to regenerate
2. Conduct an assessment of communities' use and management of fire
3. Design a fire management and implementation plan for the area
4. Conduct fire management and biodiversity conservation awareness and education workshops with all communities within the vicinity of the project area
5. Build capacity of actors contributing to the implementation of elements of the fire management plan
6. Share the findings of the project activities with provincial and national stakeholders with the goal of enabling replication and incorporation into agency plans and budgeting.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Forest Assessment Survey report produced and disseminated
2. Fire use survey conducted in five villages representing different types of land use
3. Fire management plan completed and endorsed by relevant provincial and local level government departments
4. Fire management awareness and education workshops conducted in 20-25 villages
5. Two fire management plan implementation workshops completed, with funding sources identified



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