

Mahonia Na Dari Research, Education & Conservation Centre (MND)

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

GRANT TITLE

Youth as Agents of Change:
Marine Environmental Awareness
in Kimbe Bay

OBJECTIVES

To support the protection of
Kimbe Bay's abundant biodiversity
from the effects of climate change
and human threats by raising
awareness about the marine
environment and impacts of
climate change and loss of
biodiversity.

LOCATION

Talasea, Hoskins, and Bialla
Districts (Kimbe Bay)

GRANT AMOUNT

\$174,785

DURATION

21 months

KEY PARTNERS

West New Britain Province
government
Madang Teacher Training
College



MND's Marine Environment Education Program snorkeling class at Restorf Island on Kimbe Bay. Photo © MND

PROJECT SUMMARY

Kimbe Bay, which hosts over half the world's species of hard corals (413) and over 900 species of fish, is considered a Key Biodiversity Area¹. Almost half of the globally threatened species in the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot are reef-building corals. Threats to reefs are well known and include everything from climate change (especially ocean acidification) to local human impacts.

In Kimbe Bay, high population growth has put pressure on the marine environment. Communities use marine resources for food (fish, invertebrates), a phenomenon which has intensified with a growing population. Additionally, the water quality in Kimbe Bay has been deteriorating due to runoff from lands cleared for homesteads or agriculture. There is a need for youth to understand the pressing issues of overfishing, food security and health so they will understand the consequences of marine biodiversity loss.

This project leverages the proven Marine Environment Education Program, which also includes impacts of climate change and biodiversity issues in its current curriculum. Through education and awareness-raising in schools and communities, this project improves understanding of biodiversity conservation and builds capacity for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of coral reef resources at the local level. The curriculum, materials and approach refined through this project will be the basis of a curriculum that can be used in schools throughout Papua New Guinea.

¹ Per the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

ABOUT THE GRANTEE

Mahonia Na Dari Research, Education & Conservation Centre (MND) is a non-governmental organization based on the shores of Kimbe Bay in the West New Britain Province of Papua New Guinea. It started as a program called the Marine Environment Education Program for schools and communities, originally the marine education arm of The Nature Conservancy before it was established as an independent organization. MND has been conducting marine education programs, outreach and activities for 20 years now.

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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. Climate change and marine literacy outreach to primary schools and communities in three districts surrounding Kimbe Bay (Talasea, Hoskins, and Bialla)
2. Conduct marine biodiversity educational sessions for high school students, primary school teachers, and college students from the Madang Teacher Training College
3. Convene a marine biodiversity curriculum conference for government representatives where participants will discuss the development of curricula incorporating climate change and marine biodiversity in PNG primary schools
4. Support teaching material development to produce a PNG Marine Environment Education Program Teacher's Teaching Guide and professionally-designed posters to distribute to coastal PNG schools

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Increased climate and marine biodiversity awareness of 10,000 community members and primary school students
2. 100 high school and college students of Madang Teacher Trainer College and 25 primary school teachers trained in marine biology and biodiversity, human impact on the environment, and marine resource management
3. A working group established for the development of Marine Environment Teaching Guide for primary school students and, if possible, secondary school students as well
4. A Marine Environment Teaching Guide for primary schools developed and piloted; marine biodiversity posters designed and distributed to coastal PNG schools

