

## **PACAM NEWSLETTER**



*The community members replant the degraded mangrove areas for the benefit of the next generation. Photo © USAID/PACAM/Kidlat de Guia*

### **Scaling Up Women's Participation in Managing Mangrove Resources in PNG**

With the support of USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund, the Papua New Guinea Centre for Locally Managed Areas (PNGCLMA) has trained 207 community members (103 women, 104 men) in three villages of PNG's Central Province in Mangrove Forest and Food Resource Management. Mangrove nurseries have also been established in all three villages, with over 1,100 mangrove seedlings transplanted.

PNGCLMA trained these traditionally male-dominated

communities in equal participation in resource management actions and decisions. The extensive training series included mangrove awareness, mangrove ecology, mangrove forest and food resource management, nursery management, and resource mapping with a special focus on rehabilitating mangrove forests (mainly through replanting) and restocking food and income resources (mudcrabs, shellfish, etc.) in these habitats.

"These trainings gave the women

the knowledge they need to participate in decision-making unlike before when we were just taking orders. Maybe, one day soon, women and men will be co-leaders," said beneficiary Margaret Oa, 60.

Community members now work together to care for mangrove seedlings and replant them in degraded areas of the mangrove. All the three villages chose to move forward with the mapping of degraded mangrove areas and initial designation of protected areas. ♦



## In Focus: Gender Roles in PNG

### It Takes a Village to Raise Children and Manage the Mangrove Resources

*“We asked our village chiefs to help us manage our resources under their leadership and they allowed us on to their platforms for the first time.” — Maxine Anjiga, Executive Director, PNG Centre for Locally Managed Areas*

In October 2018, the women leaders of the village partners of the USAID-funded project *Scaling Up Women’s Participation in Mangrove Management* in Kairuku district in Papua New Guinea’s Central Province participated in the three-day Biodiversity and Conservation Seminar for Stakeholders organized by the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) of PNG. They presented on challenges and lessons learned for their villages on the last day of the seminar, which was attended by representatives from key government agencies, non-governmental organizations and private sector companies.

This is a breakthrough for these women, who were traditionally not even allowed to sit on the chief’s platform to participate in community discussions. With the support of USAID’s Pacific-American Climate Fund, the PNG Centre for Locally Managed Areas (PNGCLMA) is helping men and women co-manage mangrove resources under traditional leadership. For the first time, women are participating in decision-making in these communities. ♦



*The village chiefs welcome visitors to the community mangrove nursery, an initiative that they fully support. It is the first time for the women of Poukama village to participate in trainings and other project activities. Photos: © USAID/PACAM/Kidlat de Guia*



*Changing Times. The men have stepped up to parenting and housekeeping duties so their wives can actively participate in the project activities. This is something new for these communities where domestic duties are traditionally considered strictly women’s responsibilities. Photos © USAID/PACAM/Kidlat de Guia*



## PNG Communities Engage Local Governments for Biodiversity Conservation

The New Guinea Binatang Research Centre and the Institute for Sustainable Futures-University of Technology Sydney (ISF-UTS) recently facilitated biodiversity and climate change workshops for provincial and ward government officials together with community leaders in Madang and Eastern Highlands Provinces in Papua New Guinea. The workshops linked up communities with government agencies and explored possible collaborations between government divisions in tackling biodiversity conservation and climate change issues. The community leaders presented maps illustrating impacts of development projects and climate change that they have developed earlier during biodiversity workshops with the communities, and proposed small-scale community projects to enhance environmental and community resilience: mulching and composting, agroforestry projects (tree planting with cash crops such as cocoa, vanilla, etc.), among others.



*Communities mapped the impact of development and climate change.. Photo © ISF-UTS*

As a result of the workshops, the provincial government representatives are exploring how they can support implementation of these projects, possibly through disbursement of supply of seedlings and tools. The USAID-funded *Engaging Communities in Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Adaptation* project also launched in the workshops the facilitator's guide on engagement for biodiversity conservation in Papua New Guinea (available for download via this link: <https://bit.ly/2PcJMpO>).

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"This handbook is based on a series of community workshops focused on identifying locally important ecosystem services and how these services may be affected by climate change and development," said New Guinea Binatang Research Centre Deputy Director Francesca Dem.

Papua New Guinea is considered to be one of the last frontiers for intact rainforests in the world but its forests remain under threat. ♦

## Developing a Fire Management Plan to Conserve Biodiversity in West New Britain Province, PNG

Following the forest survey conducted by Live and Learn Environmental Education with the support of USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund to assess the extent and impact of the 2015 major fire event to the Gimalapira conservation zone and its surrounding villages, several PNG communities discussed their options. In most instances, the communities expressed support for conservation, given that the royalties they have received from the logging concessions were minimal vis a vis the income generated from cultivating agricultural crops like coconut,

cacao, taro, among others.

Representatives of the Division of Environment and Climate Change also noted that the results of the study could be useful not just for developing a fire management plan, but also for the government's disaster management and development plans. ♦



**Poi village women's breakout group doing a participatory resource mapping exercise.** The community fire use and management workshops were held in about 20 villages. The communities marked significant resources on a map. This information is important in understanding and highlighting the important resources that need to be protected from future fire events, and will guide interventions in the fire management plan. Photo © PACAM/LLEE



# In Action

## Youth as Agents of Change for Biodiversity Conservation



MEEP intensive students on a field trip. Photo © USAID/Kidlat de Guia

To date, 128 students have successfully graduated from the program, the highlights of which are the field trips.

“All the students enjoy snorkelling on

To promote the conservation of Kimbe Bay, a biodiversity hotspot on the north coast of Papua New Guinea, USAID’s Pacific-American Climate Fund is supporting local non-governmental organization Mahonia Na Dari (MND) to raise the marine and environmental awareness of youth in surrounding coastal communities. As part of its outreach, MND is conducting an intensive course for select high school students. The students engage in marine biodiversity topics such as shoreline, seagrass, mangrove, coral reefs and open ocean ecosystems.

coral reefs and mangrove replanting. You can really feel the students’ excitement in these activities,” said MND Community Conservation Officer Somei Jonda.

Some recent graduates of the course from Kimbe Secondary School have since initiated environmental activities in their homes and communities, including mangrove replanting and proper waste disposal. Some graduates have even been inspired to pursue major conservation initiatives. ♦



Snorkeling is the highlight of the MEEP intensive. Photo © USAID/PACAM/Kidlat de Guia

## 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 12 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, assists in strengthening 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.

### Peter Collier

Chief of Party, Pacific-American Climate Fund  
Unit 1003 Financial and Trade Tower  
7th Avenue corner 32nd Street  
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City  
Manila, Philippines  
Email: [pcollier@pgrd.org](mailto:pcollier@pgrd.org)  
Web: [www.pgrd.org/projects/pacam/](http://www.pgrd.org/projects/pacam/)

### Robert Pierce

General Development Officer  
USAID/Pacific Islands  
U.S. Embassy  
1201 Roxas Boulevard  
Ermita Manila Philippines  
Email: [rpierce@usaid.gov](mailto:rpierce@usaid.gov)

## REGIONAL OFFICE

### Melanesia, Polynesia, Micronesia Regional Offices

Regional Fund Manager  
Praveen Lata  
[plata@pgrd.org](mailto:plata@pgrd.org)