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## Lake Kutubu Catchment Management Plan PDA

### Mid-term Progress Report

Reporting Period: January to June 2007.

For Asian Development Bank

## **Introduction**

Towards the end of 2006, Asian Development Bank (ADB) under its Cooperation Fund for Water Sector approved a small grant to World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) PNG Programme's Kikori River Programme to carry out a Pilot and Demonstration Activity (PDA) in establishing a catchment management plan for Lake Kutubu in the Southern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea. The end result of this PDA is to see a catchment management plan for Lake Kutubu that will support sustainable management and use of the natural resources by the local communities. The grant amounts to US\$48,937.00.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is a nature-based conservation organization working in the Kikori basin for more than twelve years. Since its inception in 1994, the project has undertaken numerous biodiversity surveys and generated a lot of scientific data. From this data and information collected, it was very obvious that the Kikori basin including the Kutubu sub-catchment is an area rich in biological diversity. According to the 1993 Conservation Needs Assessment report of Papua New Guinea, the area represents one of the intact and biologically rich environments in Papua New Guinea and for that matter in the Asia-Pacific region.

The livelihood of the rural population is greatly dependent on natural resources. Plants and animals in the wild provide for their daily needs. Ecosystems of these organisms should be protected so that their healthy environment will enable a healthy organism. Changes to an ecosystem can disrupt and disturb the normal function of the interconnected systems that prevail in nature.

Unsustainable activities and threats from in-migration, invasive species and change in human attitudes towards land use patterns pose a great challenge in the conservation of the rich biodiversity in the catchment area. The commitment and dedication of the local people to see the catchment planning in Lake Kutubu come into fruition is an important area that we have been aggressively working on. We believe that without the communities' commitment and participation, nothing can be achieved. So the project has embarked on involving a lot of community awareness to keep the communities informed of the type of work we are doing, why we are doing it, how can it be done, who would be involved and what are we trying to achieve. These are some of the key questions that help us to identify our work in the communities and to have their full participation and commitment in the catchment planning for Lake Kutubu. If we want peoples' full participation and cooperation, we must work with them very closely. We endeavour to see a good working relationship between the communities and WWF and with other stakeholders.

The table provided below is a summary of all the activities carried out over the last six months, what we have achieved as per implementation plan and the next steps we propose to undertake according to the achievements and the status of each activity. The table presented gives an indication the project's progress with regards to the outputs as per implementation plan.

## **Objectives.**

The overall objective of the project is to work with the government and local stakeholders to develop an integrated catchment management framework and plan for the lake Kutubu catchment. This framework will protect biological diversity and ecological processes while promoting sustainable management of natural resources supported by properly implemented catchment management policy. Apart from this overall objective, four major outputs have been identified:

1. A biological vision and target setting for lake Kutubu

2. A community vision for the management of lake Kutubu catchment/eco-region
3. A lake Kutubu catchment management forum established to represent stakeholder interest and mobilise action.
4. A final catchment management plan established for Lake Kutubu.

**Lake Kutubu Catchment Management Plan Pilot and Demonstration Activity (PDA).**

The main objective of the PDA is to establish a catchment management plan for Lake Kutubu that will allow sustainable use of resources by landholding communities.

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Achievements in Period</b>	<b>Status<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Steps Planned in Next Period</b>
<b>Lake Kutubu catchment management plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catchment management plan and institution established for the lake Kutubu catchment [2007)</li> <li>Water quality maintained</li> <li>Species populations and habitats maintained</li> <li>Action taken on priority threats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
<b>Result</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Achievements in Period</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Steps Planned in Next Period</b>
<b>Initiate a catchment management programme for Lake Kutubu</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level of public awareness on catchment management</li> <li>Establish a representative steering committee</li> <li>Set out catchment management objectives and approaches for Lake Kutubu catchment</li> <li>Public awareness campaign on the importance of Lake Kutubu ecoregion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADB is committed to see development of Lake Kutubu catchment management programme.</li> <li>Increased level of public awareness on Lake Kutubu catchment management.</li> <li>Developed new Catchment Management poster series (CM#) - produced a total of 16 new posters on 'catchment management' and the 'significance of Lake Kutubu as a Ramsar site). On top of this, some additional posters have been reproduced from previous work and distributed to various stakeholders.</li> <li>A total of roughly 300 posters have so far been distributed to the local</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitted Inception report for the Lake Kutubu Pilot and Demonstration Activity (PDA) in February 2007 as a requirement to ADB which was reviewed and accepted for implementation of the activities in the inception plan.</li> <li>Conducted awareness on catchment management to key stakeholders and local communities through dissemination of awareness materials and posters. Efforts are still continuing in establishing and renewing relationship with the lake communities and other villages like the Homa-Paua and Kantobo</li> <li>Continue to further strengthen relationship and collaboration with key</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate the effectiveness of distributing posters to various groups and how they are responding to it.</li> <li>ADB has further requested for an economic incentive framework for the LK catchment.</li> <li></li> </ul>

		communities, primary schools, high schools within the Kutubu catchment during the months from January to June.	government agencies (Kutubu LLG and DEC).	
<b>1. Complete biological vision and target setting for Lake Kutubu.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background reports completed.</li> <li>• “State of Kutubu” report published.</li> <li>• A biological vision map produced.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built on from the reports by two French students</li> <li>• Complete compilation of socio-economic and biodiversity status report</li> <li>• Completed compilation of social data report</li> <li>• Economic incentive framework draft completed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collate further background reports and data on water quality for Lake Kutubu</li> <li>• Hire a consultant to compile the ‘State of lake Kutubu’ report.</li> <li>• A bio-vision map developed for Lake Kutubu catchment.</li> <li>• Circulate draft economic incentive framework within WWF staff for comments before it is finalised and sent to ADB.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Produce a community vision for the management of the Lake Kutubu catchment/ecoregion.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective relationships with all the villages within the catchment.</li> <li>• Community perceptions of values and threats of catchment management documented through workshops.</li> <li>• Awareness materials produced and widely disseminated</li> <li>• Increase in public awareness.</li> <li>• Project staff equipped with knowledge of catchment management and current community perceptions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A consultant, Marc Wohling was hired to develop a <i>Community Planning Framework</i> for developing a catchment management plan for Lake Kutubu.</li> <li>• Consultant conducted a one day in-house training workshop on PRA tools and techniques for KRP staff.</li> <li>• A joint village visits (KRP staff and consultant) have been made to a number of villages in Lake Kutubu catchment to facilitate community participation in the planning process. Also raised awareness on catchment management planning and distributed posters and awareness materials to the communities.</li> <li>• A workshop was also held at Tubo lodge, which was</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community planning framework final report submitted</li> <li>• The decision-making principles and the goals and objectives were then written in Pidgin and distributed to villages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on key recommendations proceed with the next steps.</li> <li>• Visit other villages and report back on Marc’s report and distribute pidgin version of the decision-making principles and the goals and objectives.</li> </ul>

		<p>attended by about 30 participants from Lake Kutubu, Upper Foe, Lower Foe, Faso and Huli villages located within the catchment area. In participatory manner, representatives identified the changes from local perception, the threats and their priority values and how they perceive their natural resources within the area be managed sustainably for the current and future generations as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The major output from the workshop resulted in the framework being developed for community planning process for establishing Lake Kutubu catchment management plan.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>3. Establish a Kutubu catchment forum.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catchment management committee formed.</li> <li>Catchment management strategies produced.</li> <li>Catchment forum with knowledge of the findings of the "State of Lake Kutubu" report formed.</li> <li>Priority values, threats and actions for management of the catchment recorded.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Tubo lodge workshop also saw the facilitation of the establishment of Lake Kutubu catchment forum. A total of eight (8) Committees have been appointed as follows: Upper Foe (x4), Lower Foe (x2) and LK WMA (x2) while representatives from Faso and Huli have yet to be appointed.</li> <li>A follow up workshop was conducted to community catchment forum committees. This is to ensure committees understand their roles and responsibilities. The workshop also covered the catchment management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up with Faso and Huli villages in Lake Kutubu catchment to facilitate appointment of representatives on Lake Kutubu catchment forum. This has been further delayed due to landowner conflicts and further due to the national general elections in PNG.</li> </ul>

		concept and the catchment management forum or committee.		
<b>4. Agree and publish a catchment management/ecoregion conservation plan for Lake Kutubu.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish and launch final catchment management plan.</li> <li>• Lessons learnt documented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A consultant has been identified and draft ToR circulated with comments made and the final ToR sent to the consultant. Travel arrangements have been done and the consultant should be in Kutubu (Moro) by early August.</li> </ul>	

## Tools of Participatory Planning used during community workshop.

1. Use of Local maps drawn by locals.



2. Local drawings



3. Timeline



4. Posters used to disseminate information



5. Locals take lead in the planning process (participatory planning)



## Discussion

### Awareness and Production of Awareness Materials

Production of awareness materials is well underway. So far quite a number of posters (more than 300) have been produced and distributed to the local communities including some primary schools within the catchment area. The use of posters is seen as an effective way of communicating conservation information to the communities especially when it comes to the problem of illiteracy. Many of the local population are illiterate, confining only to their local dialect and pidgin. Finding the best possible means of disseminating conservation messages to the communities is very important because the target audience must understand the message if not it will be useless and waste of resources and time.

Whilst looking at options, we found that the use of posters is an effective way that conservation messages can be disseminated to the local communities. The use of posters include pictures of the environment, plants, animals, the rivers and landscapes with very short messages written in Tok Pisin (One of Papua New Guinea's national language). The posters are done in a very simple way where the target audience can be able to understand the message. Use of different medium of communication depends on the type of target audience. However, from observations made, the use of posters has proved very effective in communicating the message across to the different groups of people and stakeholders.

Community involvement and participation is a significant aspect of ensuring project effectiveness, continuity and success. The PRA technique is one of the very useful and handy tools when it comes to working with the communities. It creates an open atmosphere for discussion of various issues, land use patterns or documentation of changes happening in the area. The use of this technique proved very useful when used to hold workshop with the lake Kutubu catchment communities. It created the avenue for the flow of ideas and the discussion of various issues regarding the catchment health to the effects it has on biodiversity and the survival of the people who use these resources.

### Next Steps:

A number of activities are yet to be carried out in the next six months before the establishment of the lake Kutubu catchment management plan and its launching. These include:

1. A biological vision map for lake Kutubu
2. A lake Kutubu reconnaissance report compiled
3. Establishment of the lake Kutubu catchment management forum
4. Establishment of the lake Kutubu catchment management plan
5. Launch of the lake Kutubu catchment management plan.

Apart from these major activities to be carried out, the awareness programme is an ongoing activity, which will still be undertaken throughout the implementation process of the PDA and even into the post PDA.

### Conclusion.

The implementation of the lake Kutubu catchment planning PDA is progressing well with some of the major activities well into their completion stages. Although there are obstacles and hindrances to the progress of the activities, the overall impression is that the process of implementing the PDA is

continuing and some of the activities are being carried out as planned. In summary the key outcomes so far achieved include:

- Community planning process and framework done for lake Kutubu catchment
- Communities gradually understand the catchment management concept and why it is being implemented in Lake Kutubu.
- Production of awareness materials and awareness using posters as an effective medium of communicating conservation messages into the local communities.
- Appointment of the lake Kutubu catchment management forum committees from the communities within the catchment.