

## Strengthening Community-Based Governance and Management for Papua New Guinea's YUS Conservation Area

Type of priority area	Indigenous and Community Conserved Area (ICCA)	Key Biodiversity Area	Terrestrial Protected Area
Primary objective	Governance		
Target groups	Local Communities	Protected Area Agency	Subnational Government
Main activity focus	Protected Area Governance Effectiveness (PAGE)	Landscape Approach	Co-Management



**Duration**  
01.07.2023 – 31.12.2024

**Type of grant & budget**  
Medium Grant | 400,000\$

**Location**  
Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea, Pacific

**Protected & Conserved Areas**  
YUS Conservation Area

**WDPA ID**  
555651678

**BIOPAMA RRIIS Link**  
<http://rriis.biopama.org/ct/country/pg>

**Key Conservation Landscape**  
Conservation Area

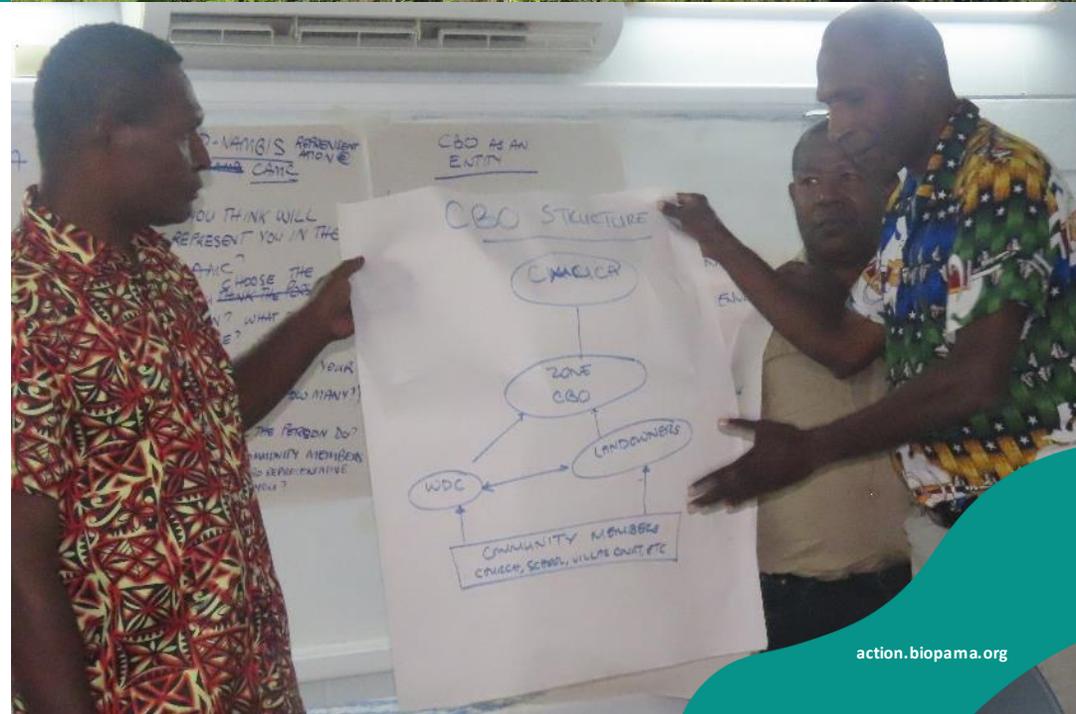
### Project Lead

Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program

### Description of the project:

In response to the assessments' findings, this project will refine and realign the YUS Conservation Area's government and management structures, systems, and processes to better serve and support the YUS communities' priorities for sustainable development, livelihoods, and natural resource management. In doing so, the YUS communities and other stakeholders will gain clarity on the purpose, expectations, and results of key management activities – improving representation and stakeholder accountability via the YUS Conservation Area Management Committee and 18 ward-level Land Use Plans.

- **Objective 1:** Establish and refine the systems, processes, and infrastructure for community participation (including women and youth) in YUS Conservation Area management planning and decision-making, in accordance with existing structures for leadership and representation.
- **Objective 2:** Clarify the function of the YUS Conservation Area Management Committee (CAMC) regarding responsive management and improved accountability to YUS landowners and communities.
- **Objective 3:** Review, revise, refine, and publish an updated YUS Conservation Area Management Plan, with clearly defined stakeholder roles, responsibilities, and actions in response toward Land Use Plans and primary conservation threats.
- **Objective 4:** Establish and affirm YUS Conservation Cooperative operating structure and business plan, in accordance with milestones for transition of operational and financial responsibility.





#### Diagnostic Tools Used

Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)  
Social Impact Assessment for Protected Areas (SAPA)



#### The BIOPAMA AC Objective(s) Addressed

Enhance the management and governance of priority areas by addressing existing limitations.  
Support local communities' initiatives aiming to enhance the livelihoods of local people whilst effectively contributing to protected areas' management.



#### Priority Need Addressed

Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) and Social Impact for Protected and Conserved Areas (SAPA) Assessments undertaken in 2021 indicate that local support for, and participation in, YUS Conservation Area management efforts have waned in recent years. These declines have been driven by several misalignments and gaps in the protected area's governance and management planning, which have diminished the communities' agency and engagement in, and perceived benefit from, conservation initiatives.

While the YUS Conservation Area is relatively well-established in terms of its legal framework, technical and operational capabilities, and planning procedures, the governance systems and management processes need to be refined and aligned to more fully enable community participation, foster strong local leadership and representation, and strengthen stakeholder accountability. By addressing these limitations, the YUS Conservation Area Management Committee will be better equipped and positioned to provide resources and assistance in accordance with the needs, priorities, and plans as defined by the local communities, landowners, and by the timely collection of relevant data.



#### The change the project implementation will bring for the protected areas

The long-term sustainability of the YUS Conservation Area, and the protection it provides for the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources across the landscape is primarily dependent on the continued endorsement and support of the local (indigenous) communities and customary landowners among the 50 villages of YUS. The structures, systems, and processes for governing and managing the YUS Conservation Area must be aligned to recognize and support the interests and priorities of the YUS communities, as they are the owners and stewards of their landscape in perpetuity. This project will facilitate the participatory review, alignment, and implementation of the YUS Conservation Area's governance and management mechanisms in support of the communities' collective leadership, agency, and participation.

These impacts will be realized through the achievement of four mutually reinforcing results:

1. Increased stakeholder coordination and opportunities for community/landowner participation in YUS Conservation Area management planning, processes and actions.
2. Improved YUS Conservation Area Management Committee governance effectiveness and increased functional integration of management directives into government action plans and budgets.
3. Improved stakeholder accountability for YUS Conservation Area management actions, with greater alignment among ward action plans, stakeholder support, and key management metrics.
4. YUS community members participating in the YUS Conservation Coffee initiative are effectively represented, and express a sense of inclusion, ownership, and control over their livelihoods.

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Photo credits: Danny Samandjke, TKCP Community Mobilization Officer

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BIOPAMA assists the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to address their priorities for improved management and governance of biodiversity and natural resources. BIOPAMA provides a variety of tools, services and funding to conservation actors in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The BIOPAMA grant-making facility is managed by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and supports projects on the ground to strengthen the management and governance of protected and conserved areas, with a total budget of 21 million Euros.

