

Assessing the Management Effectiveness and Social Impact of the YUS Conservation Area in Papua New Guinea

Type of priority area	Marine Protected Area	Terrestrial Protected Area	Indigenous and Community Conserved area (ICCA)
Primary objective	Governance	Management Effectiveness	Social Impact
Target groups	Local Communities	Indigenous Peoples	Subnational Government
Main activity focus	Management	Landscape Approach	Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME)

Duration
21.06.2021 – 20.11.2021

Type of grant & budget
Small Technical Grant for Assessment | 19,999\$

Location
Papua New Guinea, Pacific

Protected & Conserved Areas
YUS Conservation Area

WDPA ID
555651678

BIOPAMA RRIS Link
<http://rris.biopama.org/ct/country/pg>

Key Conservation Landscape
Conservation Area

Project Lead

Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program (TKCP)

Description of the project:

Two Protected Area Management Effectiveness assessments will be carried out:

- The Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) assessment, which incorporates the use of the recently-refined METT assessment tool and process to cater specifically to Papua New Guinea's unique context, including questions relating to governance given PNG's customary land tenure system and the role of communities in managing protected areas in the country.
- The Social Assessment for Protected and Conserved Areas (SAPA), which will be carried out in Papua New Guinea. TKCP and its Assessment consultant will adhere to the International Institute for Environment and Development's "Methodology Manual for SAPA for Facilitators."

These assessments will be carried out in tandem from September through to November 2021. A series of two week-long visits to the villages within the YUS Conservation Area will be organised to conduct community meetings and stakeholder workshops, during which the facilitator and assessment assistants will gather information and data through interviews and community consultations. The YUS Conservation Area assessment results will be documented in two reports: A METT Assessment Report and a Social Impact Assessment. TKCP will then facilitate an Action Planning workshop among the YUS Conservation Management Committee and other key YUS Conservation Area stakeholders to determine the responses and interventions appropriate in addressing the identified needs – both in improving the management of the YUS Conservation Area, and in strengthening its positive social impacts. The assessment results as well as the YUS Conservation Area Management Committee's response and action plan will be presented and discussed with community members throughout the YUS Conservation Area, via community meetings led by TKCP's field-based Conservation Officers.





Diagnostic Tools Used

- (1) Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)
- (2) Social Assessment for Protected Areas (SAPA)



The BIOPAMA AC Objectives Addressed

- Identification and updating of priorities for action in protected and conserved areas through assessment that also identifies the potential risks.
- Enhance the management and governance of priority protected areas by addressing existing limitations.



Priority Need Addressed

Through targeted assessments of the YUS Conservation Area's management effectiveness (via METT) and assessing its positive and negative social impacts for the communities and customary owners throughout the YUS landscape (via SAPA), this project will provide TKCP and the YUS Conservation Area Management Committee with an updated, independent, well-rounded stakeholder perspective of the protected area's status and the benefits it provides for the communities of YUS. Complementing and informing the YUS Conservation Area's management plan for 2021-2025, the insights and results gained through these two assessments will form the basis for action, informing the YUS Conservation Area management and community-support activities led by TKCP, as well as those led by the communities themselves with government assistance provided through the YUS Conservation Area Management Committee. The assessment findings will therefore guide and inform both the allocation and future pursuit of funding, resources, expertise and partnerships to address the YUS Conservation Area's priorities for action, with consideration for the continued protection of the area's ecosystems and biodiversity, as well as the safeguarding of the YUS communities' resilience and well-being for current and future generations.



The change the project implementation will bring for the protected areas

As customary landowners, the local communities of YUS are key stakeholders in the YUS Conservation Area's management and represent the key beneficiaries of the social and environmental benefits the YUS Conservation Area provides. With the recent designation of the YUS Conservation Area at the landscape level – in accordance with Papua New Guinea's recently developed Protected Areas Policy and IUCN's Category VI protected area classification – the YUS communities' management and implementation of ward-level Land-use Plans will play an increasingly vital and central role in the management of the YUS Conservation Area as a whole. The mosaic of the area's 18 ward Land-use Plans collectively represents the YUS Conservation Area management plan, with key issues and trends informing the focus and provision of technical assistance through TKCP and other partners. Through the independent assessment of the YUS Conservation Area's management capacity and effectiveness, both TKCP and community leaders/landowners in YUS will benefit from the identification of priorities and constraints, which will allow further discussion, planning, and response to strengthen the YUS Conservation Area's cooperative management and governance. Given the YUS communities' intricate relationship and heavy dependence on their local natural resources and ecosystem services, community resilience and sustainable resource management represent a core foundational objective for the YUS Conservation Area. The SAPA assessment process will provide opportunity for both the communities and TKCP to approach these impacts more directly and to work toward the development and integration of key social impacts into the YUS Conservation Area's management, programmatic interventions and the communities' pursuit of key government services and assistance.

The project STG-P-1714 is financed by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States through the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme.

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.

This project is financed by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States through the BIOPAMA Programme. The contents of this material are the sole responsibility of Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the EU nor of the OACPS.

Photo credits: Sharon Erick, TKCP Livelihood Coordinator