

## SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

### i. Identify Indigenous Peoples in the project area

New Britain and Manus are two of several inhabited islands in Papua New Guinea. New Britain is the largest island in the Bismarck Archipelago and consists of two provinces including East and West New Britain. The Baining people are found in East New Britain, and located in the Baining mountain range with the highest point being Mt Sinewit at 2438m.

The Baining people are among the earliest and original inhabitants of the Gazelle Peninsula of East New Britain. They are thought to have been driven to where they are now by the Tolai tribes who migrated from New Ireland to the coastal areas in comparatively recent times. Baining is a Tolai name meaning bush-people (referring to the people from this locality) however; their original name is Quaket (or Qaqet). There are about 8-9 clans of the Baining tribal group.

CELCOR has been working in partnership with three of the local Wards in the Baining Mountains called Arabam, Reigal and Maranagi (Figure 1) who also have formed a local Community Based Organization called ARM referring to the three Wards. CELCOR will mainly work in these areas with our local contacts there. ARM has been supported by OISCA for capacity building and recently also supported by a US\$150,000 grant from Global Environment Facility funded project, *Community based Forest and Coastal Conservation and Resource Management*. Mr Raymon Joshua is the Coordinator of ARM and he is CELCOR's contact on the field.

Manus Island is the fifth largest island in PNG and the largest in the Admiralty Islands with an area of 2, 100km<sup>2</sup> with a population of over 60, 000 people. The island's interior is covered with rugged jungles which can be described as lowland tropical rain forest. The local people are called Manusians and speak between 18-40 languages. The locals live in the mainlands and the coastlines. Our initial contact person was Rufus Mahuru from PWM and John Kuange from Wildlife Conservation Society as they are currently working in these parts of Central Manus. However we reviewed our entry contacts and linked up with another CEPF grantee; Manus Environment Conservation and Community Network (MECCN). Our local contact persons are Mr. Pongie Kitchawen and Joe Kuwoh engaged with MECCN.

### ii. Assess expected project impacts (both positive and negative) on them

#### Positive

The main positive impact of this study is that CELCOR has identified training needs which will assist in formulating the specific trainings to empower the communities in improving their local knowledge and capacity on how to plan, establish and manage protected areas. .

#### Negative

There were no negative impacts experienced. CELCOR was only anxious as to how receptive the communities in central Manus would be as there had not been any CELCOR intervention in this particular area in the past. This was addressed by working and organizing closely with MECCN the local NGO on the ground as an entry point, which proved successful.

**iii. Describe how free, prior and informed consultations have been carried out with affected communities during design of the project ( i.e. prior to submission of the LOI)**

In order to manage expectations of the communities, CELCOR worked through local partner MECCN, community leaders such as the Ward Councillors and Local Level Government leaders to communicate the purpose of the visit prior to travel to the provinces. MECCN was contacted to establish the purpose of visit, agree on the schedule/itinerary and ensure plans did not clash with the community schedule before the meetings. On the first day of community meetings, clarifications of any issues or doubts were addressed and a consensus reached to proceed with the program.

It was clearly explained to the community representatives that this was only a scoping/feasibility trip to collect information and that actual trainings will be done pending the recommendations from the scoping. Communities should not have expectations of anything other than providing information to officers of the KBAs as this may lead to disappointments.

**iv. Outline measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits**

In avoiding adverse impacts, CELCOR's first point of contact was through MECCN the local NGO on the ground. CELCOR met with MECCN to ensure that the purpose of the trip was clearly understood, as well as to address any expectations that would arise. On common understanding, MECCN played the role of communicating to ward members and leaders on the ground the purpose of CELCORS scoping trip and to organize for the meeting.

**v. Explain how these measures will be monitored**

Feedback from the meeting was monitored through the discussions that generated from the questionnaires. The interviews were conducted through focus group discussion against the guiding questions in the questionnaire designed by CELCOR. The questionnaire was easily followed. Feedback from the village representatives were collated through presentations of discussions conducted.

**vi. Detail a grievance mechanism**

CELCOR's contact details were made available to all participants for them to call and update us with any information that they thought relevant to the study conducted. Had any complaints arisen, certain persons were appointed to take note of and let the team at CELCOR know. Contacts of the Regional Implementation Team were provided to the community as follows: phone on +679-331-9084 or email on [cepfeastmelanesia@iucn.org](mailto:cepfeastmelanesia@iucn.org) and [zsangga@gmail.com](mailto:zsangga@gmail.com) or via post on c/-CEPF Regional Implementation Team, PMB 5 Ma'afu St, Suva, Fiji.

There were no grievances raised with the project leads or third-party contact at the CEPF Regional Implementation Team at IUCN. Therefore we did not have to activate the grievance mechanism.

vii. Provide a map of the area of work

### Map of Baining Mountains

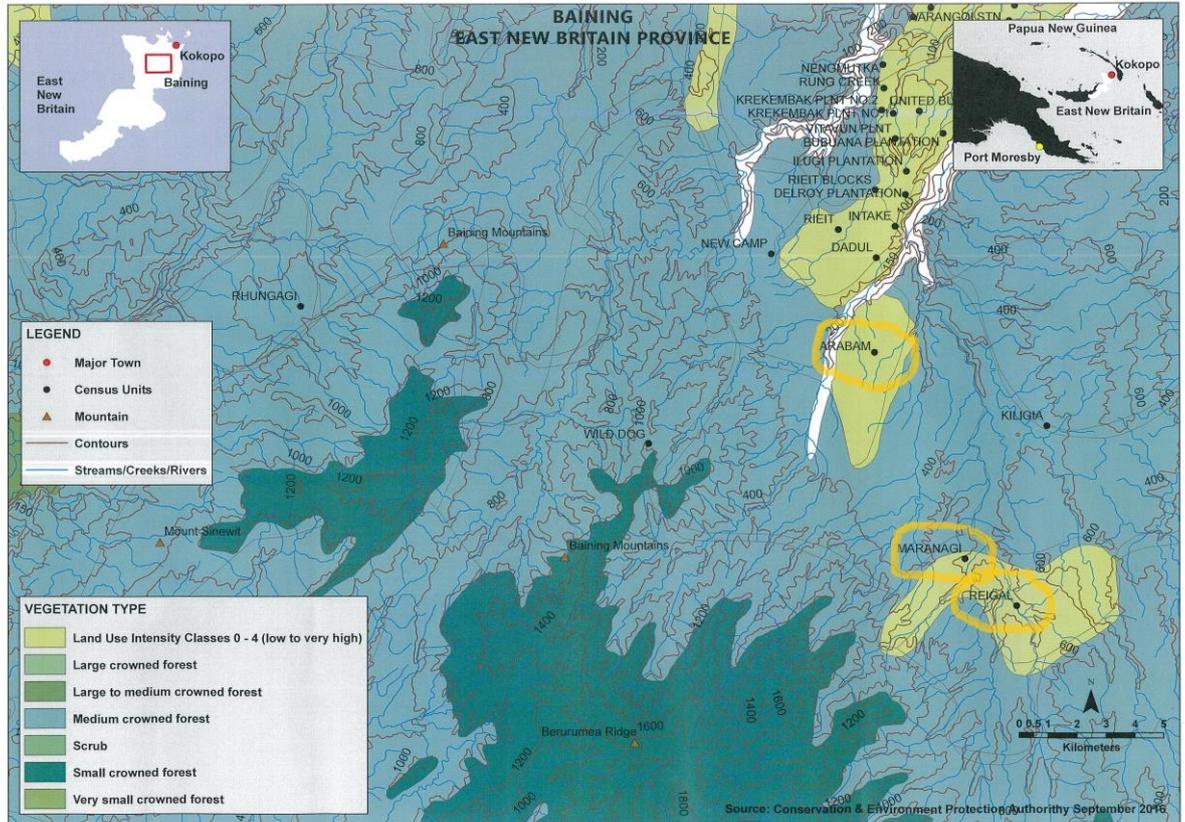


Figure 1: These villages circled in Yellow have been mentioned in the LOI and are where CELCOR has conducted the feasibility study in ARM region, Baining Mountains.

## Map of Manus

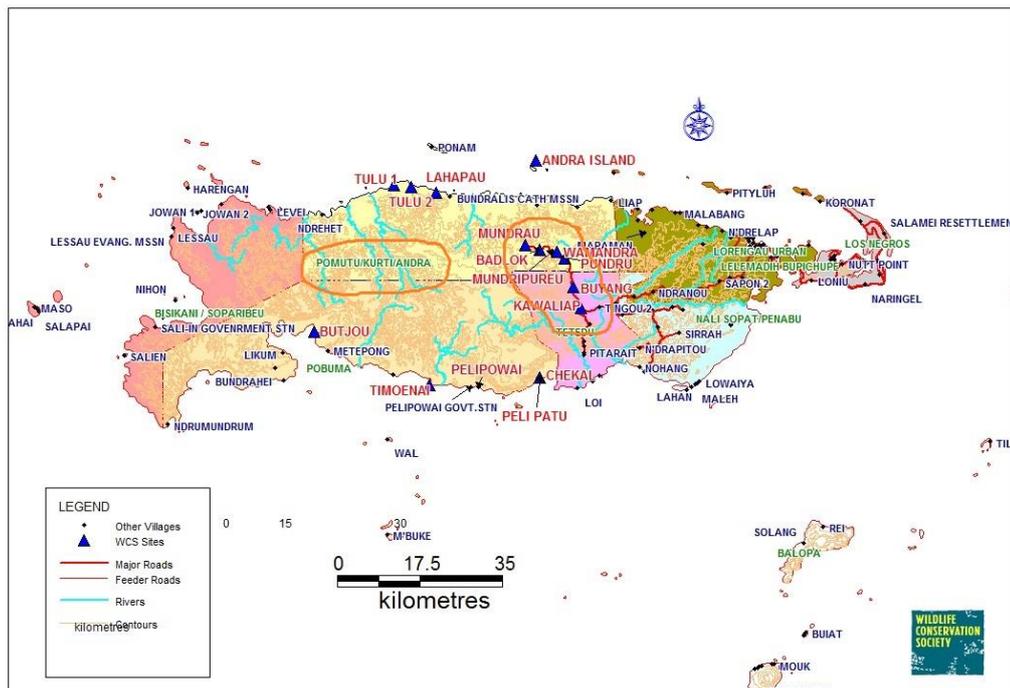


Figure 2: Map showing communities mentioned in LOI (in orange colour) in Manus Province where CELCOR has conducted the feasibility study.