



**Recognising and Building on Customary Marine Management through Audio-Visual Approaches
in Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Background

Milne Bay in Papua New Guinea (PNG) has the highest biodiversity richness in good condition within the Pacific region and second to Rajah Ampat globally. It hosts, for example, over 1,300 reef fish species. Within these diverse marine environments, survey efforts have also identified a high degree of endemism. Their ecology is essential in migratory species of cetaceans, turtles, mantas, and sea birds, many of which are on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and/or CITES. In addition, there are reef fishes, sharks, and mollusks. All of these trophic levels benefit from site level conservation that is honored through committed sustainable customary management in the face of the ‘tragedy of the commons’, which often driven by poor commercial fishing practice across the entire range of the target species.

Rationale

This Project will contribute to PNG progressing towards their commitments under Aichi Biodiversity Targets 10, 11, 14, and 18, Goal Three of the regional Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs Fisheries and Food Security (CTI G3) and (SDG 2/16) “Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Established and Effectively Managed.” Eco Custodian Advocates Inc. (ECA), in partnership with the concerned communities and the government, will advance individual Customary Marine Management Areas (CuMMAs), which are defined as a subset of Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) and networks of LMMAs within the maritime province of Milne Bay, PNG.

In addition, the Project will assist government agencies in Milne Bay and nationally to develop appropriate protocols for communities to pursue formal recognition of their CuMMAs. This initiative will, through innovation, support and recognize Customary Management and Customary Law within Written Law such that it is recognized within these processes. Orally outlined rules and regulations established by the community for their CuMMAS will be digitally videoed and curated as a means to be codified through formal approval. These can be enforced by law enforcement bodies both using PNG laws that recognize customary law and/or after the formal recognition of CuMMAs.

The Project is innovatively looking at how oral customary ecological knowledge that is held by elders can be linked to youth of Millennial generation (born from 1981) and the recent emerging generation born into the world of e-communications, through the use of mobile recordings. In order to achieve this, the project will set out required ethics and protocols such that it will not only fulfil the role of having a locally held record, but also be formally recognised by government agencies. This will be done among communities that have initiated these ideas in Milne Bay but with the aim of establishing a broader network and offering an approach that can be extended across PNG.

The outcomes of this initiative will be part of ECA collaboration within the IKI SOMACORE regional and international activities. This will be implemented through peer-based knowledge exchange in the application of traditional marine management of the people of the ‘gwala’ of Milne



Bay with the 'sasi' of Indonesia, the 'tara bandu' of Timor Leste and the 'tambu' of the Solomon Islands. Appropriate media will be utilised in this collaborative learning opportunity.

Goal and Objectives

The goal of this Project is to foster long-term cooperation between Eco Custodian Advocates (ECA, PNG), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA, USA) and the programme "Solutions for Marine and Coastal Resilience in the Coral Triangle" (SOMACORE, supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Philippines) on assisting government agencies in Milne Bay, the National Museum and Art Gallery (PNG) and the Conservation Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) to develop appropriate protocols for communities to pursue formal recognition of their Customary Marine Management Areas (CuMMA).

The immediate objectives to which the small-scale funding contributes are as follows:

- *Objective 1:* To revitalise customary natural resource management practices that maintain ecological health in order to increase communities' food security and their wellbeing.
- *Objective 2:* To identify, collate and curate customary management plans, and record such plans and the related customary laws, as a means to obtain their formal recognition by legislation.
- *Objective 3:* To scope the development a Zoned National Marine Sanctuary across all Milne Bay waters within the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of PNG.
- *Objective 4:* To improve the local status of at-risk IUCN red list and CITES species in Milne Bay through Customary Marine Management Areas (CuMMA), e.g., sharks, rays, turtles, giant clams, and wrasse.

Activities

The activities to be carried out by ECA, in collaboration with partners and with the support provided under this Agreement are the following:

- *Activity 1:* Preparation of a recording protocol in 'tribal nations' languages, including aspects related to the free prior informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities, as applicable, and their presentation to local governments.
- *Activity 2:* Organization of at least five (5) basic trainings in video recording, following required protocols, including on metadata embedded in videos, with necessary support tutoring/feedback. This activity will be guided by the Environmental Services Mutuality in PNG due to the context of customary law and in order to conform with PNG laws and policy.
- *Activity 3:* Creation of a progressively populated database of contacts reliant in marine space of PNG and sharing of information and relevant working documents across the network facilitated, including through the IKI SOMACORE Initiative. This activity will directly involve the Indonesian Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA), WWF Pacific and Conservation International (CI) in all partner countries, and Blue Ventures' partnerships in Timor-Leste and Indonesia.
- *Activity 4:* Drafting a Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) submission in collaboration with Environment Office for Assembly's approval.
- *Activity 5:* Preparation and drafting, in a collaborative manner, of the following project documents/outcomes:



- Stakeholder scoping, identification of primary leads and secondary agencies.
- Materials development with primary lead agencies followed by comment request by all stakeholders.
- Curate draft documents and working appendix of concerns and comments incorporated.
- Final document outlining all achievements, distributed to primary lead agency(ies).
- *Activity 6:* Preparation of a document, based on the feedback received from stakeholders and the project results, on key lessons learned in an easily accessible format, and sharing the document, jointly with other relevant outputs, within the IKI initiative, i.e., Indonesia, Timor-Leste, and Solomon Islands. This activity will include sharing of the developed protocol for videography in the local context of island Melanesia, the processes and evaluation of an audio-visual approach to recording and ‘codifying’ oral customary law, and the sharing of experiences in proposing the recognition of the latter by written law with other countries within the IKI SOMACORE Initiative, in particular, with the peoples of the ‘sasi’ of Indonesia, the ‘tara bandu’ of Timor Leste and the ‘tambu’ of the Solomon Islands.

Planned Outputs

The expected outputs are as follows:

- *Output 1:* Recording protocols to be used by ECA and others endorsed by local governments and customary governance.
- *Output 2:* Interested community videographers have acquired basic capacities to record good quality audio-visual materials.
- *Output 3:* Environmental practices recorded by community members in accordance with the relevant protocols, subject to the prior informed consent (PIC) of indigenous peoples and local communities, as applicable, thereby enabling the recognition of their intellectual property rights (IPR) on traditional environmental knowledge (TEK).
- *Output 4:* A register of contacts and a network linking remote island communities together.
- *Output 5:* Draft PEC submission ready for consideration.
- *Output 6:* A protocol on recording customary environmental practice drafted and shared with various government, non-government, community and industry stakeholders for comments; a revised protocol submitted to PNG National Museum and Art Gallery.
- *Output 7:* An outcome document on the key lessons learnt jointly drafted and shared within the seascapes of IKI SOMACORE Initiative; final outcome document refined and submitted for acceptance/ publication in a peer review journal.

Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes are as follows:

- *Outcome 1:* Customary environmental practices are documented by local communities. A recording protocol developed for villagers to record videos by using smartphones with a view to documenting customary environmental practices that can be shared within and between the relevant communities, based on reciprocity; such practices are recognised and/or supported by at least three government agencies.



- *Outcome 2:* At least five videos on customary environmental practices are produced by local communities and shared within the network of participating island communities through applications such as WhatsApp.
- *Outcome 3:* A protocol for the custodianship of customary environmental practice videos by an agency such as the PNG National Museum and Art Gallery.
- *Outcome 4:* A peer-reviewed paper on the key results and lessons learnt for their sharing across Melanesia.

Schedule of Activities

Dates	Activity	Brief Description
1 March - 15 May 2021	Activity 1	Preparation and presentation of a recording protocol
1 April - 15 July 2021	Activity 2	Organization of basic trainings in video recording
15 July - 1 September 2021	Activity 3	Creation of a database of contacts and sharing of information
15 July -15 August 2021	Activity 4	Drafting a Provincial Executive Committee's (PEC) submission
30 July - 31 August 2021	Activity 5	Preparation and drafting of project documents and outcomes
30 July - 1 September 2021	Activity 6	Preparation a document on key lessons learned

Management and Coordination

The lead institution is ECA. Project management will be ensured by the Director of ECA. He will provide oversight management in the Milne Bay Province. He will also guide the development of biodiversity management concepts in different language groups or 'nations'.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Partners

Under the leadership of ECA, the activities of this Project will involve the following partners: the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA-USA 2020-2021) and Solutions for Marine and Coastal Resilience in the Coral Triangle (SOMACORE, GIZ-Philippines).

Cooperation will be carried out along the following lines:

- *ECA (PNG):*
 - Project leadership.
- *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA-USA 2020-2021):*
 - Develop a capacity needs assessment for community-driven audio-visual recording of CuMMAs.
 - Scope the opportunities of exchange of recorded materials and experiences.
- *SOMACORE (GIZ-Philippines):*
 - Develop protocol of recording of audio-visual CuMMAs;



- Determine a format of audio-visual recording of CuMMAs that satisfies the requirements of review and placement on the National Protected Areas Register held by CEPA and reported to the CBD.
- Investigate the options of curation of audio-visual recordings within communities and within government agencies.

Technology and/or Service Providers

As the project's centralised point of coordination, ECA will be responsible for procuring hardware and software compatible systems to record, download, edit and share audio-visual products created by village videographers. Relevant technologies will be procured by ECA through a competitive process involving the comparison of at least two quotes from the candidate technology providers, based on the principle of best value for money, which shall be applied for the selection of relevant equipment and/or services, including:

- Four (4) mobile phones with 128Mb SD Memory Card.
- Two (2) external hard drives to be used as a locally curated publicly available resources backup.
- One (1) cloud storage made available to the project partners.