



Sectoral Integration of Biodiversity in Papua New Guinea

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1. Introduction

Papua New Guinea reported¹ that there are major constraints facing the conservation of biodiversity and this is due to the fact that:

- There are uncoordinated efforts to develop a Regional Approach to Conservation,
- The complexity of Customary Ownership of land/sea and the social structures in Papua New Guinea,
- The lack of coordination in Administrative Planning Framework and the requirements by the different natural resources policies and legal instruments that governs the government agencies.

2. Regional Approach to Conservation

For the first time the eco-region will become the reporting unit for assessing the status of species and ecosystems and their protection in PNG's Protected Area System, once endorsed by the National Executive Council. The eco-region will also be used in the monitoring and evaluation framework for the Papua New Guinea Government's current natural resource management initiatives. The eco-region is a cooperative approach and will continue to be refined as more detailed information on ecosystems or other base layers comes to hand.

3. Complex of Customary Land/Marine Ownership

The regional approach to identifying priority areas for protection and integrated management in PNG also needs to ensure the effective consideration of the PNG people, the traditional and customary landowners of PNG. Customary Landowners in PNG own the land and sea and are an integral part of the landscapes and seascapes of the Nation. An equal consideration when identifying priorities for protection and management is to ensure the effective consideration of the customary land owners. As a first step towards this, a second framework is also crucial when considering implementing outcomes in PNG - a customary ownership Framework. To date 815 language groups have been mapped across PNG. The greater challenge is conducting the necessary consultation with the customary landowners, many of whom live in remote rural areas without ready access or are absent from their traditional lands.

4. Administrative Planning Framework

A national framework, adding to the complexity of PNG's biodiversity, cultural and social frameworks, is the existing administrative framework which includes: Province – District – LLG and Ward levels of Administration (see Figure 3 above). This administrative structure was developed in an attempt to support the highly decentralized nature of the PNG rural community.

¹ Papua New Guinea (2010). Fourth National Report, 25 June 2010, 86 pp.

The New Organic Law on Provincial and Local-Level Governments (NOLPGLG) provides the institutional framework for the planning process in Papua New Guinea. It provides the foundation for a system of bottom-up planning for provinces, to ensure the delivery of better and more appropriate services to the local people in a more efficient manner. The reforms brought in by the new law are aimed at:

- Improving the delivery of services, particularly in the rural areas;
- Increasing participation in government at the community and local levels;
- Strengthening local government by decentralising powers and responsibilities to the local levels of government;
- Increasing funding to local levels of governments to support this strengthening;

5. Integration of biodiversity into sectoral strategies and plans

The Department of Environment is yet to develop a clear process for effectively implementing and integrating biodiversity and protected areas outcomes into the wider landscape, seascape and sectoral plans and strategies framework as required by the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and the Millennium Goal 7 and on sustainable development. Given the complexity of PNG's social, cultural, legislative and administrative setting, without an effective planning and implementation framework and process it would be impossible to deliver such outcomes.

However, there are number of strategic planning document and framework where mainstreaming process has been encouraged and plan implemented.

Case Study – Papua New Guinea Vision 2050 and the Strategic Development Plan 2010 – 2030

The broad objectives of the PNG DSP, 2010-2030

Guided by the directives and goals of the National Constitution, the Papua New Guinea Development Strategic Plan (PNG DSP) elaborates how PNG can become a prosperous, middle income country by 2030.

GOAL: A high quality of life for all Papua New Guineans

VISION: Papua New Guinea will be a prosperous middle-income country by 2030

The directives and goals of the Constitution form the broad objectives of Papua New Guinea's Development Strategic Plan in the following ways;

Integral human development -Integral human development is essential to provide all citizens with the opportunity to achieve their potential. Quality education for all and a world class health system are key elements of the PNG DSP for human development, helping to develop a highly skilled workforce and equipping PNG's entrepreneurs with the skills they need to grow their businesses.

Equality and participation - All citizens should have equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the nation's development. Prosperity in rural areas of PNG is a major emphasis of the PNG DSP, because the vast majority of citizens live in rural PNG. The PNG DSP specifies how service delivery to rural PNG will be achieved, including transport services, electricity, education, health and business assistance.

National sovereignty and self reliance - PNG's national sovereignty will be strengthened by PNG's economic and political success. Good governance and broad based growth will help build PNG into a prosperous nation including by facilitating PNG investors. Among other things, PNG's prosperity will alleviate the country's reliance on aid. Natural resources and environment - PNG is well endowed with a wealth of natural resources. These resources must be managed sustainably to ensure they benefit both future and current generations. In particular, resource revenues need to be focused on nation building, while at the same time protecting the environment.

Papua New Guinea ways - PNG has a rich heritage of traditional wisdom and knowledge, reflecting the greatest cultural diversity of any nation of the world. PNG's development will be fostered in ways that learn from and build upon PNG's cultural heritage. The PNG DSP policy measures for law and order, land, education and health, for example, draw on PNG ways to improve the effectiveness of service delivery in these sectors. The PNG DSP also translates the focus areas of the Papua New Guinea Vision 2050 into concise directions for economic policies, public policies and sector interventions with clear objectives, quantitative targets, and baseline indicators. It is envisaged that Papua New Guinea will have

two Development Strategic Plans under the Vision 2050, each covering a 20 year period.

The PNG DSP strategizes the aspirations of the PNG Vision 2050 in line with the following core objectives:

1. Strategic planning: The PNG DSP is a strategic planning document, which articulates long-term national goals and formulates strategies that provide guidelines for action plans and resources programming. If applicable, the goals are quantitatively targeted and scenarios derived, using the PNG Government's computerised general equilibrium model (PNGGEM). Strategic plan acts as a road map for achieving long-term results. Strategic planning anticipates changes in the environment that implicitly suggest radical moves away from current practices. Four five-year Medium Term Development Plans (MTDPs) are envisaged to be aligned to the PNG DSP 2010-2030. This implies that an MTDP's action plans, objectives, resources programming and implementation protocols should be in conformity with the strategic direction of the PNG DSP. Similarly, other statutory plans, such as the lower level government plans, line departments and agencies plans and corporate plans, as well as the annual budgets, must be aligned to the MTDP.
2. Systems and institutions: The PNG DSP dedicates a section to ensuring that good governance principles are upheld and that current institutions become more effective. The PNG DSP outlines exactly how development stakeholders will partner and cooperate with the Government to enable achievement of the expected outcomes.
3. Human development: The PNG DSP is heavily focused on how investment in human resources can accelerate the development process. It considers the development of human resources to be an issue which cuts across all sectors.
4. Wealth creation: The PNG DSP sets the direction for the economy to move from an economy heavily dependent on non-renewable natural resources to one which has a broader base with dynamically developed industries in both secondary and tertiary sectors and with well connected and vibrant markets. The PNG DSP specifically addresses the manufacturing and tourism industries.
5. Security and international relations: The PNG DSP contains specific directions for defence and security, and states the broad objectives and strategies for foreign policy and foreign aid.
6. Environment and climate change: The PNG DSP will be pursued with consideration to environmental issues such that the health of the environment will not be compromised. Strategies under the extractive sectors as well as energy sectors are designed to be pursued with clear consideration for environment sustainability as well as addressing the issues of climate change in ways that best suit PNG's developmental needs.
7. Partnership with churches for integral human development: The PNG DSP recognises churches and other organisations as important partners in development and will rely on them to work towards achieving the PNG DSP goal of a quality life for all Papua New Guineans. Churches play an important role in meeting the spiritual needs of the people.

6. Biodiversity in environment impact assessment

Papua New Guinea Environment Act 2000 has the following objectives and recent amendment

- a) to promote the wise management of PNG natural resources for the collective benefit of the whole nation & ensure renewable resources are replenished for future generations;
- b) to protect the environment while allowing for development in a way that improves the quality of life and maintains the ecological processes on which life depends;
- c) to sustain the potential of natural and physical resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations, and safeguard the life-supporting capacity of air, water, land and ecosystems;
- d) to ensure that proper weight is given to both long-term and short-term social, economic, environmental and equity considerations in deciding all matters relating to environmental management, protection, restoration and enhancement;
- e) to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects of activities on the environment by regulating in an integrated, cost-effective and systematic manner, activities, products, substances and services that cause environmental harm;

f) to require persons engaged in activities which have a harmful effect on the environment progressively to reduce or mitigate the impact of those effects as such reductions and mitigation become practicable through technology and economic developments;

g) to allocate the costs of environmental protection and restoration equitably and in a manner that encourages responsible use of, and reduced harm to, the environment;

h) to apply a precautionary approach to the assessment of risk of environmental harm and ensure that all aspects of environmental quality affected by environmental harm are considered in decisions relating to the environment;

i) to regulate activities which may have a harmful effect on the environment in an open and transparent manner and ensure that consultation occurs in relation to decisions under this Act with persons and bodies who are likely to be affected by them; and

j) To provide a means for carrying into effect obligations under any international treaty or convention relating to the environment to which Papua New Guinea is a party.

7. Way Forward

- There is urgent need for improved coordination among national and international institutions, adoption of policy measures that protect the environment. There is need to strengthen existing institutions responsible for biodiversity conservation and to harmonize and integrate their activities.
- Establish a Coordinating body for the NBSAP?
- Establish a POWPA Taskforce in the department to implement the process above
- Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into the National and Provincial Planning Process Framework,

Incorporate the PNG National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Goals into the next Medium Term Development Strategy 2010 – 2015.

- Integrating Protected Areas into Sectoral Development Strategies and Action Plans by taking into account the followings;

DEC Regional eco-regional planning framework, (see TNC and DEC map),

The implementation and monitoring of the administrative management framework, and

Culture in recognising the sacred sites and other important landscape features.

- Maintenance of a good database system equipped with capable and efficient capacity and funding,

- Support and provide funding for the management of these areas,
- Monitoring and Evaluation the achievement of eco-regional planning framework.