



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PNG UNCCD National Report Status

By

Papua New Guinea UNNCD Focal Point

Secretary

Department of Environment and Conservation

A/Officer: Mr D. Ivarami
P O Box 6601
BOROKO, NCD
Papau New Guinea
Telephone: (675) 3250180
Facsimile: (675) 3250182
Email: odir@daltron.com.pg

Contents

1. Introduction

2. Past And Current UNCCD Activities

2.1 PNG National UNCCD Awareness Workshop.

2.2 Establishment Of The PNG UNCCD National Coordinating Body To Oversee The Formulation Of The National Report And Other UNCCD Related Activities.

2.2.1 UNCCD Steering Committee – Identified Relevant Participating Agencies

2.2.2 UNCCD Steering Committee, SC (or NCB) Draft Terms of Reference.

2.2.3 UNCCD National Technical Committee Draft Terms Of Reference.

2.2.4 Current UNCCD Steering Committee Members.

2.3 Outline of National Report.

3. Summary Of Current Problems Faced In Implementing UNCCD In PNG.

4. UNCCD Secretariat/SPREP And Papua New Guinea Letter Of Understanding (LOU)

5. Conclusion

1. Introduction

This report is to update the UNNCD Regional Secretariat and SPREP on the latest development on the implementation of the UNCCD in Papua New Guinea.

Papua New Guinea ratified the Convention in December 2000. The Focal point was transferred to the Secretary, Department of Environment and Conservation in May, 2001 and the Action Office was taken up by the Greenhouse Unit, Office of the Secretary. So far PNG has not attended any UNCCD COP Meeting after it ratified the Convention. However PNG did attend the Pacific and Asia Pacific Regional Meetings in 2001.

2. Past And Current UNCCD Activities

2.1 PNG National UNCCD Awareness Workshop.

The Department Of Environment and Conservation, Greenhouse Unit (UNCCD Action Office) was allocated US\$ 8000 from the UNCCD Secretariat in Bonn, Germany for conducting the Country's first UNCCD awareness workshop and the subsequent printing and distribution of the workshop proceedings. The workshop was just recently organized on 23rd – 25th January 2002, after a few postponements due mainly to problems with access to allocated finance and workshop participants own schedules. The awareness workshop was appropriately titled 'National Awareness Workshop on Preventing Land Degradation and Mitigating Drought in PNG. Introducing the United Nations Convention On Combating Desertification (UNCCD)' and was attended by relevant government agencies, NGOs and donor agencies. The Workshop Proceeding is currently being printed by the Government Printing Office and will be distributed as soon as it is completed, however for the time being a draft of the workshop proceeding is attached to this report.

2.2 Establishment Of The PNG UNCCD National Coordinating Body To Oversee The Formulation Of The National Report And Other UNCCD Related Activities.

The UNCCD Focal Point having identified relevant government agencies, NGOs and donor agencies, and having notified and received some participants confirmation is currently still trying to organize the first meeting for the UNCCD National Coordinating Body (NCB) or UNCCD Steering Committee. This meeting was scheduled for 3rd June 2002 also after being postponed previously due to participants own work commitments and schedules. As there was no proper quorum to hold a meeting, the meeting has again been postponed to a later date after the National Election period in June, 2002.

The first UNCCD Steering Committee Meeting Agenda is as follows:

1. Election of Office Bearers – Chairman (PNG UNCCD Focal Point, DEC Secretary)
 - Vice Chairman
 - Secretary

- Vice Secretary
- Task Manager

2. Finalization and endorsement of Steering Committee Terms Of Reference. (TOR)
3. Formation of a supporting National Technical Committee and endorsement of TOR
4. Preparation for the formulation of the National Report and National Action Plan.
5. Identify enabling activities for implementing UNCCD activities.
6. TPN 4 Questionnaire – Water Resources Management.
7. Work Plan for 2002 and onwards in line with the UNCCD Secretariat’s schedule.
8. A.O.B

2.2.1 Steering Committee – Identified Participating Agencies

Concerned government agencies include:

1. Department of Environment & Conservation
 - Greenhouse Unit
 - Biodiversity Division
 - Water Resources Division.
2. Department of Agriculture and Livestock.
3. Department of Forestry.
4. Department of Lands and Physical Planning
5. University of PNG – Environment Department.
6. PNG Unitech – Forestry Department
 - Agriculture Department
7. National Weather Office
8. National Emergency and Disaster Office
9. National Agricultural Research Institute
10. National Research Institute
11. Forest Research Institute.
12. National Planning Office.
13. Prime Ministers Office.

Environmental Organizations

- Worldwide Fund for Nature. (WWF)
- PNG NGO Environmental Watch Group
- Conservation International

Land Owner Groups.

- Dr. Andrew Lakau – PNG Land Law Consultant/Lawyer
- Mr. Tom B Morris – Private Agricultural & Rural Development Specialist/Consultant.

Donor Agencies

- JICA
- Ausaid
- GTZ
- European Union
- ADB
- Etc.

Note that even though we would like to have as many NCB members as possible from a broad sector we realize not all identified participants will be able to participate because of some reasons.

2.2.2 UNCCD Steering Committee, SC (or NCB) Terms of Reference.

The following Terms Of Reference for the UNCCD Steering Committee was developed by the Department of Environment and Conservation to be approved and adopted by the SC.

- The main function of the of the SC is to be the primary primary advisory body recommending policy development for the effective implementation of UNCCD activities in PNG.
- During the implementation of UNCCD activities, The SC will:
 1. provide guidance, steer and monitor the implementation of the Convention.
 2. establish permanent inter-agency links to co-ordinate UNCCD activities.
 3. ensure support and smooth transition from enabling activities to finalization of the NAP and consequently, the implementation of the NAP.
- UNCCD activities will include:
 1. prepare a work plan for the implementation of UNCCD in PNG and identify agencies that are capable of implementing different subcomponents of the Convention.
 2. prepare the National Report and the National Action Plan for PNG.
 3. put in place procedural and infrastructural elements that will form the framework for the rest of the UNCCD activities.
 4. assemble a National Technical Committee with a broad based governmental, academic, and NGO representative.
 5. Identify options for preventing land degradation and mitigating drought
 6. Identify adaptation measures for preventing land degradation and mitigating drought.
 7. Identify the vulnerability of PNG and it's and areas to land degradation and drought
 8. Fulfill reporting obligations with regard to the National Report and the NAP.
 9. Attention will be paid to the dissemination of and public access to available information, in order to enable public participation and involvement of all interested individuals and organizations.

Once again, take note that this is only a draft TOR for the UNCCD SC. It will be finalized and adopted at the first SC meeting.

2.2.3 UNCCD National Technical Committee Draft Terms Of Reference.

The National Technical Committee (NTC) will consist of individuals with expertise from relevant government agencies, academic institutions, NGOs, and private sector organizations. Community participation would appropriately include representatives of landowner groups. With national and international expertise support the NTC will focus on training activities associated with projects, and will carry out activities related with the projects.

Other UNCCD NTC activities may include:

- Identify, analyze and verify past and ongoing scientific as well as technical activities for compliance with the principles of the Convention.
- Adaptation and integration of technical and scientific programmes in the NAP and National Reports for consideration by the Steering Committee.

2.2.4 Current Steering Committee Members.

The list below provides contact addresses of persons, their designation, and their respective agencies who have formally responded expressing interest in being members of the PNG UNCCD Steering Committee.

<p>Dr. Geoff Wiles – Chief Scientist National Agricultural Research Institute 2nd Floor, Vele Rumana, P.O. Box 4415, Lae 411, Morobe Province, PNG Ph: (675) 472 1751/52 Fax: (675) 472 2242</p>	<p>Mr. John Demerua – Agronomist Drought and Frost Response Project Dry Lowlands Programme – Laloki, P.O. Box 1828, Port Moresby NCD, PNG Ph: (675) 320 1516 Fax: (675) 3202411</p>
<p>Mr. Elias R Wohengu – Director Multilateral Economic Affairs Branch Foreign Affairs Department, P.O. Box 422, Waigani, NCD, PNG Ph: (675) 301 4122 Fax: (675) 325 4886</p>	<p>Mr. Francis Daink- Director Science and Technology Department of Agriculture & Livestock P.O. Box 417, Konedobu, PNG Ph: (675) 321 3302/4086 Fax: (675) 321 1387</p>

<p>Mr. Stanley Oa – Land Use Officer Department of Agriculture & Livestock P.O.Box 417 Konedobu, PNG Ph: (675) 321 3302/4086 Fax: (675) 321 1387</p>	<p>Chief Physical Planner Department of Lands and Physical Planning P.O.Box 5665, Boroko, NCD, PNG. Ph: (675) 301 3116 Fax: (675) 301 3299</p>
<p>Mr. Kwaipo Vali Policy and Advisory Division Department of Prime Minister & National Executive Council P.O. Box 639, Waigani. NCD. PNG. Ph: (675) 327 6622 Fax: (675) 323 3931</p>	<p>Mr. Sam Maiha - Assistant Manager Climate and Special Services National Weather Service P.O. Box 1240, Boroko, NCD, PNG Ph: (675) 325 2788 Fax: (675) 325 2740</p>
<p>Mr. Mike Hasagama - Lecturer Department of Forestry PNG University of Technology Private Mail Bag Lae, Morobe Province, PNG Ph: (675) 473 4651 Fax: (675) 473 4669</p>	<p>Dr. Muhammed Muneer - Lecturer Department of Agriculture PNG University of Technology Private Mail Bag Lae, Morobe Province, PNG Ph: (675) 473 4451 Fax: (675) 475 4477</p>
<p>Mr. Bernard Suruman – Snr Scientific Officer Greenhouse Unit Department of Environment & Conservation 5th Floor, Somare Foundation Building P.O. Box 6601, Boroko, NCD, PNG Ph: (675) 325 0180/ 9192 Fax: (675) 325 0182</p>	<p>Mr. Dennis Ivarami UNCCD Action Officer, Greenhouse Unit Department of Environment & Conservation 5th Floor, Somare Foundation Building P.O. Box 6601, Boroko, NCD, PNG Ph: (675) 325 0180/ 9192 Fax: (675) 325 0182</p>
<p>Mr. James Sabi – Principle Taxonomist Biodiversity Division Department of Environment & Conservation 4th Floor, Somare Foundation Building P.O. Box 6601, Boroko, NCD, PNG Ph: (675) 325 0180/ 9192 Fax: (675) 325 0182</p>	<p>Mr. Nason Yube – Principle Hydrologist Water Resources Division Department of Environment & Conservation 5th Floor, Somare Foundation Building P.O. Box 6601, Boroko, NCD, PNG Ph: (675) 325 0180/ 9192 Fax: (675) 325 0182</p>

<p>Mr. Tom B Morris – Rural Development Agriculturist/Consultant P.O. Box 3799 Lae, Morobe Province Papua New Guinea Ph: (675) 473 4651 Fax: (675) 475 4477</p>	<p>Dr. Andrew Lakau PNG Land Lawyer/Consultant P.O. Box Lae, Morobe Province Papua New Guinea Ph: Fax:</p>
---	---

2.3 Outline of National Report.

This Outline of the PNG National Report to Implement UNCCD is an outcome from the PNG UNCCD National Awareness Workshop Working Group Deliberation. It was formulated to assist the SC in the production of the National Report.

a. Contents

1 INTRODUCTION.....

2 HAZARDS OF LAND DEGRADATION AND ITS PREVENTION.....

3 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND THE PRIORITY AREAS

3.1 AGENDA AND PRIORITY AREA IN RELEVANT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FIELDS

3.1.1 PNG NATIONAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

3.1.2 FORESTRY

3.1.3 MINING.....

3.1.4 NATURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY.....

3.1.5 AGRICULTURE AND SOIL CONSERVATION.....

3.1.6 SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT.....

3.1.7 LANDUSE PLANNING.....

3.1.8 NATIONAL DISASTER & EMERGENCY FOUNDATION.....

3.2 NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME BASED ON PNG NATIONAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

4 CONCRETE ACTIVITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING UNCCD AND EFFECTS

4.1 STEERING COMMITTEE (DECISION MAKING LEVEL).....

4.2 COORDINATION UNIT (SECRETARIAT OF STEERING COMMITTEE).....

4.2.1 POSITION AND FUNCTION OF COORDINATION UNIT

4.2.2 RESOURCES.....

4.2.3 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COOPERATION

4.2.4 COMPONENT AND OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE.....

4.2.5 ESTABLISHMENT OF INFORMATION NETWORK

4.3 DOMESTIC DECISION MAKING UNITS

4.3.1 ORGANIZATIONS DEALING WITH CONTROLLING AND ASSESSMENT OF LAND DEGRADATION.....

4.3.2	<i>INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS</i>	
4.4	INCORPERATION OF NAP INTO NATIONAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN	
4.4.1	<i>INCORPORATION OF NAP INTO NATIONAL POLICIES</i>	
4.4.2	<i>INCORPORATION OF NAP INTO NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT PLAN</i>	
4.4.3	<i>NAP AND LOCAL ACTION PLAN</i>	
4.4.4	<i>NAP AND SUB-REGIONAL/ REGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES</i>	
4.4.5	<i>AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS</i>	
4.5	LEGAL INSTRUMENTS	
4.6	GOVERNMENTAL EFFORTS AND INITIATIVES TO IMPLEMENT UNCCD	
4.6.1	<i>REALIZING COMMITMENT, BEARING OBLIGATION AND PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</i>	
4.6.2	<i>PARTICIPATION OF INTER-REGIONAL, REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL INITIATIVES TO IMPLEMENT THE UNCCD</i>	
4.6.3	<i>EFFORTS FOR RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS FOR CONTROLLING LAND DEGRADATION</i>	
4.6.4	<i>DYNAMIC MONITORING, PREDICTION AND EARLY-WARNING SYSTEM</i>	
4.6.5	<i>LAND DEGRADATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT</i>	
4.6.6	<i>REVIEW ON BENCHMARKS AND INDICATORS OF LAND DEGRADATION ASSESSMENT</i>	
4.7	INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	
4.7.1	EXISTING AID PROJECTS	
4.7.2	PERSPECTIVE FOR PARTNERSHIP BUILDING	
5	PLAN OF PARTICIPATORY PATTERNS OF SECTORS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN NAP PROCESS	
5.1	MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS	
6	BASIS FOR SUPPORTING THE COMPILATION OF NAP	
6.1	GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES ON LAND DEGRADATION	
6.2	GOVERNMENTAL CONCERNS FOR COMBATING LAND DEGRADATION	
6.2.1	SURVEY AND ANALYSIS ON EXISTING CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT NAP	
6.2.2	SUPPORTING DATA COLLECTION	
7	FRAMEWORK OF NAP	
7.1	NATURE OF NAP	
7.1.1	<i>PRINCIPLE OF PREVENTION AND CONTROL</i>	
7.1.2	<i>BIOLOGICAL MEASURES AND INTEGRATED REHABILITATION</i>	
7.1.3	<i>INTRODUCTION, ADAPTATION AND EXTENSION OF SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES</i>	
7.2	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES IN DIFFERENT PHASES	
7.2.1	PHASE I	

7.2.2 PHASE II	
7.2.3 PHASE III	
7.3 PRIORITY AREAS OF NAP	
7.3.1 ACCELERATION OF REVEGETATION IN THE AFFECTED AREAS.....	
7.3.2 CAPACITY BUILDING OF LAND DEGRADATION ASSESSMENT, EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND DISASTER PREDICTION.....	
7.3.3 DEVELOPMENT & ACCUMULATION OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE	
7.3.4 CREATION OF NETWORK OF PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR COMBATING LAND DEGRADATION AND PROTECTING ENVIRONMENT	
7.4 OBJECTIVES OF NAP.....	
7.4.1 SHORT-TERM	
7.4.2 MID-TERM	
7.4.3 LONG-TERM	
7.5 SUPPORTING PROGRAMMES FOR NAP IMPLEMENTATION	
7.6 DURATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NAP	
7.7 TASK AND OVERALL ARRANGEMENT OF SUPPORTING PROGRAMMES	
7.7.1 DETERMINED TASK OF SUPPORTING PROGRAMMES.....	
7.7.2 OVERALL ARRANGEMENT OF SUPPORTING PROGRAMMES.....	
7.8 BUDGET ESTIMATION OF SUPPORTING PROGRAMMES OF NAP.....	
7.9 FINANCING MECHANISM.....	
7.10 NECESSARY APPROACHES TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS	
7.10.1 PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL LEVEL GOVERNMENTS.....	
7.10.2 ESTABLISH SOUND MECHANISM TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMMES	
7.10.3 ADAPT APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES AND RESEARCH RESULTS.....	
7.10.4 INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING AND LEGAL INSTRUMENTS	
7.10.5 PROMOTE AND OPTIMIZE MANAGING MECHANISM OF PROGRAMMES.....	
8 FINANCIAL MECHANISM AND ENABLING MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT NAP	
8.1 RATIFICATION OF FINANCIAL MECHANISM	
8.1.1 MEASURES TO PROMOTE LOCAL UNITS FOR SEARCHING INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FINANCIAL SOURCES	
8.2 FINANCIAL SOURCES OF NAP	
8.2.1 DOMESTIC SOURCES.....	
8.2.2 INTERNATIONAL SOURCES	
8.2.3 FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM GLOBAL MECHANISM (GM OF UNCCD).....	
8.2.4 COMMITMENTS OF DONORS.....	
8.3 TECHNICAL COOPERATION	
8.3.1 ENCOURAGEMENT OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION.....	
8.3.2 DETERMINATION OF PRIORITY REQUIREMENT OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT	
8.4 ABILITY AND CAPACITY AT LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS TO IMPLEMENT NAP	

3. Summary Of Current Problems Faced In Implementing UNCCD In PNG.

The main obstacle encountered in the implementation of UNCCD in PNG is that due to the title of the Convention, there were some misunderstanding and confusion as to the aim of the Convention amongst government and NGO officials. However, after the first National Awareness Workshop it is hoped that most people in the relevant agencies will have realized that the Convention also covers drought as well as land degradation issues that are affecting the sustainable socio-economic plans of the country. The Convention is also related to other environmental aspects such as climate change, biodiversity, forestry, agriculture and water management.

It is realized that a significant amount of more work on public awareness workshops or seminars on the UNCCD and its aims is required to eventually acquire public support and participation in the implementing the UNCCD in PNG.

Some other notable barriers and considerations affecting the timely implementation of UNCCD in PNG include:

- 97% PNG Land is customary land. Most landowners are very conservative. Any issue dealing with land in PNG must be handled carefully, as they have the potential to cause heated and serious arguments. More than 70% of population live in Rural Areas and depend heavily on land for subsistence farming to sustain them.
- PNG is a third world country that has only recently ratified the UNCCD in December 2000. To date, PNG has not attended any UNCCD COP meeting as an official member. The first UNCCD National Awareness Workshop was held just recently in January 2002.
- PNG, compared to other Pacific Island countries, has a relatively large land area, 465 000 km², Country inhabited by more than 500 diverse ethnic and cultural groups who are the land owners , with 19 self governing provinces that have a Provincial Government and Local Level Governments.
- Relatively large Constitution with different government departmental development strategies and priority activities for sustainable development.
- Relatively poor economy with weak local currency
- Although literacy has improved in general, adult literacy is still a problem in most rural areas.
- National Elections in June 2002.
- Departmental telecommunication difficulties.

4.0 UNCCD Secretariat/SPREP And Papua New Guinea Letter Of Understanding (LOU)

The PNG UNCCD Focal Point has received the LOU sent by SPREP on behalf of the UNCCD Secretariat. The Department is now working on the LOU that is to be signed by the Government of PNG, SPREP and the UNCCD Secretariat. It is understood that PNG is falling behind the UNCCD Secretariats Work Plan for the year, 2002 and request that special consideration be provided for PNG mainly due to reason as stated in item 3. Hence there are some clauses of the LOU that need to be discussed using Clause 9 of the LOU. The Department of Environment and Conservation as the UNCCD Implementing Focal Point is willing to work with SPREP and the UNCCD Secretariat to develop a schedule for implementing the UNCCD in PNG in line with Clauses 4, 7 and 8. Clauses 1,2,3,5,6 and 9 of the LOU are agreed on and supported by the Department.

5. Conclusion.

Firstly, Papua New Guinea Government sincerely apologizes for the very late deliver of this report. The Government understands that it is now falling behind with regards to the UNCCD Secretariats schedule for the year 2002.

In spite of efforts made to push the implementation of UNCCD in PNG, the pace has been very slow mainly caused by country situations. However, at least, there is a focused direction to follow and some progress has been achieved in that direction. It is anticipated that as soon as the UNCCD National Coordinating Body hold their first meeting, the core UNCCD activities such as the National Report and NAP will be collectively and thoroughly addressed and hopefully the pace of progress will hasten.

It is expected that the formulation of the National Report itself will be a difficult and therefore a challenging task and may take considerable time to compile, edit and finally approve.

Continuous effort is required to increase public awareness on UNCCD and land degradation, generally with the use of the public media such as newspaper articles.

With reference to the country situations that are obstacles to the implementation of UNCCD in the country, a new schedule for PNG under clause 9 of the UNCCD Secretariat/SPREP and PNG Government LOU will have to be drawn up.

.....
Mr. Dennis Ivarami – Greenhouse Unit (DEC)
PNG UNCCD Action Officer

.....
Ms. Gwendoline Sissiou
Greenhouse Unit Manager (DEC)

.....
DR. WARI IAMO
The Secretary - PNG UNCCD Focal Point