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# TREE KANGAROO CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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2007 Annual Report



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Local "hunters" catching a tree kangaroo

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## BACKGROUND

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The Papua New Guinea Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program (TKCP) is based at Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, Washington, USA and has offices in Lae, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Cairns, Australia. The TKCP works in close partnership with Conservation International and other conservation organizations in PNG and throughout the world.

### MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program is to foster wildlife and habitat conservation in Papua New Guinea through global partnerships and community-based scientific research, education, healthcare and protected areas.

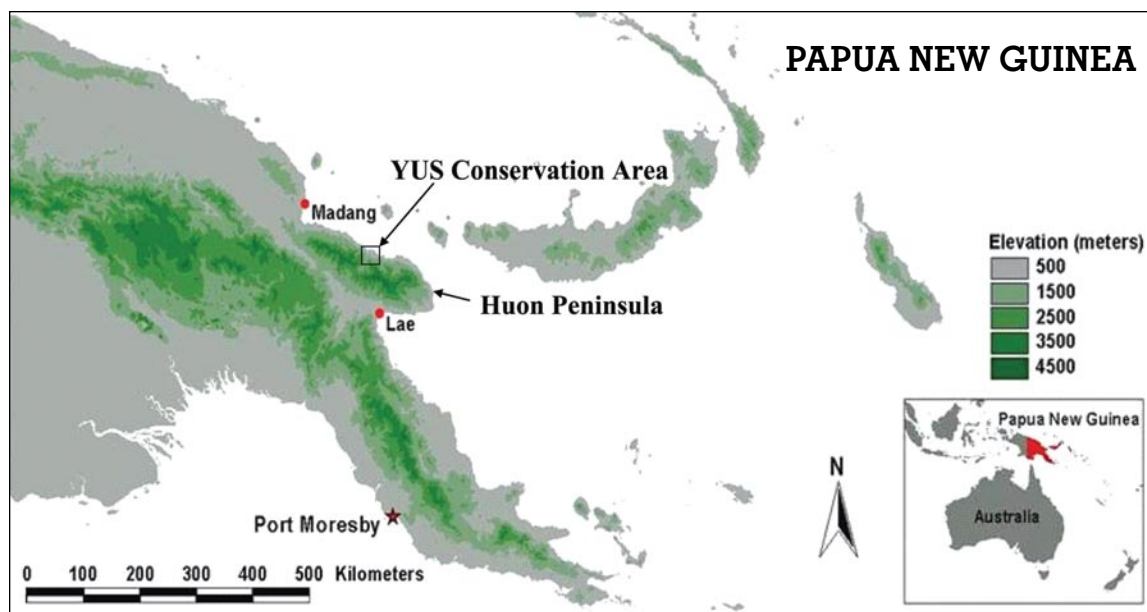
Papua New Guinea, particularly the Huon Peninsula, is considered a high-priority area for conservation efforts due to the significant amount of intact rainforest, high species endemism and lack of protected areas for wildlife. Destruction of the rainforest by mining, logging, and development threatens the continued existence of Papua New Guinea's unique fauna and flora. It is estimated that close to 80% of PNG citizens rely directly on the environment for sustenance, and over 95% of the country's land remains in customary clan ownership. Consequently, the people of PNG have a unique opportunity to chart a course towards stewardship of their natural resources - a movement that is intrinsically connected to their present and future self-sufficiency, dignity, and self-empowerment. TKCP works towards this goal in the YUS area of the Huon Peninsula. The YUS area is



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named for the three main rivers in the area: Yopno, Uruwa, and Som. As an international community-based program, the TKCP works with PNG village landowners and families, university students, government officials, and many Non-Government Organizations (NGO). The TKCP maximizes the involvement, support, and training of local landowners and villagers in all its projects. Investment in communities has fostered trust in the TKCP and its goals, and has been vital to the development of conservation awareness in local communities.

The TKCP conducts its scientific research, education projects, health projects, and conservation outreach in the YUS Local Level Government (LLG) area of Kabwum District, Morobe Province. The proposed YUS Conservation Area is within the same geographic area and is composed of land pledged by indigenous clans who reside in YUS villages.



### YUS AREA STATISTICS:

- » The YUS Local Level Government area includes portions of the Finisterre and Sarawaged mountain ranges and spans from sea level to over 13,000 ft/4,000m.
- » Includes 1,500 square kilometers of forests, villages, grassland and agricultural areas.
- » Over 35 villages with a population of approximately 10,000.
- » The YUS Conservation Area encompasses over 150,000 acres/60,000 hectares of pristine forest pledged by landowners.
- » See the back page for a detailed map of the YUS Conservation Area.
- » The YUS Conservation Area will protect unique and sensitive species. Endangered species: Matschie's tree kangaroo, and long-beaked echidna. Vulnerable species: New Guinea harpy eagle, New Guinea pademelon, dwarf cassowary, Salvadori's teal. Other endemic species: Huon astrapia, Huon melidectes.

### PROGRAM GOALS:

1. Create an officially recognized Conservation Area (CA) on the Huon Peninsula of Papua New Guinea.
2. Establish a YUS Community Based Organization (CBO) that provides long-term management for the CA and coordinates projects that address community needs.
3. Support the long-term management and financial sustainability of the CBO.
4. Facilitate monitoring of the CA and promote scientific research.
5. Build local capacity to address needs in conservation, education and healthcare.
6. Develop a global network to support community-based conservation and act as a model for other conservation programs.

### NEW DEVELOPMENTS

TKCP has new office space in Lae, PNG and a satellite office in Cairns, Australia.

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**TKCP STAFF IN THE US:**

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**Lisa Dabek**, TKCP  
Director and Director  
of Field Conservation at  
the Woodland Park Zoo,  
Seattle, Washington, USA.



**Susan O'Neil**, TKCP  
Coordinator at the  
Woodland Park Zoo,  
Seattle, Washington, USA.

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**TKCP STAFF IN AUSTRALIA:**

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**Toby Ross**, TKCP  
Conservation & Research  
Manager in Cairns,  
Australia.



**Sue Tallarico**, TKCP  
Capacity Building &  
Training Manager in  
Cairns, Australia.



**Gabriel Porolak**, TKCP  
Research Scientist and  
graduate student at James  
Cook University, Cairns,  
Australia.

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**TKCP STAFF IN PNG:**

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**Danny Samandingke**, TKCP  
Education Coordinator and  
student at University of  
Goroka in Goroka, PNG.



**Karau Kuna Jr.**, TKCP  
Mapping Officer in Lae, PNG.



**Dono Ogate**, TKCP  
Conservation Officer in YUS,  
PNG.

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**2007 TKCP TEAM MEMBERS:**

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Mellie Samson, Dr. Andrew  
Krockenberger, Dr. Erika  
Travis, Dr. Carol Esson,

Harriett Allen, Trish Watson,  
Beth Carlyle-Askew, Anne  
Bartin, Dr. Gerard Saleu,

T.J. McGreevy, Patti Valella  
and field assistants from  
Worin and Towet villages.

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# CONSERVATION

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Toby Ross with PNG Minister for Environment & Conservation, Benny Allan

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## YUS CONSERVATION AREA

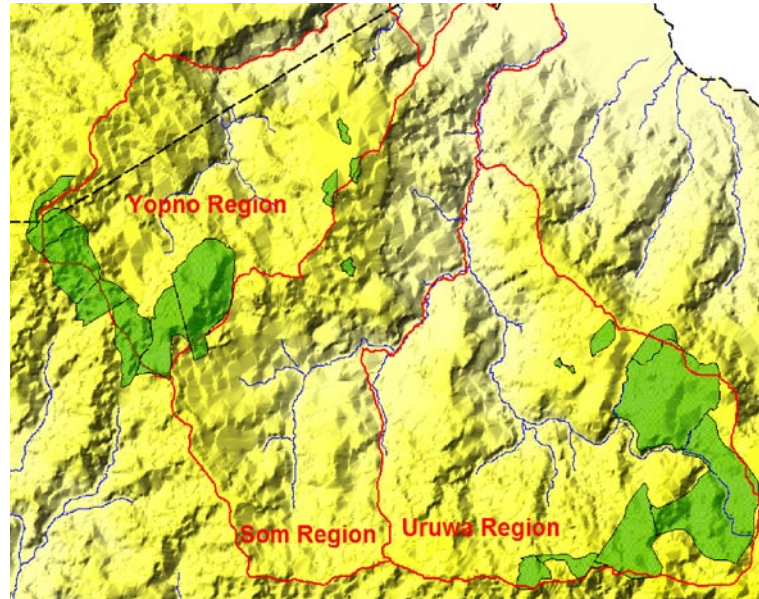
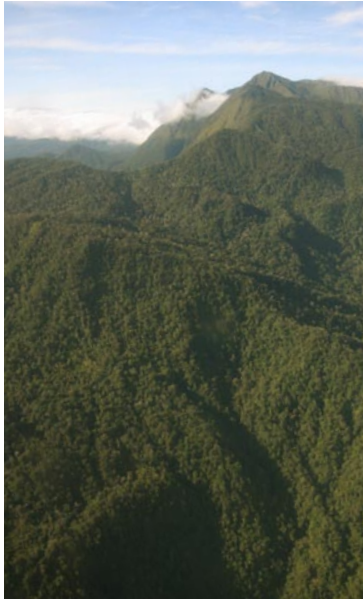
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A primary goal of TKCP is to establish a protected area for tree kangaroos, cloud forest habitat and other endemic species on the Huon Peninsula. Over the last 12 years, YUS landowners have pledged over 150,000 acres to a Conservation Area (CA). This is the first time the PNG Conservation Areas Act (1978) has been used, so the process has been long and complicated. Conservation Areas have a higher level of protection than Wildlife Management Areas which were previously the most commonly established type of protected area in Papua New Guinea. After this Conservation Area is formally approved, TKCP will work with Conservation

International and the PNG Department of Environment and Conservation to develop a “how to” guide so that future declarations initiated by other organizations will be quicker and easier.

TKCP and local YUS landowners worked with the YUS LLG, the District Government and the Morobe Provincial Government to gain local and regional approval for the Conservation Area. The National Department of Environment & Conservation (DEC) is also in full support. DEC staff collaborated with Toby Ross, TKCP Conservation & Research Manager, to develop the proposal for the final step for official

### YUS LLG with Yopno, Uruwa & Som regions



Green areas are pledged land parcels mapped by Kuna in 2006 and 2007.

approval to submit to the PNG National Executive Council (NEC). In 2007, government elections temporarily halted the approval process just as the proposal was making its way to the NEC. The newly elected PNG Minister for Environment & Conservation announced the YUS Conservation Area at an international meeting of conservation organizations in October 2007. This speech represented strong approval of the YUS CA by the newly elected government officials. Currently, TKCP and CI are working with ambassadors, agencies and other national government officials to ensure an expedited approval of the YUS CA at this final stage.

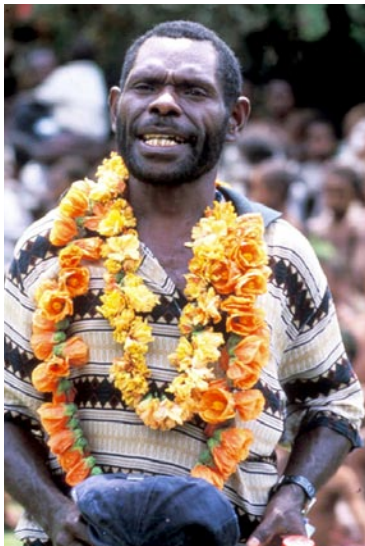
When passed, the YUS Conservation Area will be the culmination of years of effort on the part of YUS villagers, TKCP staff, CI staff, Department of Environment & Conservation staff and all of our other partners and supporters in the US and PNG. Not only will the effort represent the first Conservation Area in Papua New Guinea, it will also be the only protected area on the unique Huon Peninsula. Once officially declared, TKCP plans to hold celebrations for the Conservation Area in PNG and the US including an international media effort. We will keep all TKCP supporters abreast of the latest developments in this achievement.

### CLAN BOUNDARY MAPPING

With support from Conservation International and the Conservation, Food & Health Foundation, significant progress was made on the mapping project in 2007. The outer boundary of the YUS Conservation Area had already been mapped and will be gazetted by the national government upon official designation; however, the land parcels that each clan has pledged to make up the YUS Conservation Area need to be accurately mapped individually. Karau Kuna Jr, TKCP Mapping Officer, is using GIS technology to complete boundary mapping that will be used for management and monitoring of the YUS CA.



In 2007 Kuna received his post-graduate honor's from the University of Papua New Guinea for his work on the boundary mapping project using GIS. Following graduation, Kuna completed mapping 11 pledged land parcels of the YUS CA (25,000 acres; see map on page 5).



Dono speaking at a community meeting

Landowners accompany Kuna to identify the land boundaries for mapping. During his time with landowners, Kuna trains them on data collection skills, looks for signs of sensitive species and discusses questions and concerns about TKCP efforts. As part of each mapping trip, a survey on indicator species is carried out as the mapping team visits each site. Data is collected through checklists and landowner interviews. The data collected from species surveys with landowners will be useful for implementing a better wildlife monitoring effort for the YUS CA in the future. Since the mapping team visited different sites within the YUS LLG, the preliminary data collected will give a general insight into the biodiversity of each land parcel mapped. The Yopno and Uruwa regions were the focus in 2007; Kuna will focus on the Som region in 2008. Conservation outreach to the community as part of each mapping trip is extremely valuable and efforts will increase in 2008 to reach more landowners.

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## CONSERVATION AWARENESS

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In an effort to reach more villagers with information about TKCP, Dono Ogate was hired in July as TKCP Conservation Officer. Ogate is a landowner in Yawan and Towet villages, an Uruwa region representative to the YUS LLG, and has been a field assistant on numerous TKCP projects. His new position includes traveling to villages where TKCP has not had as much of a presence to provide updates on TKCP, explain the status of the YUS Conservation Area and announce future plans. Dono worked with Sue Tallarico in 2007 to develop education and awareness materials for his presentations. TKCP hopes to hire additional officers for Som and Yopno regions in the near future to reach even more communities regularly. Since July of 2007, Ogate has held five community meetings in various locations in YUS to discuss general TKCP topics and issues specific to the communities he was visiting.

## RESEARCH

TKCP began as a scientific research project on the Matschie's tree kangaroo (*Dendrologus matschiei*) on the Huon Peninsula. Since then the mission and goals have expanded to overall habitat protection and community involvement. Research is still an important component of TKCP. Graduate students continue to study various aspects of the ecology and biology of the Matschie's tree kangaroo. TKCP also encourages biological and cultural research within the YUS Conservation Area by other experts.

As part of an initiative at Woodland Park Zoo to incorporate more staff expertise in field conservation programs, zookeeper Beth Carlysle-Askew accompanied the radio-telemetry team to PNG and the Wasaunon field site in June 2007 (pictured to the right). Carlysle-Askew has worked at WPZ for almost 10 years; her skills in animal handling were utilized during the tree kangaroos' medical examinations and recovery from anesthesia. She returned to Seattle with a greater appreciation for the people, animals and habitat of Papua New Guinea. Carlysle-Askew will impart this information to zoo guests when she is working in the Australasia exhibits of Woodland Park Zoo.



YUS landowners and field assistants at Wasaunon field site

### FROM THE FIELD:

#### TREE KANGAROO HOME RANGE & HABITAT USE

Thanks to partial funding from the National Geographic Society, the TKCP team returned to the Wasaunon field site for another successful season in June 2007. The team consisted of Lisa Dabek, TKCP Director; Gabriel Porolak, TKCP Research Scientist and graduate student; Andrew Krockenberger, James Cook University Professor; Erika Travis, Hogle Zoo Veterinarian; Carol Esson, Australian Veterinarian; Trish Watson, WPZ volunteer and Veterinary Technician; Toby Ross, TKCP Conservation & Research Manager; Susan O'Neil, TKCP Coordinator; Beth Carlyle-Askew, WPZ Zookeeper; Harriet Allen, Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife (US); Karau Kuna Jr, TKCP Mapping Officer; and Mellie Samson, TKCP Research Assistant, along with local field assistants and camp staff from Worin and Towet villages.





Samson, Kuna and Porolak at field site

During the 2007 field season, six new tree kangaroos were collared for tracking: four males and two females. All animals were caught by local field assistants (“hunters”) and brought to the field camp for sedation, measurements, sample collection, and collaring. One female previously tracked in 2006 was located with a young joey in her pouch! All of the newly captured animals were outfitted with a pre-programmed releasable VHF collar for tracking for 4.5 months when they were scheduled to fall off the animal. One female whose home range is near the camp was re-fitted with a collar for tracking into 2008 for further study.

Kuna and Porolak trained Samson in radio-telemetry techniques and established the tracking teams for the season made up of field assistants from Towet and Worin villages. Samson led the tracking teams until collars fell off in November. They successfully located almost all animals daily until one male and one female moved so far from the original location that they were eventually tracked once per week due to the amount of time to locate them.

Porolak returned to James Cook University in July to analyze the 2004-2006 radio telemetry data for his Masters Thesis project under Drs. Andrew Krockenberger and Lisa Dabek. Porolak will publish the home range study and the habitat use study in peer-reviewed journals and graduate from JCU in 2008. The 2007 telemetry data will be analyzed in 2008.



Veterinarians and zookeepers from the United States assisted **Rainforest Habitat (RFH)**, the zoo in Lae, PNG, with animal husbandry and health assessments in 2007. Drs. Erika Travis and Carol Esson performed examinations and treated animals before and after the radio-telemetry fieldwork at Wasaunon. Beth Carlyle-Askew presented a lecture on animal husbandry techniques for the keeper staff at RFH. These efforts are part of the ongoing partnership between TKCP and RFH.



Trish Watson and Dr. Erika Travis recording data in vet tent

## IN THE LAB:



### TREE KANGAROO GENETICS

In 2007, T.J. McGreevy continued his Ph.D. program studies at the University of Rhode Island under the direction of Drs. Lisa Dabek and Thomas P. Husband, focusing on the conservation genetics of Association of Zoo and Aquarium (AZA) captive and wild Matschie's tree kangaroos. McGreevy analyzed the DNA of 58 Matschie's tree kangaroo (*Dendrologus matschiei*), 16 Goodfellow's tree kangaroo (*D. goodfellowi*), 11 Doria's tree kangaroo (*D. dorianus*), and five Grizzled tree kangaroo (*D. inustus*), which will be included in a tree kangaroo phylogenetic analysis to further resolve their taxonomy. McGreevy is also using DNA to confirm tree kangaroo identification of fecal samples from the field. These samples will be included in phylogeographic analyses of wild *D. matschiei*

to determine if genetically unique populations of *D. matschiei* are located in different areas of the YUS Conservation Area. McGreevy's fecal samples were collected during the radio-telemetry project and the population ecology research of previous years.

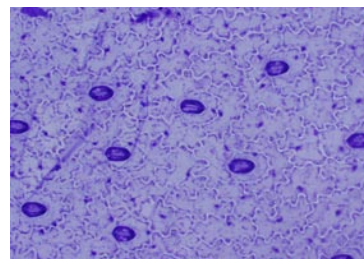
### TREE KANGAROO HEALTH

As part of the radio telemetry fieldwork, biological samples were collected to look at health parameters of wild tree kangaroos under the guidance of Dr. Erika Travis. Utah's Hogle Zoo contributed funds to test the samples in laboratories in the United States which included heavy metal analysis, parasite analysis, and nutrient and electrolyte values among others. The data will be analyzed and written up for publication in 2009 by Dr. Travis with help from Trish Watson.



### TREE KANGAROO FEEDING ECOLOGY

Patti Valella is a new PhD candidate at the University of Denver who will be working on the feeding ecology study of Matschie's tree kangaroos for her dissertation. Entitled "*Diet Determination of the Matschie's Tree Kangaroo by Fecal Microhistological Analysis*," her research focuses on determining the diet of Matschie's tree kangaroos by examining leaf fragments in their feces (see photo below of stained plant cuticle x200). In 2007 Valella worked on a reference slide collection of known plant species with which to compare the plant fragments which will continue into 2008. Dr Anna Sher is Valella's advisor at the University of Denver, and she continues to collaborate with Dr. David Christophel now at Flinders University in Australia.



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# EDUCATION

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Since its inception in 1999, the TKCP Education Project has collaborated closely with District and Provincial government agencies, school headmasters, teachers, local leaders and villagers to improve education in YUS area schools. By learning from local communities and asking them about the needs of the YUS schools, the project provides resources and direct training and instruction to the local communities. The education project provides general education supplies such as paper, chalk, pencils, books, art supplies, and science kits as well as curricula specific to the needs of school teachers. TKCP also sponsors an annual teacher training workshops and funds local students to attend Balob Teachers College.

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## FIFTH ANNUAL TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP

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TKCP conducted the Fifth Annual YUS Teacher Training Workshop in Nokopo Village during November 2007 with a total of 24 YUS teachers from 12 schools attending. The workshop was coordinated by Susan Tallarico, TKCP Capacity Building & Training Manager and Danny Samandingke, TKCP In-country Education Coordinator. The TKCP Education Team also included Anne Bartin, Zoo Educator from the St. Louis Zoo, Toby Ross, TKCP Conservation & Research Manager, and staff from the Hutan Asian Elephant/Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Program

from Sabah, Borneo (see “Exchange” pg 13). Thanks go to the St. Louis Zoo for ongoing support of the Workshop through staff time and funds.

The 2007 Teacher Training Workshop curriculum guide titled “Classifying Our World” contained topics including: classification, taxonomy, animal characteristics and adaptations, human senses and adaptations, and humans in the world. These topics were chosen by Samandingke based on input from teachers who attended the 2006 workshop. The curriculum was designed to compliment the PNG National Education Reform standards that

teachers are required to teach their students. Each teacher received a curriculum guide as well as a copy of the National Education Reform standards of PNG.

The education team conducted post-workshop evaluations with each teacher including written surveys and interviews. PNG teachers provided ideas for future curricula to be developed and necessary educational materials that could enhance their classrooms.

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## TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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One of the most critical issues facing the YUS region is a shortage of teachers in the rural village schools. To help alleviate this teacher shortage, the TKCP began funding students from YUS to attend Balob Teachers College (Lae, PNG). Currently eight teachers have successfully graduated and have returned to teach in YUS area schools. In January 2007, three more teachers started the two-year program

at Balob College and will graduate in December of 2008. The YUS Education Committee, during their yearly meeting in 2008, will assign the graduating Balob students to village schools and select the new scholarship recipients from a pool of applicants from YUS. Many former Balob students regularly attend the Teacher Training Workshops to increase their skill-set and continue their interaction with TKCP.



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## CONSERVATION CONNECTION: Global Youth Art Exchange

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The first art exchanges in 1999 and 2000 took place between students from Washington, Rhode Island and students from two village schools in PNG. The Art Exchange Project has continued to grow over the years to include more YUS village schools and more schools in the US and

Australia. TKCP, along with educators from the US, have traveled to PNG each year to teach lessons in village schools, oversee art projects and distribute artwork from students in the US. In 2007, schools from Rhode Island, Washington and Missouri participated in the exchange as well as

nine classrooms in YUS village schools. The goal of this exchange is to create meaningful connections that will help students develop an understanding of and respect for other cultures as well as promote the protection of and respect for the natural world.



Sue Tallarico and student at village school

## INTERNATIONAL BUG CLUB

International Bug Club, based at the Woodland Park Zoo, fosters curiosity and enthusiasm for insect diversity by engaging young people in multidisciplinary, cross-cultural experiences that promote a connection with the natural environment and shape a lifelong conservation ethic. YUS schools are part of the International Bug Club network, which also includes schools and zoos in the United States. YUS teachers receive curriculum and science kits that explore insect themes through hands-on science activities, arts and crafts, and outside exploration, discovery and play. In 2007, YUS teachers and TKCP worked together to modify the curriculum to suit their needs.

## VILLAGE SCHOOL LIBRARY INITIATIVE

TKCP's Education Project also provides education supplies for local YUS schools. Most schools in the YUS region have only a handful of textbooks and no storybooks or other reading materials for their students. TKCP has always brought books to village schools. In 2007, staff members Susan Tallarico and Toby

Ross began to collect library books in Australia to formally establish village school libraries in the YUS region. TKCP has currently collected over 1,000 books. In November of 2007, Nokopo School was presented with their first shipment of books for their school library at the Annual Teacher Workshop.



Danny Samandingke speaking to students at Nokopo village school

## TKCP IN-COUNTRY EDUCATION COORDINATOR, DANNY SAMANDINGKE

Starting in January 2007, Danny Samandingke began training at the University of Goroka in a Bachelors degree program in education. This two-year program focuses on advanced learning in science, as well as teacher training and in-service techniques. In 2007 Samandingke continued his work with the TKCP as In-country Education Coordinator during his

schooling. He worked with Balob Teachers College, scholarship students, and the Provincial Education Advisors; co-organized the Teacher Training Workshop; conducted the annual YUS Education Committee meeting; and co-organized the Art Exchange. He will continue these tasks in 2008 and will also help to coordinate World Environment Day events.

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## CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH BORNEO CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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Oil palm plantation conversion in Borneo

In 2007 TKCP hosted the Hutan Asian Elephant/ Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Program (KOCPP) in a WPZ Partners for Wildlife exchange in November 2007. Thanks to support from The Shared Earth Foundation, Isabelle Lackman-Ancrenaz, the co-director of the KOCPP traveled from Borneo to Papua New Guinea (PNG) with two local staff members, Johry Bin Bakri (Research Officer and Assistant Leader for the Environmental Education Unit), and Kennesh Manokaran (Program Coordinator).

The team from Borneo attended the 2007 Teacher Training Workshop in Nokopo village. The KOCPP has spent many years



Welcome parade at Nokopo village for TKCP and KOCPP team. Lackman-Ancrenaz pictured in center.

developing projects in research, staff training, human-animal conflict resolution, and community development work; however, they are still in the early stages of developing their education project. KOCPP assisted with the workshop and were able to describe first-hand to PNG teachers the results of

logging and land conversion to oil palm plantations in Borneo. This was powerful information to teachers who live in a relatively pristine environment. All participants benefited greatly from the shared experience and came away with many ideas to improve the education and capacity building projects in Borneo and PNG.



Aid Post in YUS village

YUS villagers identified healthcare, along with education, as a primary need for the community from the beginning of their collaboration with TKCP. Many of the health services provided by the District and Provincial Governments do not reach the area due to lack of funds and transportation. No doctors are stationed in YUS and medical teams rarely travel to the region. In past years, the YUS community has relied on the few community healthcare workers in the YUS LLG. To increase access to basic care, TKCP is acting as a liaison between the community and the PNG health officials. TKCP has started health initiatives and partnered with doctors in PNG and the US. In

2005 Drs. Nancy Philips and Blair Brooks worked with the Morobe Provincial Government and the YUS community to identify Health Project priorities: increase the immunization rate, train healthcare workers and midwives, develop health education in schools, enhance supplies and equipment, and create partnerships. The TKCP health project known as “Healthy Village, Healthy Forest” links the health of the human community to the health of the environment for sustainable conservation efforts.

In 2007 Sue Tallarico, in her new role as Capacity Building & Training Manager, expanded the TKCP Health Project to include health patrols to the

YUS region and distribution of supplies to Village Birth Attendants (midwives). TKCP formed a new in-country partnership with Dr. Gerard Saleu of the PNG Institute of Medical Research in Goroka, PNG. Dr. Saleu traveled with the TKCP team to Nokopo village in November. He conducted a series of health clinics throughout the Yopno region. During the 10 day visit, Dr. Saleu treated approximately 560 village members from at least 12 villages in the region. Dr. Saleu worked alongside local community healthcare workers to train them in diagnostic and treatment procedures. Dr. Saleu spoke at several community meetings in villages to address health concerns. Approximately 1,200



Dr. Saleu speaking on health and hygiene to a community group in Yopno region

people, including over 900 women, attended Dr. Saleu's community meetings on health and medicine during his visit. Dr. Saleu also gave a lecture at the 2007 Teacher Training Workshop on common medical problems in the community, highlighting importance of nutrition and good hygiene, and the need for teachers to instruct students on health issues.

In 2008, TKCP will continue to work with the Institute of Medical Research to conduct patrols in additional communities in YUS. Thanks in part to a grant from the Wyco Fund, TKCP will also work with the District Health Department to identify locations to install solar refrigerators in

Village Aid Posts. A lack of refrigeration has prevented effective and regular vaccinations from reaching the children of YUS. In 2008 TKCP will fund the materials, equipment and travel costs necessary for the District Health Trainers to return to Teptep and Yawan villages to conduct the follow-up training for Village Birth Attendants.

Drs. Nancy Philips and Blair Brooks from Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center will return to YUS in October 2008 to collaborate with our in-country health partners, conduct health-worker training and a vaccination clinic. They will continue as advisors to the "Healthy Village, Healthy Forest" initiative of TKCP.



Aid Post Birthing room



Villagers carry a man on a stretcher for treatment

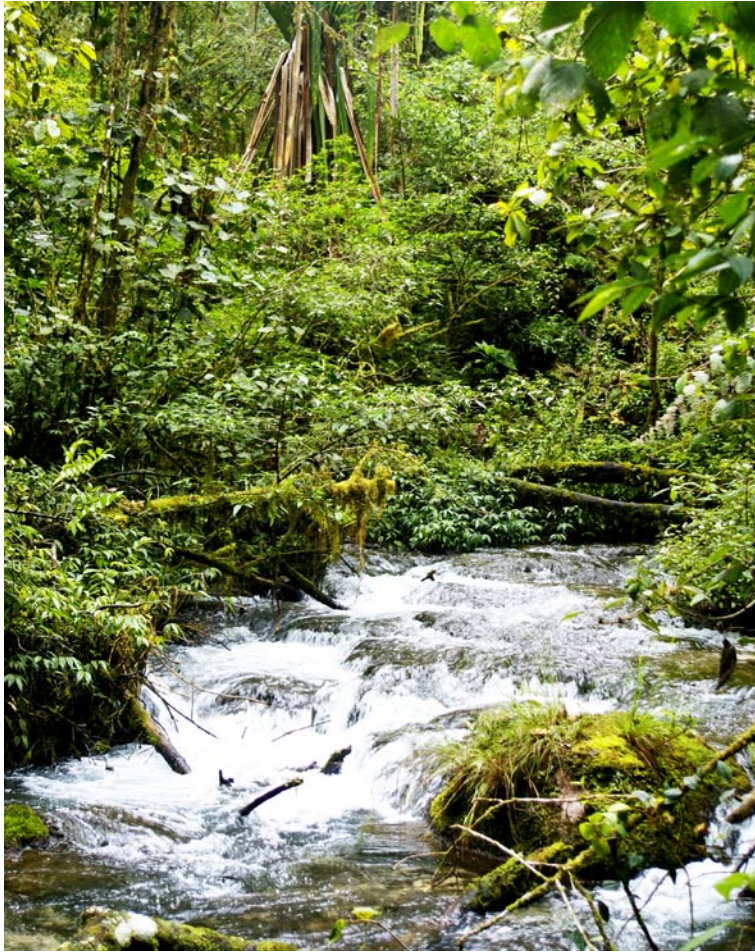


Dr. Saleu treated approximately 560 village members from at least 12 villages during a 10-day visit to the Yopno region. Dr. Saleu worked alongside local community healthcare workers to train them in diagnostic and treatment procedures.

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# SUSTAINABILITY

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TKCP has a commitment to the long-term viability of our conservation efforts. In 2007 we made several tangible steps toward long-term financial sustainability and local management of the Conservation Area. Conservation International's Global Conservation Fund awarded TKCP additional implementation funds to finalize the YUS CA and begin the process for establishing long-term management by the local people. This funding made

our staffing changes possible and set us on a course towards the creation of a YUS Community Based Organization (CBO).

One of the keys to success in any conservation program is long-term funding. Conservation International's Global Conservation Fund is assisting TKCP in establishing a Conservation Trust which will provide funding for in-country expenses and management of the YUS Conservation Area over the long term.

Conservation International has agreed to match up to \$1 million for the endowment (Conservation Trust) with matching funds to be raised by TKCP in the next three years. In 2007, TKCP staff worked with Woodland Park Zoo, CI, economists and advisers to develop a strategy for raising matching funds. We will continue our partnership with CI and expand our efforts to create a lasting solution for this unique and fragile region.



Toby Ross, Danny Samandingke, Asterio Takesy (SPREP Organizer), Gai Kula (CI), Dr Wari Iamo (DEC Secretary) and Sue Tallarico at SPREP Conference

## TKCP AT THE SPREP CONFERENCE

Sue Tallarico, Toby Ross and Danny Samandingke attended the SPREP (South Pacific Regional Environment Programme) conference in Alotau, PNG in October 2007. The conference included governmental officials and conservation organizations from throughout the Pacific, and were brought together to share information and develop a strategy. This was Samandingke's first experience at an international conference which opened his eyes to how important these issues are outside of YUS, to the

region and the world. TKCP staff presented program progress and goals through a series of workshops and break-out sessions. The conference was an excellent opportunity to meet the newly elected Minister for the Environment & Conservation, Hon. Benny Allan. During the SPREP conference Hon Benny Allan announced his support for the YUS Conservation Area and highlighted the new protected area as an example of Papua New Guinea's commitment to conservation.

## NEW OFFICE IN AUSTRALIA

Sue Tallarico, formerly the part-time TKCP Education Coordinator based in the US, accepted the position as TKCP Capacity Building & Training Manager in the Cairns satellite office. Thanks to CI-GCF funding, in addition to the education project, Sue now oversees the health project and PNG staff training and human resources. She will also work on the structure and establishment of the YUS Community Based Organization.

Toby Ross, formerly the TKCP Field Coordinator, accepted the position of TKCP Conservation & Research Manager. Toby continues to manage in-country projects including the formalization of the Conservation Area. With a new presence in Australia, TKCP is better able to collaborate with our partners at James Cook University and Conservation International – Melanesia, both in Queensland, Australia. Ross and Tallarico make regular extended trips to Port Moresby, Lae and YUS villages in PNG.

# COMMUNICATION AND PUBLICATIONS

IN 2007, TKCP was featured in many media outlets and scientific publications:

EXPEDITIONS



**NG GRANTEE**

**These Kangaroos Are Up a Tree**

Tree kangaroos inspire two reactions. First: Awww, so cute! Second: They can't be real kangaroos! But they are, right down to their pouches. In parts of Australia, kangaroos developed an arboreal lifestyle, their legs adapting for climbing and walking in addition to hopping. And some of them moved to New Guinea.

Too bad those versatile limbs can't protect tree roos from danger. In Papua New Guinea, logging and mining are eroding their rain forest habitat; villagers hunt them for meat and for their tails, worn as headdresses in celebrations. Conservation biologist and Society grantee Lisa Dabek leads the community-based Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program in the Huon Peninsula. Local clans pledged 150,000 acres as a haven where the 15-to-18-pound Matschie's tree kangaroo (left), one of ten species, can laze in a favorite tree, chew leaves whose tannin boosts its camouflaging red hue, and raise babies, which spend up to 18 months with mom. A radio-collar project is gathering data about the elusive but well-adapted rain forest residents. When they curl up to sleep, whorls in their back fur let water run right off. —Marc Silver

The tree kangaroo's long tail is a vital balancing tool 150 feet up a tree.



▲ In another partnership activity with the Hutan/Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Program in Borneo, Lisa Dabek and Susan O'Neil co-authored an article with Marc Ancrenaz (co-director of KOCP) in the open access journal Public Library of Science Biology for their in October 2007. The article entitled "The Costs of Exclusion: Recognizing a Role for Local Communities in Biodiversity Conservation" can be found online at: <http://biology.plosjournals.org>

▲ In 2007 TKCP received funding from the National Geographic Society's Committee on Research and Exploration for the tree kangaroo home range radio-telemetry research. TKCP's

research was highlighted in the September issue of *National Geographic* with wonderful photographs of tree kangaroos taken by Tim Laman.

♪ Lisa Dabek was interviewed for two National Geographic radio programs in 2007: "National Geographic World Talk" with host Patti Kim and "National Geographic Weekend" with host Boyd Matson.



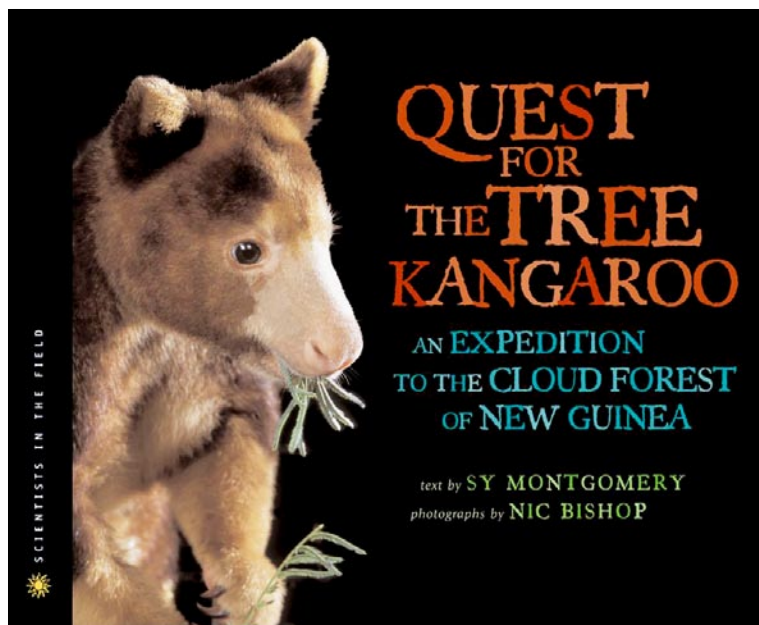
▲ Written by volunteer veterinary technician Trish Watson, the radio-telemetry research was described in “Kangaroos in the Clouds: Conservation Research in Papua New Guinea” in the August issue of *Veterinary Technician*.



▲ Dr. Erika Travis wrote about the fieldwork at Wasaunon and tree kangaroo health research in “Taking Care of Tree Kangaroos” for *Utah’s Hogle Zoo members’ magazine, The Safari*.



◀ Smithsonian’s National Zoological Park highlighted TKCP in the May/June issue of *Zoogoer*. Written by John Tidwell, “High on Kangaroos” describes tree kangaroo biology along with TKCP’s conservation and research of the Matschie’s tree kangaroo on the Huon Peninsula.



▲ *Quest for the Tree Kangaroo* by Sy Montgomery and Nic Bishop (published in 2006) continues to garner awards. In 2007 it received: 2007 Robert F. Sibert Honor Medal, 2007 Orbis Pictus Award For Nonfiction, 2007 Julia Ward Howe Finalist, Award from the Boston Authors Club, the John Burroughs Young Reader Award, a Green Earth Honor from the Newton Marasco Foundation and many others.



▲ On November 8, 2007 *The Post-Courier* of PNG published an article on the Partners for Wildlife Exchange in which the Hutan/KOCP team from Borneo attended the YUS Teacher Training Workshop.

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## GOALS FOR 2008

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### THE PRIMARY GOALS FOR 2008 INCLUDE:

- » Passage of the YUS Conservation Area proposal by the PNG National Executive Council.
- » Creation of the structure and constitution of the YUS Community Based Organization (CBO) for formally establishing the organization in PNG.
- » Celebration of the YUS CA in the United States, Papua New Guinea and throughout the world with a media campaign and celebration events.
- » Reach fundraising benchmarks for the Conservation Trust.
- » Continue tree kangaroo research, community health initiatives and the education project in YUS.



### GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

- » Expand conservation awareness and communication through regional offices and community officers in each region of YUS.
- » Formalize the TKCP Conservation Trust as part of the Woodland Park Zoo endowment campaign.
- » Train existing and new staff to coordinate TKCP projects and manage the YUS CA through the Community Based Organization.

### CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES:

- » Formalize YUS CA management plans through landowner workshops.
- » Finalize the Indigenous Mapping Project with a final review by landowners.
- » Conduct surveys of wood use and species type for fuelwood and plan for a new project on fast-growing fuelwood in YUS.
- » In partnership with the University of Washington, conduct a feasibility study of gaining access to the carbon trade to finance the YUS Conservation Area.



#### RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

- » Gabriel Porolak to complete his Masters degree at the James Cook University and submit tree kangaroo home range and habitat use studies for publication.
- » Exploration and survey of a new field research site in a naturally fragmented forest for comparison of habitat use by tree kangaroos to Wasaunon field site.
- » Publication of the biodiversity surveys of the YUS Conservation Area.
- » T.J. McGreevy to complete his PhD on tree kangaroo conservation genetics at the University of Rhode Island..

#### EDUCATION OBJECTIVES:

- » Danny Samandingke to graduate from the University of Goroka and transition to full-time In-country Education Coordinator.
- » Continue successful education projects and expand Teacher Training Workshops to two locations in 2008 to reach more teachers.
- » Place 3 new teachers from Balob Teachers College in YUS village schools.
- » Select three YUS students to attend the Balob Teachers College in 2009.



#### HEALTH OBJECTIVES:

- » Installation of three solar refrigerators at YUS village aid posts for the vaccination project.
- » Organize health patrols in Uruwa and Som regions with medical partners.
- » Complete the Village Birth Attendant trainings in Yawan and Teptep villages.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

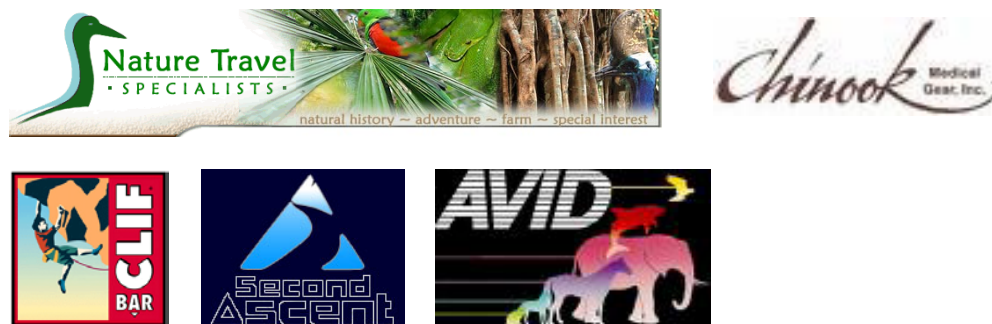
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Katie McGrath	Sylvia Thompkins
Dr. Nancy Philips & Dr. Blair Brooks	And anonymous donors

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PNG National Herbarium/Forest Research Institute

Balob Teachers College

Wasaunon radio-telemetry field teams

Distance Sampling field teams

Teachers, Headmasters and School Board Members of YUS

YUS Education Committee

YUS Landowner Committee

Bas-A-Nova Transport

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The Leahy Family

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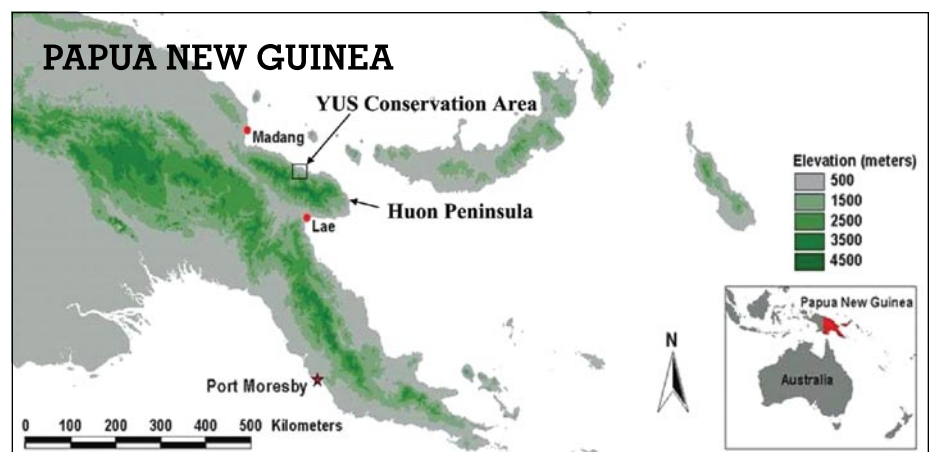
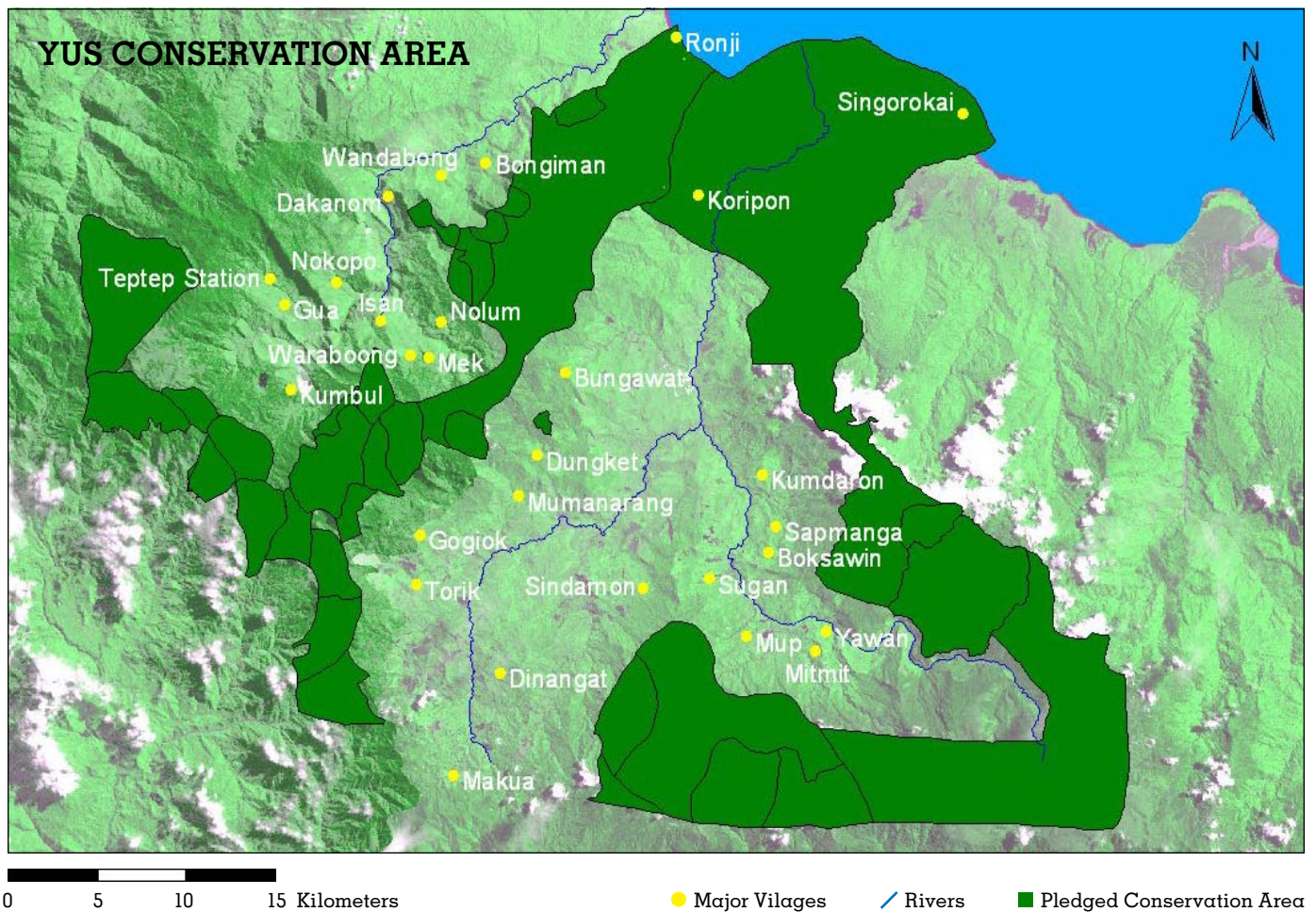
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