





# TREE KANGAROO CONSERVATION PROGRAM

2009 ANNUAL REPORT









### **ABOUT US**

VISION / The Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program envisions a sustainable, healthy environment that maintains the unique biodiversity of Papua New Guinea in balance with the culture and needs of human communities.

MISSION / The Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program fosters wildlife and habitat conservation and supports local community livelihoods in Papua New Guinea through global partnerships, land protection, and scientific research.

#### History

One of Woodland Park Zoo's "Partners for Wildlife," The Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program (TKCP) has been partnering with local landowners on the Huon Peninsula in Papua New Guinea (PNG) for over a decade. An innovative collaboration involving indigenous communities, scientists, teachers, students, health workers, and conservationists, among others, TKCP is creating and managing the country's first officially-recognized Conservation Area (CA).

TKCP works in and around the YUS Local Level Government region in Morobe Province, PNG. YUS stands for the three main watersheds in the region: Yopno, Uruwa, and Som. The region is home to over 10,000 people living in over 45 villages. The people of YUS rely on the land for subsistence and hunting. and understand the importance of protecting the forest and wildlife. Indigenous people own all of the land in the YUS area, including the land pledged to the YUS Conservation Area. Working with TKCP, indigenous communities have pledged more than 180,000 acres of rain forest

towards conservation, protecting the habitat of the Matschie's tree kangaroo and other endemic and endangered species.

TKCP and the people of YUS achieved a major milestone in January 2009, when the PNG National Government granted official recognition to the YUS Conservation Area, protecting the area from resource extraction in perpetuity. The YUS Conservation Area extends from sea level to 4,000 meters, thus preserving a complete altitudinal spectrum of Huon Peninsula habitats from coral reefs to cloud forest and mountain peaks, including the home of the endemic and endangered Matschie's tree kangaroo. The tree kangaroo has important cultural significance for the local indigenous people, and serves as a flagship species for the YUS Conservation Area. In addition to research and conservation, TKCP has worked to build capacity and improve the standard of living in indigenous communities. Community improvement projects include addressing health care access, providing education opportunities, and creating a Community Based Organization to locally manage the YUS Conservation Area.

## TKCP, Conservation International, and the German Development Bank Lifeweb Initiative

TKCP has entered a unique and exciting period in the history of our program. In 2008, TKCP was awarded a multi-year grant from Conservational International (CI), through the German Development Bank (KfW) and Germany's "Lifeweb Climate Change Initiative." Under this special initiative, goals include:

- » Developing a Management Plan for the Conservation Area and a Landscape Plan to guide sustainable land use in YUS
- » Building the capacity of indigenous people to manage the YUS Conservation Area by establishing a Community Based Organization
- » Piloting fast growing fuelwood and livelihood projects for income-generation
- » Developing a system of ecological and socioeconomical monitoring for the YUS CA to evaluate the impact of conservation and community work in YUS
- » Supporting research into the impacts of climate change on YUS and promote the expansion of protected areas in PNG, with the YUS CA serving as a model

Achieving these objectives is essential to the long-term success of the YUS Conservation Area. Through collaboration with Conservation International, our long-time supporter and partner, TKCP was able to make great progress towards these objectives in 2009. For this special initiative, TKCP has restructured and has brought on additional staff, including US Program Coordinator Hilary Aten, Regional Manager Mike Heywood, Agroforestry and Livelihoods Coordinator Zachary Wells, and Community Development Coordinator Benjamin Sipa. Wells and Sipa will focus their efforts on community development in YUS, with Heywood now supervising TKCP staff and projects in Cairns, Australia and Lae, PNG.

COMMON ACRONYMS

TKCP / Tree Kangaroo

Conservation Program

WPZ / Woodland Park Zoo

(Seattle, Washington, USA) **PNG** / Papua New Guinea

YUS / Yopno/Uruwa/Som

CA / Conservation Area

CBO / Community Based

**YUS CO /** YUS Conservation Organization (title of the CBO)

NGO / Non Governmental

Organization

Organization

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Victor Eki Mapping Assistant, Towet village, YUS LLG, Papua New Guinea.



Matthew Tombe Mapping Assistant, Isan village, YUS LLG, Papua New Guinea.



NGS / National Geographic Society
LLG / Local Level Government

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**GIS** / Geographic Information Systems



### 2009 YEAR IN REVIEW

### YUS Conservation Area Declared!

On January 9th, 2009 the Papua New Guinea National Government granted official recognition to the YUS Conservation Area (CA). On April 22nd a celebration took place in Teptep village with local landowners, government officials, staff, and TKCP partners in attendance, including representatives from Conservation International.

### New Tree Kangaroo Research with National Geographic's Crittercam

In pilot field research conducted with National Geographic in the fall of 2009, TKCP scientists collared two wild Matschie's tree kangaroos with mounted cameras, allowing for the collection of new information on the behavior of tree kangaroos for future research.

### Woodland Park Zoo and TKCP in the News

2009 was a banner year in the media spotlight, featuring extensive global coverage of the official declaration for the YUS Conservation Area, as well as TKCP's Crittercam work with National Geographic. Through collaboration with partners Conservation International and National Geographic, these stories received prime coverage on CNN.com, MSNBC, and ABC's World News and Nightline, among others.

### Increased Capacity Building in YUS Communities

TKCP made great strides in 2009 for community livelihood projects benefiting the people of YUS, including potential income-generating projects such as YUS-grown coffee, and sustainable land use projects such as agroforestry for fuel wood and construction materials.

#### New Resources for Landowners

TKCP provided YUS landowners with a PNG Landowners Law Booklet and YUS Indigenous Maps. Developed in collaboration with Community Conservation Inc, the Center for Native Lands, and National Geographic Society, these guides and maps were printed and distributed throughout YUS in 2009.

### New YUS Teachers for Villages

In 2009, five new students received scholarships from TKCP to attend Balob Teacher's College in Lae, PNG. Three students graduated from Balob under a TKCP scholarship in 2008, and began their six-year teaching commitment in YUS in 2009.

### Improved Health Services for YUS Communities

In 2009, TKCP continued to assist YUS communities with gaining health services, including workshops and solar refrigerators for YUS aid posts. The refrigerators will allow YUS villagers to access much needed vaccines, previously impossible to store because of lack of electricity.



#### **YUS Conservation Trust Fund**

Through a generous challenge grant from Conservation
International's Global
Conservation Fund, TKCP
is raising funds for a YUS
Conservation Trust Fund
— an endowment which
will provide future annual
income to support the long
term management of the YUS
Conservation Area.

You can help — please visit www.zoo.org/tkcp/abcnews.



### CELEBRATION OF THE YUS CONSERVATION AREA

2009 was a record year of accomplishment for TKCP, beginning with the National Executive Council's formal declaration of the YUS Conservation Area in January. The declaration represents the culmination of a decade of work on the part of the people of YUS, all levels of PNG government, particularly the Department of Environment & Conservation, YUS Local Level Government, and Morobe Provincial Government. and dedicated partners such as Conservation International (CI). Official approval of the YUS Conservation Area is significant because it provides an unprecedented level of protection against resource extraction and represents the first implementation of PNG's Conservation Areas Act of 1978. The YUS Conservation Area (YUS CA), encompasses over 180,000 acres of pristine cloud forest, lowland forest, and other habitats, protecting endemic endangered and threatened species of bird of paradise, cassowary, long-beaked echidna, and Matschie's tree kangaroo.

To celebrate this achievement,
TKCP and the people of YUS
hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony

on April 22nd, 2009 (U.S. Earth Day) to formally recognize the creation of the YUS Conservation Area. This monumental celebration was held in Teptep village. Over five hundred members of the YUS community, WPZ and CI staff, international guests, and significant PNG government officials were in attendance. Honorable quests included PNG Acting Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Puka Temu, Minister for the Environment Benny Allen. Minister for Defense Bob Dadae (also the Member of Parliament representing this district), the Morobe Provincial Governor Luther Wenge, Kabwum District Administrator, other district officials, and all members of the YUS Local Level Government. The PNG Department for Environment and Conservation was represented not just by the Minister, but also by staff members who have attended landowner workshops in YUS and have been collaborating with TKCP on the management plan for the YUS Conservation Area. CI-PNG was represented by Modi Pontio and Kepslok Kumilgo. International guests included Chris Stone (CI Global Conservation Fund),

Dr. Bruce Beehler (CI), and Dr. Andrew Krockenberger (James Cook University).

The two-day celebration featured traditional "Sing Sing" performances along with formal speeches by Dr. Lisa Dabek and visiting officials. For many attendees this event was the first time they had heard or seen elected officials from the Provincial and National Government in person. They learned that YUS landowners are considered conservation leaders for PNG and their bold act of creating the first Conservation Area will serve as a model for other regions of PNG. The visiting governmental leaders addressed the lack of attention YUS has received in the past for health and education services, promising improvement. The day will be remembered for a long time to come by the people of YUS as marking an important milestone. The fact that numerous national, provincial, and district officials, as well as NGO leaders gathered in YUS to officially launch the first-of-its-kind YUS Conservation Area solidified the importance of conservation and the act of pledging land in the minds of the local people.

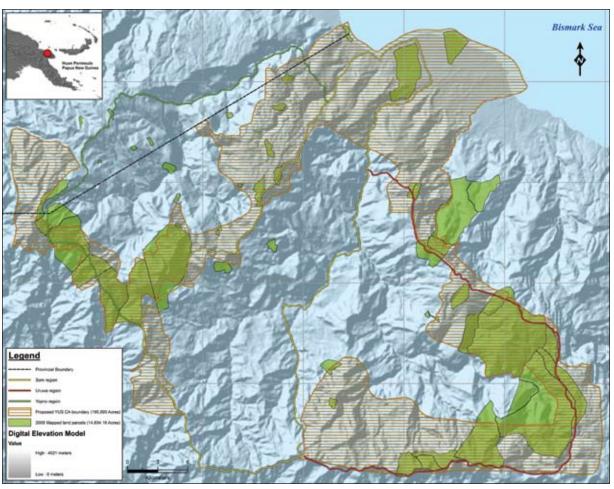


Dabek and Porolak with Keweng community members at the YUS CA Celebration



You can experience the celebration through the video, "Papua New Guinea's FIRST Conservation Area" on WPZ's You Tube channel — www.youtube.com/woodlandparkzoo; You can also find this and other videos on TKCP's new webpage to be launched in May of 2010 — www.zoo.org/treekangaroo.

### MAPPING THE YUS CONSERVATION AREA



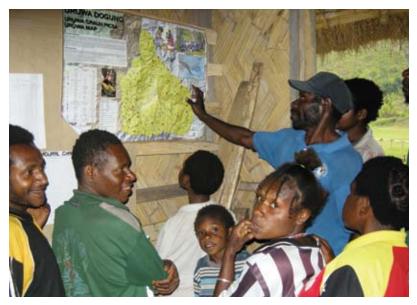
The YUS Conservation Area, with Mapped land parcels vs. the Proposed CA Boundary

2009 was a highly successful year for the TKCP Mapping project. Under Karau Kuna, the TKCP Conservation and GIS Coordinator, the TKCP Mapping team demarcated another 17 land parcels (14,634 acres), adding to the 36 parcels mapped in previous years (54,252 acres). In total, TKCP has now mapped in detail a total of 68,886 acres of the YUS CA. In another achievement for the biodiversity protected by the YUS CA, the areas mapped in 2009 included a stretch of coral reef on the coast of the Yopno region.

In addition to making progress towards mapping the YUS CA's boundaries, the TKCP Mapping Team has grown in capacity. TKCP hired two Mapping Assistants from YUS to work with landowners to map the pledged land areas that make up the YUS CA. Matthew Tombe (from Isan village in the Yopno region) and Victor Eki (from Towet village in the Uruwa region of YUS) were recruited to assist Kuna with raising awareness of the YUS CA in YUS, and to map the boundaries of land pledged to the YUS CA. Since

their recruitment in April this year, mapped land parcels and conservation awareness has doubled. With the efforts of the mapping team, TKCP aims to yield more acreage of pledged land to the YUS Conservation Area in 2010. To support Kuna's work, he received additional Geographic Information Systems (GIS) training in 2009 through Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) in Brisbane, Australia, which will build his capacity in support of his expanded role as Conservation and GIS Coordinator.

### LANDOWNER RESOURCES



YUS community members reviewing the YUS CA Indigenous maps

In order to promote sustainable management of the new YUS Conservation Area, TKCP is working to provide indigenous landowners with the necessary tools to guide land use and resource management in YUS. These tools include Indigenous Maps of YUS, a Landowner Law Booklet, and a Management Plan for the YUS Conservation Area (CA).

In collaboration with Dr. Mac Chapin of the Center for the Support of Native Lands in Washington DC, USA, and with additional funding from the National Geographic Society, TKCP worked with landowners from across YUS to create the Indigenous Maps of YUS. Through this project, local landowners identified culturally and biologically significant landmarks within YUS, which are annotated on the maps using traditional language and symbols. The maps were digitized into Geographic Information Systems (GIS) by

Wycliffe Antonio and his fellow staff in the Cartography Department at the University of Technology in Lae, PNG. In 2009, these maps were finalized with assistance from Conservation International and printed and distributed throughout YUS. The maps are important tools for YUS landowners, aiding their resource management choices and decision-making in the YUS CA.

The Landowner Law Booklet, a project begun in 2005 in partnership with Dr. Robert Horwich of Community Conservation Inc, Grey Mills, Wisconsin, USA, describes the PNG conservation and land tenurerelated laws that landowners should be aware of when they pledge land for conservation. In 2009 this valuable communication tool was translated into Tok Pisin (PNG lingua franca), printed and distributed to YUS communities, and is now available for PNG government agencies and NGOs.

### ECOLOGICAL MONITORING WORKSHOP

Systematically monitoring the biological health of an ecosystem provides critical information on the impacts of conservation interventions, and helps guide resource management strategies for local communities. In late October, TKCP partner James Cook University (JCU) in Cairns, Australia hosted the "Workshop on Monitoring Rainforest Wildlife in PNG for the YUS Conservation Area." With funding from Conservation International (CI through KfW), the workshop participants included staff from TKCP, JCU, CI, and biologists from PNG, including staff from the PNG Institute for Biological Research (IBR) and University of PNG. The workshop focused on determining the initial steps for establishing long-term community based monitoring in YUS, including identification of wildlife species and systems for monitoring the core protected area and adjacent buffer areas. In 2010, staff from ICU, CI, and TKCP will collaborate to develop and test protocols for biological and socio-economic monitoring of YUS.

### RESEARCH





A wild Matschie's tree kangaroo in YUS

Above: The cloud forest of the YUS

Conservation Area on the Huon

Peninsula, PNG Photo by Andrew Krockenberger / JCU

### FIELD RESEARCH IN YUS

In 2009, TKCP Research and Monitoring Coordinator Gabriel Porolak assisted CI Senior Research Scientist Dr. Bruce Beehler in establishing research sites along an elevational transect in the YUS CA. The transects will allow Beehler and team to study wildlife response to climate change. Porolak continued to work with Dr. Dabek and Dr. Andrew Krockenberger of JCU on tree kangaroo manuscripts and research which will be published in 2010.

## SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

#### Tree Kangaroo Genetics

In 2009, collaborating scientist TJ McGreevy completed his Ph.D. at the University of Rhode Island. While completing his doctorate, McGreevy worked under the direction of Dr. Tom Husband and Dr. Dabek to complete research on the genetic diversity of captive and wild tree kangaroos. McGreevy, Dabek, and Husband successfully published the article, "Microsatellite Marker Development and Mendelian Analysis in the Matschie's Tree Kangaroo (Dendrolagus matschiei)" in the Journal of Heredity, September 2009.

### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CRITTERCAM

Living at extreme elevations within the rugged landscape of the cloud forest, the Matschie's tree kangaroo is incredibly elusive and difficult to research. Through a generous grant from National Geographic Society's Waitt Grants Program, TKCP partnered in 2009 with National Geographic's Remote Imaging Department to test the applicability of a video research tool, "Crittercam©", to capture data on behavior of tree kangaroos in the wild. By mounting a camera on a collar worn by a tree kangaroo, resulting video can provide new insights into the animals' behavior in the canopy, as well as test the viability of Crittercam systems for other arboreal species in the future.

In the fall of 2009, Dr. Dabek and NGS's Kyler Abernathy led a team to the Wasaunon field research site to deploy the tree kangaroo Crittercams. National Geographic's Remote Imaging Department custom-designed a camera system mounted on a collar, which was programmed to record the animal's activities at various time intervals. Using best estimates of when the tree kangaroos were likely to be active, the recording intervals were staggered during daylight hours over multiple days, hoping to capture as much of the animals' behavior as possible. Ultimately, the goal of the high definition Crittercam was to capture data on the wild behavior of tree kangaroos, including times of feeding, movements, plants eaten, and any new plant species found in the cloud forest canopy. With



A Matschie's tree kangaroo wearing a National Geographic Crittercam Photo by Kyler Abernathy / National Geographic Society



Porolak and National Geographic's Abernathy review the Crittercam technology

assistance from YUS landowners and villagers, the research team was able to capture and deploy Crittercams on two wild Matschie's tree kangaroos, collecting several hours of footage.

Initial analysis of the footage includes observations of tree kangaroos eating ferns and orchids in the canopy, primarily crepuscular times of activity,



Abernathy and field crew

ground movement, and pouch-cleaning behavior of a female carrying a joey in pouch. The research trip was also successful in generating high national level US media for TKCP in 2009. Now that this tool has been shown to work in the field, TKCP will be pursuing future long-term tree kangaroo research using NGS Crittercam.



Through a community-based approach to conservation, TKCP has made much progress in bringing health and education services to YUS in collaboration with Kabwum District and Morobe Province. TKCP has worked to link government services with the remote villages in YUS not accessible by road. The majority of people in these regions have difficulty generating household income. In spite of the geographical obstacles of remote and rugged terrain, families in YUS must find a way to pay school and clinic fees, and purchase the necessities of life in village markets or on rare trips to town. In 2009 TKCP began partnering with local landowners to address some of these economic challenges, marking the beginning of new TKCP projects aimed at continuing to improve livelihoods and community resources for YUS landowners.

### **AGROFORESTRY**

Destruction of forest for firewood and building materials is a major conservation challenge in PNG. In 2009 TKCP launched a new Agroforestry initiative to help local villagers develop sustainable alternatives. Agroforestry work stems from needs identified through 2008 TKCP surveys on the availability of trees for fuelwood and construction. Since August 2009, TKCP Agroforestry and Livelihoods Project Coordinator Zachary Wells has worked to develop new partnerships for these new projects with groups such as the Agroforestry and Novel Crops Unit at JCU. The goal is for YUS landowners to grow their own fuelwood and some of the other traditional trees that they use for food, medicines, and construction materials. TKCP staff conducted awareness trips through 16 villages in the Uruwa and Som regions during the last half of 2009. The Yopno region will be visited in early 2010 and fuelwood workshops will continue throughout YUS.



Anthropogenic grasslands and gardens are created by burning forested land in YUS

### LIVELIHOODS



Zachary Wells speaks with Yawan community members about coffee projects

In late 2009, Wells organized trips through the Uruwa and Som regions of YUS to talk with landowners about working together on a new coffee project, the YUS Coffee for Land and People. With assistance from Carl Aglai and Michael Toliman, two extension agents with PNG's Coffee Industry Corporation, Wells and TKCP Conservation Officer Dono Ogate held meetings across the region, answering questions and developing project plans. Although coffee has long been grown in YUS, rugged terrain and lack of transportation have historically prevented a viable coffee market from developing in this region. These trips were the first visits to the region by coffee extension agents. The team gathered baseline data on productivity for more than 450 growers in 35 existing grower groups, and conducted quality tests on YUS coffee with encouraging results. All YUS coffee is shade-grown without

fertilizers or pesticides. Additional awareness trips for the Yopno region are planned for 2010.

In December 2009, TKCP staff met with coffee roasters in Seattle, Washington, USA. The YUS story of conservation and sustainable development, along with the high-quality of PNG coffee, may help YUS growers command a much improved income from their coffee. A meeting was also held with a Seattle-based chocolate company to explore the possible market for cocoa already grown in the lower elevations of YUS, where coffee growing is not an option.

In 2010, TKCP will continue to engage the Coffee Industry Corporation and a coffee consultant to provide technical trainings for the YUS grower groups. TKCP is also assisting the groups to access the international specialty coffee market, and is developing plans to tie this work in with the establishment of the Community Based Organization.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

Under the German Government "Lifeweb Initiative," TKCP began new community infrastructure projects in 2009. The main project completed in 2009 was construction of an airstrip in the Yopno region of YUS. The airstrip services a large population from six villages (Keweng, Mengan, Nombo, Tapmange, Kumbul, and Wungon) in Ward 12 of the YUS Local Level Government area. Local villagers have been working toward the establishment of the airstrip for over 14 years; however they were not able to finish the project due to presence of large unbreakable boulders. TKCP was able to bring the necessary tools and contract a team to complete the airstrip. The first test flight on the airstrip was conducted in October of 2009, and the official dedication of the airstrip will take place in 2010.

As with any communitybased conservation program, communication with the local communities is critical for ongoing success. Because YUS is so remote, TKCP improved communications by purchasing and installing an office VHF radio that will connect the TKCP Lae office to YUS communities. The TKCP radio is also connected to the Provincial Disaster Relief office, the Provincial Health office, as well as local flight operators which can allow for faster response in emergency situations within the local communities. TKCP is also providing new VHF radios to key villages to increase overall communication among YUS villages.



YUS community member wearing the YUS conservation area shirt at the CA celebration

### COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION

TKCP has worked with the YUS communities to officially establish a Community Based Organization, called the YUS Conservation Organization (YUS CO). Registered with the PNG national government in 2009, the YUS CO has been set up to empower the local communities to work together to manage the YUS Conservation Area and to allow them to develop ongoing community projects that will help improve quality of life for the YUS people.

A draft copy of the constitution was translated into Tok Pisin language for a scheduled formal review at the first meeting of the YUS CO in 2010. During 2008/2009, the YUS communities nominated members from each

community to be a part of the YUS CO committees, which will advise the Organization. The YUS CO will consist of committees including the Education Committee, Conservation and Management Committee, and Health Committee. In 2010 a new TKCP staff person will be hired to focus entirely on the establishment and sustainability of this critical organization. In 2010, TKCP will begin recruiting a board of advisors to help manage the overall organization. This board of advisors will be made up of representatives from the YUS community, local and national government, NGOs, and TKCP staff.



The Tapmanga airstrip in Keweng village

### EDUCATION



TKCP's Danny Samandingke and the Acting Prime Minister / Deputy Prime Minister of PNG, Dr. Puka Temu Photo by Ryan Hawk / Woodland Park Zoo

## AWARENESS & OUTREACH

Equipped with new awareness materials including posters and maps, TKCP Community Officers Dono Ogate (Uruwa) and Namo Yaoro (Yopno) continue to conduct awareness trips throughout the YUS region. These trips are designed to increase the community understanding of the newly created YUS Conservation Area and the ongoing work of TKCP with the region. In addition, because theater and drama is an important means of sharing information in YUS, TKCP helped organize a theater group to spread conservation awareness in YUS in 2009. By the end of 2009, the theater group performed conservation awareness dramas in fifteen villages in Yopno, and has plans to continue performances across YUS through 2010. In 2010 a TKCP Conservation Officer will be appointed for the Som region.



TKCP has been able to purchase much needed supplies for YUS schools in 2009  $\,$ 

### **EDUCATION**

Under coordination by TKCP's Education Coordinator Danny Samandingke, a new group of YUS students, sponsored by TKCP and the YUS Local Level Government, began school at Balob Teachers College in early 2009. In addition, three TKCP scholarship recipients graduated and began teaching in YUS schools. TKCP continues to assist with the shortage of teachers in remote YUS schools and supports students each year to gain teacher certification. Through the scholarships, students agree to return to YUS to teach for 6 years after graduation. Sixteen students have now been sponsored by

TKCP since the beginning of the program in 2001 and most are still working in YUS area schools.

In 2008 and 2009 TKCP conducted follow-up interviews with local teachers to gauge the ongoing needs of each school. In 2009, TKCP was able to provide some of the much needed equipment and supplies to eight primary schools (kindergarten through 2nd grade), 21 elementary schools (3rd through 8th grade) and 15 pre-schools throughout YUS. The requested equipment included much needed desks, text books, library/reference books, and sports equipment. Additional supplies included

additional copies of the PNG National Reform Curriculum for teachers.

In 2009, TKCP's Samandingke held two rounds of in-service workshops with YUS teachers. During his first in-service in May he visited YUS Primary Schools to get teachers and students involved in the TKCP Annual World Environment Day Essay Contest. Samandingke conducted classroom visits to talk about conservation issues and had students write essays and poems regarding ways they can help conservation efforts in their communities. Samandingke started a second round of inservice visits to YUS Primary Schools in September/October and presented on topics such as conservation practices and English teaching techniques. In 2010 Samandingke will continue coordinating the Teacher Scholarships and in-service workshops for YUS schools. In addition as part of the TKCP/Hutan Exchange Program, with funding from the Shared Earth Foundation Samandingke will participate in a professional development training in Borneo with the community-based conservation program, Hutan Asian Elephant/ Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Project.



YUS children learn about the importance of protecting the environment through TKCP's Education Project

## CONSERVATION CONNECTION: GLOBAL YOUTH ART EXCHANGE



Drawing of tree kangaroo by YUS Student Photo by Bruce Beehler / Conservation International

TKCP's Global Youth Art Exchange project has provided opportunities for YUS students to exchange art and letters with American and Australian students since 1999. Students communicate on a range of topics including wildlife, conservation, and community life. In partnership with St. Louis Zoo, this successful program has engaged PNG students in an ongoing exchange of art and ideas about conservation and ecology with fellow students in the US and Australia. Students in each country educate each other about conservation issues (focusing on

local wildlife) by writing letters and producing artwork with written descriptions in English. In previous years, US TKCP staff has coordinated the exchange, by collecting art work and letters from US and Australian schools for distribution to PNG village schools and vice versa, and providing PNG schools with art supplies and instruction. In 2009, the St. Louis Zoo has agreed to adopt the coordination of the US portion of the Art Exchange, with Anne Bartin, Zoological Manager at St. Louis Children's Zoo, taking the lead for this project in the US.



### HEALTHY VILLAGE, HEALTHY FOREST INITIATIVE



The Teptep village aid post Photo by Ryan Hawk / Woodland Park Zoo



Health posters in YUS aid posts help spread information on nutrition and medical issues Photo by Ryan Hawk / Woodland Park Zoo

Since 2005, TKCP has conducted interviews with local community health care workers to gauge the needs of each village and health center. Through follow-up interviews conducted in 2009, TKCP was able to provide some of the much needed equipment and supplies to five main health centers and 10 smaller aid posts throughout YUS. The requested equipment included infant scales, thermometers, blood pressure gauges, stethoscopes, solar flashlights, patient beds, and basic first aid supplies.

TKCP sponsored the Kabwum District Health Department to hold another Village Birth Attendant (midwife) Workshop in Teptep village in February 2009. The Teptep workshop was a success with 25 participants receiving training and medical kits. TKCP has planned with the Provincial Health Department to conduct additional workshops throughout YUS in Family Planning, HIV/AIDS, Hygiene, and Nutrition in 2010.

TKCP also sponsored health patrols to Yopno, Som, and Uruwa regions of YUS in 2009. Working with Dr. Gerard Saleu from the Institute for Medical Research (IMR) in Goroka, the TKCP Health Project provided funding and coordination for health patrols in YUS by dentists and general nurses. The health patrols took place in the Som Region, Uruwa Region, and Yopno Region, and were able to treat over 1,000 YUS community members and vaccinate hundreds of children in the villages. These health patrols were conducted at a critical time when a cholera outbreak occurred in Morobe Province. and health patrol nurses were able to discuss the importance of hygiene in controlling the spread of the disease.

TKCP conducts its work in some of the most remote areas of PNG. These areas receive little in healthcare services and supplies. To improve access to healthcare, TKCP has been collaborating with the National, Provincial and District level Health Departments to support their priorities and to raise funds in support of YUS health centers and health care workers to treat the local community.

### **IMMUNIZATION INITIATIVE**

Immunizations are a major focus for the Healthy Village, Healthy Forest Project. In order to make vaccinations regularly available, TKCP purchased five solar refrigerators for YUS health centers in 2009. These solar refrigerators are necessary in remote villages, which have no other way of keeping vital medications and vaccinations cold, and will allow for regular vaccinations of the local community. In addition to the refrigerators, TKCP purchased solar lights to be placed in the health centers. Installation planned for 2010. In the future, TKCP hopes to have more solar lights installed in health centers and aid posts in YUS. TKCP will continue to build the Healthy Village, Healthy Forest Initiative in 2010.



Solar refrigerators provided to YUS aid posts by TKCP will allow Community Health Workers to regularly vaccinate the communities

Photo by Ryan Hawk / Woodland Park Zoo



Yawan aid post

### CONSERVATION TRUST

One of the biggest challenges in ensuring the long-term success of a protected area is identifying a sustainable source of funding to support long-term operations, such as management of the conservation area and ongoing needs of the involved communities. Without the funds to manage and sustain the program, too often protected areas remain protected in name only, with no enforcement of necessary restrictions or real long-term benefits for the local communities.

In order to maintain the YUS Conservation Area in perpetuity, TKCP is striving to create the YUS Conservation Trust Fund. In 2008, Conservation International (CI), a long-time Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program (TKCP) partner and supporter, issued a generous challenge grant through the CI Global Conservation Fund to Woodland Park Zoo for the management of the newly established YUS Conservation Area. If TKCP can raise \$1 million by the end of 2010 and meet additional program milestones, the funds raised will be matched by CI, for a total of \$2 million for the YUS Conservation Trust. The trust will provide support to the YUS Community Based Organization, YUS Conservation Area, and the local needs of YUS communities.



YUS landowner Mambawe Manaono and Bommy Jerry, who worked closely with Dabek in the first steps to the YUS Conservation Area.

As an endowment, the interest earned on the investment of the Trust principal provides an annual program income in perpetuity, funding program components such as the technical work of TKCP staff in PNG, as well as the community development projects in YUS villages.

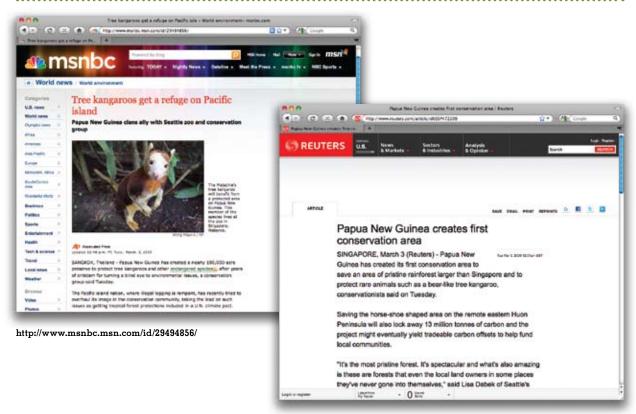
In 2009, TKCP made initial progress on meeting the non-financial requirements of the matching grant from the Global Conservation
Fund, as well as raising significant donations towards the monetary match. In 2010, TKCP will focus efforts on completing the challenge match requirements for the YUS
Conservation Trust Fund, including raising the remaining funds, drafting the YUS Conservation Area Management Plan, and completing a Financial Plan for the YUS
Conservation Area and Trust Fund.



Symbolism is very important in YUS indigenous communities. During the April celebration, the Mother's Group of Isan Village wrote and performed a song and dance about a Bower Bird, symbolizing the contributions of Dr. Dabek and TKCP to the YUS community.

To contribute to this effort, please visit www.zoo.org/tkcp/abcnews or www.zoo.org/treekangaroo.

### TKCP PRESS 2009



http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSSP472209

### YUS CONSERVATION AREA ANNOUNCEMENT

With TKCP's landmark accomplishments in 2009 came a record level of national and international media coverage. In early 2009, Woodland Park Zoo launched a media blitz with partners Conservation International and National Geographic Society, marking the official declaration of the YUS Conservation Area. Of the 53 media outlets across the globe

that featured the story, notable examples included CNN.com, MSNBC, National Geographic News, the Seattle Times, and the New York Post. The announcement was also covered by local TV stations in Seattle, radio stations in New Zealand and Australia, and dozens of national and international online news sources. With such a wide distribution, the

media blitz had great impact in spreading the message of TKCP's accomplishments in YUS over the last decade, and the importance of the YUS Conservation Area in protecting PNG's incredible biodiversity. WPZ's Photographer Ryan Hawk and Public Relations Coordinator Rebecca Whitham were essential to success of TKCP's 2009 media efforts.



Dan Harris of ABC Nightline joins TKCP and National Geographic on the Crittercam field project in late 2009

### NGS CRITTERCAM & U.S. ABC NEWS

Also in 2009, TKCP's partner organizations National Geographic Society (NGS) and Conservation International (CI) collaborated with TKCP to promote coverage of the Crittercam Research project. In November 2009, U.S. based ABC News anchor Dan Harris traveled with Nightline Producer Almin Karamehmedovic, joining Dabek and team in Papua New Guinea. The ABC news team captured the first video footage of a tree kangaroo making the dramatic leap from over 60 feet high in the canopy to the forest floor, which was showcased in a December 15th feature story on both ABC's World News and Nightline. The story also highlighted Dabek,

Porolak, and their long-term work on tree kangaroos and TKCP's conservation efforts. The coverage by ABC has undoubtedly increased awareness of the endangered Matschie's tree kangaroo across a much broader audience; the ABC coverage reached an estimated audience of 23 million viewers.

In addition to ABC's coverage, the Crittercam research expedition with NGS was covered in National Geographic News. Additional coverage of this project will be ongoing with National Geographic in early 2010, including a feature on NGS's Weekend Radio program.



Both the ABC Nightline feature and the National Geographic News video can be found online at www.zoo. org/tkcp/abcnews. ABC also featured TKCP and National Geographic's Crittercam work in an online article, found at http://abcnews.go.com/Nightline/tree-kangaroospapua-guineas-rare-fuzzy-creatures/story?id=9270647.





### PORT 2009

#### **ABOVE \$100,000**

Conservation International – Global Conservation Fund

Lifeweb Initiative of the German Federal Ministry of Environment (BMU) and German Development Bank (KfW)

- through partnership with Conservation International







#### \$20,000 TO \$50,000

Anonymous

Robert Plotnick and Gay Jensen

Kevin Schofield

#### \$5,000 TO \$20,000

Columbus Zoological Park

ESRI Australia (in-kind donor)

Ted and Tara Hart / Microsoft Matching Contribution

Carol and Bruce Hosford

National Geographic/Waitts Grant Program

Shared Earth Foundation

Zoo New England









#### \$1,000 TO \$5,000

John and Andrea Adams

AZA Marsupial and Monotreme Taxon Advisory Group

Alice Gilley Memorial Scholarship

Mark Christiansen / Microsoft Matching Contribution

Michael Craig

Richard and Ginger Goldman

Miami Metro Zoo / Florida Zoological Society

Trish Miner / Microsoft Matching Contribution

New Mexico BioPark Society / Albuquerque Biological Park

Matt and Davi Ann Norsworthy

Roger Williams Park Zoo

Sedgwick County Zoo

St Louis Zoological Park

Lisa Tiedt and Mike Nichols / Microsoft Matching Contribution

Zoo Parc de Beauval

Zoological Society of Milwaukee County

Zoological Society of San Diego

















#### **UP TO \$1,000**

AAZK Chapter of Greater Kansas City AAZK Chapter of Roger Williams Park Zoo

Air Niugini (in-kind donor)

Glen and Susan Beebe / Microsoft Matching Contribution

Jabe Blumenthal, Julie Edsforth, and the League of the Wallatreeroos

John and Sarah Brooks Calgary Zoological Society

Nancy Philips and Blair Brooks

Carl Darnell and Chinook Medical Gear

Sylvia Tompkins

Oaklawn Farm Zoo

Zoo Krefeld and the Tree Kangaroo Species Survival Plan Workshop

Katherine McGrath and Microsoft Matching Contribution

Merie and Dan Morris and Microsoft Matching Contribution

### SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Carol and Bruce Hosford, long-time TKCP and WPZ supporters who hosted a festive dinner celebration in January 2009 to mark the declaration of the YUS Conservation Area. TKCP also thanks WPZ supporters Margie Wetherald, Vicki Leslie, and Robert Liddell for hosting the WPZ ZooVenture dinner on TKCP's work in the fall of 2009. Special thanks to Conservation International's Bruce Beehler for speaking at several TKCP events in 2009. TKCP would not be able to accomplish our work without the support and efforts of WPZ President and CEO Dr. Deborah Iensen and all our fellow staff at Woodland Park Zoo. Thanks also to Jacque Blessington, coordinator of the AZA Matschie's Tree Kangaroo Species Survival Plan (TK-SSP). Thank you also to TK-SSP Vet Advisors Dr. Erika Travis and Dr. Darin Collins, research volunteer Trish Watson, TKCP volunteer archivist Henrietta Philips, and Jared Stabach for assistance with GIS information.

With the YUS Conservation
Area gazettal complete and a
marriage on the horizon, Susan
Tallarico and Toby Ross, Program
Managers for TKCP in Australia



Bruce Beehler of CI, Andrew Krockenberger of JCU, and Chris Stone of CI-GCF at the YUS CA Celebration, April 2009

and PNG, departed from the TKCP team in November 2009. Tallarico and Ross oversaw TKCP's field operations and projects through a critical period of success. TKCP is incredibly fortunate to have benefitted from their talent, skills, and dedication to conservation and the people of YUS.

In addition, TKCP would like to send special thanks to our 2009 team. Australian veterinarian Carol Esson volunteered her time to ensure the health of tracked animals during the Crittercam research trip. WPZ Volunteer Judy Nyman-Schaaf has dedicated hundreds of hours supporting

TKCP's Seattle-based staff on projects. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers!

On a very sad note, a long-time supporter of TKCP is recovering from a tragedy in late 2009.

Kiunga Aviation suffered from a major accident in December, with 6 local fatalities and pilot Richard Leahy in critical condition. TKCP would like to acknowledge

Kiunga and the Leahy family for supporting TKCP since its inception, and send our heartfelt wishes for Richard's recovery, and our condolences to the families of those lost.

### PARTNER RECOGNITION































PNG Department of Environment and Conservation

Morobe Provincial Government

Kabwum District Government

YUS Local Level Government

Rainforest Habitat

PNG Institute for Biological Research

University of Papua New Guinea

PNG Forest Research Institute

AZA Tree Kangaroo Species Survival Plan

Balob Teachers College

Teachers, Headmasters and School Board Members of YUS

The Leahy Family

Dr. Andrew Krockenberger

Dr. Tared Diamond

North Coast Aviation

Kiunga Aviation

And all the people of YUS

### FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO SUPPORT OUR PROGRAM:

Please contact Hilary Aten, Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program Coordinator.

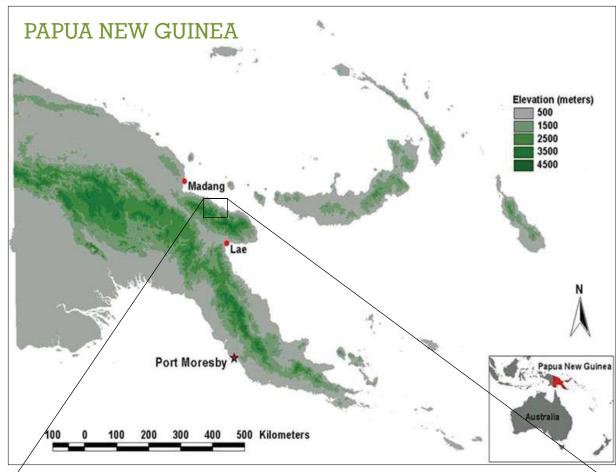
Woodland Park Zoo, 601 North 59th Street, Seattle, Washington 98103 USA

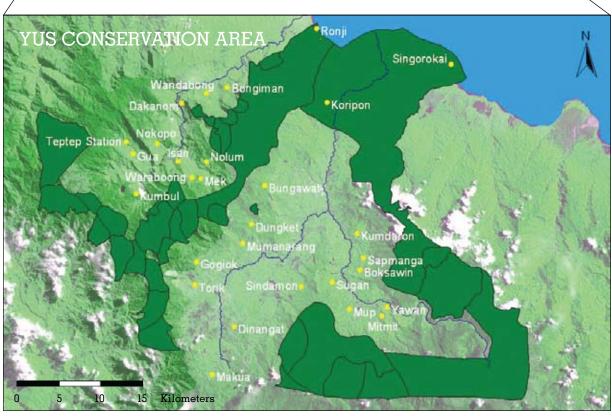
T: (206)548-2620 F: (206)547-6962 E: hilary.aten@zoo.org

W: http://www.zoo.org/conservation/PFW/tree-kangaroo

#### TKCP WILL BE LAUNCHING A NEW WEBPAGE MID-2010!

Please check back soon at www.zoo.org/treekangaroo to see more TKCP photos, video, and updates from the field.

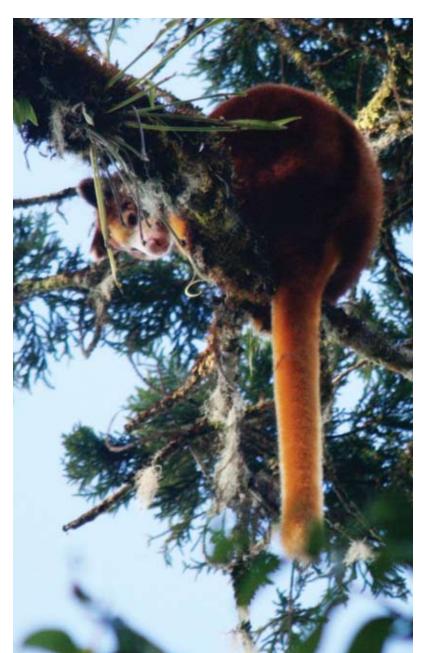


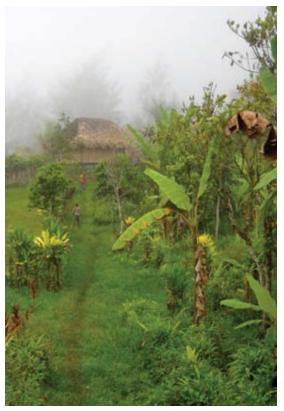


■ Proposed YUS Conservation Area

Major Villages

/ Rivers







### TREE KANGAROO CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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www.zoo.org/treekangaroo