

TREE KANGAROO CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Annual Report 2012

Contents

Who We Are
Our History
Meet Our Team
2012: The Year in Review 14
YUS CA Management
Sustainable Resource Use and
Environmental Services
Community Services, Livelihoods and
Healthy Families 24
Research to Inform Management
Implementation and Management
2013 Goals
Support
Thanks
Maps

Who We Are

Vision:

The Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program envisions a sustainable, healthy, and resilient Huon Peninsula landscape which supports the area's unique biodiversity, human communities, and culture.

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.

Our History



The high altitude forests of YUS

The Evolution of a Globally Significant Conservation Program

The Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program (TKCP) is the flagship field conservation project of Woodland Park Zoo (WPZ). TKCP began in 1996 as a study of the conservation status of the endangered Matschie's tree kangaroo (*Dendrolagus matschiei*) and its habitat on the Huon Peninsula in Papua New Guinea (PNG). Over time, TKCP evolved into the collaborative, holistic program it is today; a long-term partnership with local landowners, the PNG government, conservation biologists, social scientists, universities, and research institutions, based on a landscape approach to conservation. The main goal has been to create and sustainably manage a protected area in the context of local communities. The YUS Conservation Area (CA), named after the three main watersheds in the area, the Yopno, Uruwa and Som, begins at sea level and rises over 4,000 meters, encompassing a spectacular and unique spectrum of wildlife and habitats.

The creation and development of the YUS CA represents the work of 16 years of collaboration between TKCP and local communities, a partnership which has grown to include local livelihood programs and improved access to government services such as healthcare and education. It is this partnership in and around the YUS CA that helps local residents create a connection between their commitment to conservation in YUS and better lives for their families and neighbors.

COMMON ACRONYMS					
AZA's TK-SSP — The Association of Zoo and Aquariums' Tree Kangaroo Species Survival Plan AZA's M&M TAG — The Association of Zoo and Aquariums' Marsupial and Monotreme Taxon Advisory Group BMU — German Ministry of Environment CA — Conservation Area CBO — Community Based Organization	IT — Information Technology JCU — James Cook University (Cairns, Queensland, Australia) KfW — German Development Bank LLG — Local Level Government LUP — Land-use Planning NGO — Non Governmental Organization				
CELCOR – The Centre for Environmental Law and Community Rights (Port Moresby, PNG) CI — Conservation International GIS — Geographic Information System	PNG — Papua New Guinea TKCP — Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program WPZ — Woodland Park Zoo (Seattle, Washington, USA) YUS — Yopno/Uruwa/Som				
IKI (ICI) — International Climate Initiative	YUS CO — YUS Conservation Organization (the YUS CO is a CBO) Yt LLG — Local Level Government				

STATUS OF KEY FAUNA FOUND IN THE YUS LANDSCAPE

Family	Latin / scientific name	English name	IUCN Status		
Avian Fauna					
Casuariidae	Casuarius bennetti	Dwarf Cassowary	Near Threatened		
Accipitridae	Harþyopsis novaeguineae	New Guinea Harpy Eagle	Vulnerable		
Psittacidae	Psittrichas fulgidus	Vulturine Parrot	Vulnerable		
Paradisaeidae	Astrapia rothschildi	Huon Astrapia*	Least Concern		
Paradisaeidae	Parotia wahnesi	Wahne's Parotia*	Vulnerable		
Paradisaeidae	Paradisaea guilielmi	Emperor Bird of Paradise*	Near Threatened		
Mammalian Fauna					
Tachyglossidae	Zaglossus bruijni	Western Long Beaked Echidna	Critically Endangered		
Dasyuridae	Dasyurus albopunctatus	New Guinea Quoll	Near Threatened		
Macropodidae	Dendrolagus matschiei	Matschie's Tree Kangaroo*	Endangered		
Macropodidae	Dorcopsulus vanheurni	Small Dorcopsis	Near Threatened		
Macropodidae	Thylogale browni	New Guinea Pademelon	Vulnerable		
Macropodidae	Dorcopsulus macleayi	Papuan Forest Wallaby	Least Concern		
Muridae	Paraleptomys rufilatus	Northern Water Rat	Endangered		
Pseudocheiridae	Pseudochirops corinnae	Plush-coated Ringtail Possum	Near Threatened		

Notes:

* – endemic to Huon Peninsula



With no roads, walking trails link YUS villages.

In the years since TKCP was founded, an increasing number of local people have committed to pledge land and manage the YUS CA, ensuring the ongoing existence of vital habitat. Because local people own over 90% of the land in PNG, they must be the drivers of any sustainable conservation efforts. Through successful partnerships, technical and financial support, and a long-term commitment to sustainability, the people of YUS, working closely with TKCP, were able to set aside a remarkable 187,000 acres for wildlife and habitat conservation. In 2009, the YUS CA became the first governmentally recognized Conservation Area in PNG, which was an incredible achievement. In accordance with the PNG Conservation Areas Act of 1978, the YUS CA is a place where commercial resource extraction, such as logging and mining, is prohibited forever. It protects the uniquely diverse habitat for the Matschie's tree kangaroo and other endemic and endangered wildlife, as well as the precious natural resources of the region for generations to come.

Today we are focused not only on the YUS CA but on helping YUS landowners build a resilient landscape surrounding a core protected area. Through support of local land-use planning as well as creative collaborations to ensure healthy communities and households, the YUS CA and surrounding landscape will continue to provide for its traditional caretakers well into the future. Meanwhile, the people of YUS and the YUS Conservation Area they have created are already taking their places as models of environmental leadership for PNG.

Meet Our Team



In 2012, TKCP opened 4 new field offices in YUS, complementing our offices in Seattle, Washington, Cairns, Australia, and Lae, Papua New Guinea.

Seattle, Washington

1 Dr. Lisa Dabek

Program Director and Senior Conservation Scientist Expertise: Leadership, Marsupial Biology, Partnerships, and Fundraising

2 Ms. Jeanie Sedgely

Administrative Assistant Expertise: Administration, Communications

Cairns, Australia

3 Dr.Ashley Brooks

Landscape and Management Planner Expertise: Strategic Planning, Consensus Building, Fundraising

4 Mr. Zachary Wells

Regional Manager Expertise: Leadership, Work Planning and Management, Policy Implementation

Lae, Papua New Guinea

6 Mr. Tingke Dope

YUS CBO Coordinator Expertise: Facilitation, Community Empowerment, Strategic Planning

6 Mr.Victor Eki

Mapping Officer Expertise: Landowner Engagement, Global Positioning Systems



















Mr. Steven Fononge

Conservation Officer Expertise: Leadership, Community Engagement

8 Mr. Kuna Karau

Gis And Conservation Coordinator Expertise: Geographic Information Systems, IT, Land-Use Planning

9 Ms. Mikal Nolan

Yus Cbo Manager Expertise: Mentorship, Project Management, Organizational Development

10 Mr. Dono Ogate

Conservation Officer Expertise: Leadership, Coffee Production, Conservation Outreach

11 Mr. Benjamin Sipa

Sustainable Livelihoods Coordinator Expertise: Agricultural Production, Community Development

12 Mr. Matthew Tombe

Mapping Officer Expertise: Dispute Resolution, Global Positioning Systems

13 Mrs. Ruby Yamuna

Program Coordinator Expertise: Community Health, Administration, Financial Management

14 Mr. Namo Yaoro

Conservation Officer Expertise: Leadership, Community Mobilization

15 Danny Samandingke

Leadership and Training Coordinator Expertise: Education, Leadership, Land-Use Planning





From back left: Sulu Mondo, Geno Yuwoc, Maiks Baruk, Moses Nasing. Front left: Robson Soseng, Nelson Teut, Tamiks Pumat, Muks Wate Not pictured: James Jio, Tamina Findeng, Soya Werave, Dogem Mirande

TKCP is also extremely proud to welcome twelve new team members, the YUS Conservation Area Rangers. Nominated by their peers, the Rangers have completed intensive training in ecological monitoring and field techniques. These YUS landowners possess the skills, traditional knowledge of environment, and energy to lead the organization into an exciting new era.

James Jio from Towet village	Mike Barup from Yuong village
Moses Nasing from Yawan village	Soya Werave from Wungon village
Geno Yuwoc from Worin village	Nelson Teut from Weskokop village
Robson Soseng from Gomdan village	Tamina Findeng from Mek village
Sulu Mondo from Boneia village	Muks Wate from Gogiok village
Dogem Mirande from Bonkiman village	Tamiks Pumat from Dungket village



A Truly Local Initiative, Built On Global Partnerships

The addition of the YUS CA Rangers means that TKCP is now over 90% locally staffed from Papua New Guinea and 80% from YUS. As an evolving organization our philosophy is grounded in capacity building and local ownership. We work collaboratively to build better conservation stewards, for YUS and for the world. TKCP wishes to thank the contracting partners who have assisted us in 2012 including Dr. Deb Wright, Attorney Tammy Watts, Gai Kula, Jamal Managun, and the Centre for Environmental Law and Community Rights (CELCOR).

While new team members joined us, TKCP said goodbye to Seattle-based Program Coordinator Courtney Harris. We wish to thank Courtney for all her efforts and wish her the best in her next adventures.

We also wish to extend our gratitude to Lucy Aisi, PNG Administrative Assistant in the Lae TKCP office, who worked with us during one of our busiest times this year. Also in 2012, TKCP and YUS communities were happy to welcome some of our international colleagues and partners who visited the YUS CA including:

Dr. Joan Castro Executive Vice President, PATH Foundation Philippines, Inc.

Angela Kirkman Senior Director, Asia-Pacific Field Division, Conservation International

Dr. Fred Koontz Vice President of Field Conservation, Woodland Park Zoo

Daniel Shewmaker Green Buyer, Seattle's Caffé Vita Coffee Roasting Co.



Closing One Successful Chapter and Planning For The Next

TKCP has been receiving generous long-term funding from Conservation International's Global Conservation Fund (GCF) since 2005, support which will continue throughout 2013. In 2013 CI-GCF funds will play a major role in transitioning the locally-based TKCP-PNG as a new registered NGO in PNG. Since 2008 TKCP has been privileged to receive major funding from Conservation International (CI) as part of a multi-year grant from the German Development Bank (KfW) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). The initiative, part of Germany's International Climate Initiative (ICI), has grown a lasting partnership between TKCP and CI, allowing us to reach milestones that were previously only dreams.

2012 was the final full year of the KfW-funded initiative and activities will conclude in the first half of 2013. Though TKCP's work in YUS and our collaboration with CI will continue, particularly in the areas of ecological research and climate change, this is a time for us to reflect, celebrate successes, plan for the future, and offer thanks to our partners. Five years ago we set a number of ambitious goals which we are now reaching.



Goal: Finalize the YUS Conservation Area Gazettal with the PNG National Government.

Status: Completed in 2009. During that year we held a major celebration in YUS and received global media attention.

Goal: Develop a Landscape Plan for ongoing resilience of the YUS CA, surrounding areas, as well as local communities.

Status: Several years of collaboration with multiple stakeholders, particularly the YUS Conservation Area Management Committee, have led to a plan built on consensus. Under the leadership of Dr. Ashley Brooks, the YUS Landscape Plan is in final design and editing stages and will be released in the second quarter of 2013. Meanwhile our land-use planning program has engaged hundreds of landowners, ensured that traditional knowledge is the foundation of management, and resulted in the first complete land-use plans for 5 of the 15 YUS Wards (groupings of villages). Goal: Build the capacity of local landowners to assist in the sustainable management of the YUS CA. Status: The YUS Conservation Organization is a legally recognized community-based organization and advisory board to TKCP. Registered in 2009 and consisting of landowner representatives who have pledged land to YUS CA, the members are learning how to participate in all facets of management.

Goal: Develop and implement ecological and socio-economic monitoring programs to better understand the state of the environment and its effect on local livelihoods and health and to monitor the long-term impact of the YUS CA. **Status:** The YUS CA Rangers have carried out their first six months of ecological monitoring in a program developed in partnership with James Cook University (JCU). The first data are currently being analyzed. A similar socio-economic protocol (also from JCU) is being adapted for implementation in the health, livelihoods and education sectors. Goal: Carry out research on the effects of climate change on YUS systems. Status: Cl's Dr. Bruce Beehler led the development of a reef-to-ridge climate transect and data are being collected by Cl, JCU, and TKCP. The transect is also a central component of a strategy to bring world-class researchers to YUS to develop a deeper and more holistic understanding of the area's ecological history and future.

Goal: Share lessons learned in YUS and promote the development of a Conservation Area network across PNG. Status: TKCP and CI have worked closely with PNG's Department of Environment and Conservation and the NGO sector to disseminate lessons learned from YUS. Two national workshops held in 2011 and 2012 have led to actions and papers in preparation for publication. TKCP staff have given presentations on YUS at conferences in New Zealand, Australia and the USA. Further lessons from the current grant period will be compiled and shared globally in the first quarter of 2013.

2012: The Year in Review









YUS: A Resilient Living Landscape

The biological and cultural heritage of the YUS landscape is interconnected and integral to the survival of an entire way of life. TKCP's Dr. Ashley Brooks has led a collaborative process to develop a landscape level management plan for YUS – the YUS Landscape Plan. This effort began in 2010 with a workshop facilitated by Foundations of Success, lead developers of the Open Standards for Conservation Practice. Since then, TKCP has worked with partners to define the appropriate strategies to effect change in the YUS area. The YUS Landscape Plan is comprised of five main strategies which ensure the health of the landscape and the people within it. Moving forward TKCP will be coordinating activities and fundraising according to the following five strategies.



YUS Conservation Area Management:

This includes all aspects of management from mapping the protected area to the ecological monitoring and enforcement carried out by the YUS Rangers.

Research To

Inform Management:

These are the ecological and social

including tree kangaroo research.

questions we need to answer in order to

successfully achieve long-term conservation



This means making sure that the areas outside the Conservation Area are healthy and providing enough resources for local communities so that YUS CA can remain protected. The ecosystems of YUS provide many environmental services for YUS communities, including clean water, forest products and soil fertility.



Implementation and Management:

The YUS conservation initiative garners substantial worldwide attention and support. Running such an initiative requires robust planning and administrative capacity. This strategy is about building our capability and ensuring that we have the skilled people and necessary resources in place to continue supporting our partners in YUS. The following sections highlight our progress within these five core strategies throughout 2012.

Community Services,

Livelihoods and

Healthy Families:

The people of YUS rely on the natural

alternative resources through the cash

relieving pressures on the environment.

economy and government services,

environment for their day-to-day needs.

This strategy empowers people to access

YUS CA Management



The creation of the YUS CA has profound implications for the long-term health of fragile ecosystems, ensuring that rare and endemic species have a place not only to survive but to thrive. The YUS Conservation Area itself is considered a wildlife bank by local people, where animal populations safe inside the YUS CA can reproduce and the offspring can disperse to adjacent hunting areas — the interest on the bank account. As wildlife reproduce, such as tree kangaroos, the offspring move into the forests between the YUS CA and the villages where they can be sustainably hunted for generations. Managing the wildlife bank requires planning, monitoring and enforcement, activities the traditional owners will guide over the long-term.

2012 MAPPING PROGRESS



MAPPED FOREST

6,649 Ha — 16,430 Acres

MAPPED GRASSLAND (REFORESTATION) SITES

607 Ha — I,499 Acres

MAPPED CORAL REEF

78 Ha— 192 Acres

Mapping the YUS Conservation Area

What is tambu?

In 2012 TKCP and local landowners continued confirming YUS CA boundaries. This has been an ongoing and timeconsuming task because the YUS CA is a special type of protected area. Many protected areas around the world are government-owned, but in PNG Conservation Areas remain under the customary ownership of local clans. While it makes the planning process longer and more complex this ownership may also make the Conservation Area more sustainable. The people who own the land create and adapt its borders over time. They never lose the land but once it is pledged to the Conservation Area the strength of PNG's Conservation Ares Act and support of the PNG Government protect it from major threats.

TKCP's mapping team works with each participating clan to define areas which are set aside for preservation. Following a long planning process, the team walks the actual boundaries with a hand-held GPS unit, a task further complicated by the rugged terrain. Fortunately, TKCP's Karau Kuna, Matthew Tombe and Victor Eki are highly skilled and experienced in mapping. In 2012 the team confirmed an additional 7,334 hectares (18,121 acres) of forest, marine, and grassland reforestation areas, bringing the total mapped boundaries to 51% of the originally gazetted protected area.

Tambu is the Tok Pisin word for a protected place. Traditionally landowners in YUS will protect or set aside portions of their land for a number of reasons. For example, sacred sites housing spirits, or masalai, are sometimes off limits to visitors. Additionally, hunting may be banned in some areas to allow wildlife to thrive for future use such as the celebration of a marriage. So while protecting places and resources is not a new practice, the new level of collaboration among so many clans over the long-term to create the YUS CA can ensure that everyone achieves the maximum benefits of their environmental stewardship.



Understanding How the CA Works: Ecological Monitoring

TKCP and partners at JCU have been helping YUS landowners to develop an ecological monitoring program to understand how the YUS CA is affecting key wildlife populations as defined by the YUS communities. 2012 was a big year for the ecological monitoring program as the YUS Rangers officially began undertaking monitoring patrols.

Teams of two or three Rangers, trained in ecological monitoring, the use of GPS, data recording, and already in possession of immense traditional ecological knowledge, spend one week per month out in the forests of YUS. They carry GPS units and special field event books designed for the program in which they record evidence of wildlife, hunting, fire, and other important events. They also collect data along specially designed monitoring transects to help understand the effects of the YUS Conservation Area on wildlife populations. In March, and again in October, researchers from James Cook University travelled to YUS to train the Rangers, check data, provide additional technical support, and help develop yearly work plans. They also worked with TKCP's Conservation Officers, Namo Yaoro, Dono Ogate and Steven Fononge, who oversee the Rangers' work. The ecological monitoring program is quickly becoming the most powerful tool for understanding and communicating how the CA works.



Monitoring Transects In Brief

The premise of the YUS CA, or "YUS wildlife bank" is that some offspring born in the YUS CA will disperse from the no-hunting zone into adjacent hunting areas. Already we have anecdotal evidence from hunters that there is an increase in game in the hunting zones and they are finding more game to hunt. However it is important to quantify the effects of the YUS CA. To do this we have developed an ecological monitoring program which allows us to estimate the number of animals over time along a transect using scat as evidence of the animals. There are 12 monitoring transects across YUS ranging in elevation from 200 meters on the coast near Ronji to 3000 meters in the mountains of Wasaunon. Each transect has four plots in a line emanating from nearby villages into the YUS CA. Rangers inspect the plots searching for and counting scat which is a proxy for the selected animals. As the plots increase in distance from villages the abundance of wildlife is generally expected to increase. The final two plots are equidistant from the villages but one is located within and one outside of the CA. We would also generally expect that wildlife in the site within the CA would be more abundant than the one outside. There are inherent challenges in searching for scat in a rainforest, but it is the best indicator of the presence of animals. It is never easy in the forests of PNG!

The ecological monitoring program was designed to monitor the abundance of macropods (including the Matschie's tree kangaroo and two species of wallabies), possums, and cassowaries.



Engaging Outward: The Conservation Area Management Committee

Created in 2010 in fulfillment of requirements laid out in PNG's Conservation Areas Act, the YUS Conservation Area Management Committee (CAMC) very quickly strengthened relationships among TKCP, YUS communities, and the PNG Government. Today these relationships provide YUS landowners with a direct line to their government representatives, all the way to the Minister for the Environment. In 2012, the CAMC held its 5th and 6th biannual meetings. The first meeting of the year was held in April in Lae. The second took place in YUS at Tapmange Village in October, the site of a TKCP field office, completed in 2012. Tapmange is also the site of a 2011 TKCP infrastructure project which helped landowners to complete a new grass airstrip. The airstrip connects Tapmange village to Lae by small aircraft and in the case of the CAMC meeting it allowed villagers to witness first-hand the participation of multiple levels of government in the YUS CA initiative. For some YUS residents this momentous occasion marked a rare opportunity to interact with national-level government representatives from Port Moresby.





THE YUS CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CAMC) IS MADE UP OF:

- Three Executive Members of the YUS
 Conservation Organization
- Kabwum District Administrator
- Program Advisor for Mining, Natural Resources & Environment Division, Morobe Provincial Administration
- Head of Terrestrial Environment Programs, Department of Environment & Conservation
- President of the LLG, the use Yus Local Level Government
- President of the Wasu Local Level Government
- Senior Manager of Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program

Regional Manager, Zachary Wells, has been TKCP's representative to the CAMC since 2011.



The committee is developing its constitution and beginning to address issues of relevance to YUS CA. In October the CAMC submitted a petition to the Minister for the Environment seeking environmental and social impact assessments for a proposed road which would link YUS with Lae, the nearest big city. Even though such a road would be decades in the making, the government representation on the committee and the protections in the Act mean that YUS has an amazing opportunity to maximize benefits and minimize threats relating to such a major development. This is an early example of how the YUS CAMC will fulfill its mandate by providing a direct line of communication between the people of YUS and the Minister for the Environment.

Sustainable Resource Use and Environmental Services



Land-Use Planning for a Resilient Landscape

Since it began in 2011, TKCP's landuse planning (LUP) project has quickly become the most effective venue for important collaborations with the more than 12,000 people who live across the YUS landscape. Each Ward, or group of villages, completes a process of three workshops over the course of about nine months. With TKCP's LUP team they develop visions for their Wards, identify conservation and development priorities which are important in meeting their vision, find consensus on environmental commitments, and complete land-use plans. The plans zone the landscape for multiple uses including village areas, reforestation areas, forest use zones, protected coral reef, and of course the Conservation Area. The entire process is driven locally with TKCP playing a supporting role, bringing in scientific information, and researching options. By ensuring good planning in the lands outside the CA, landowners understand that the area they have protected will be secure in perpetuity. We often see greater connectivity and increased Conservation Area land pledges in the Wards that have completed their land-use plans. During 2012 TKCP held 12 LUP workshops across 5 Wards covering 20 villages. By the end of the year those Wards had become some of the first in all of PNG to develop such plans. There are nine Wards remaining to be completed over the next two years, after which the entire YUS landscape will be zoned for multiple uses by local landowners. Already the Department of Environment and Conservation is expressing a desire to learn from YUS and carry these lessons to other protected areas across PNG, showing again that YUS is a model for conservation and sustainability at a landscape level.





RONJI LEN YUS PLEN 2013-15 WOD 11, WASU LLG.

DRIMAN TINGTING:

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EKTIVITI GUIDE: COLOURS REFER TO TABLE ON RIGHT X: NOGAT NA TAMBU / TOK ORAIT NA IKEN

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Innovation in 2012

2012 saw innovation from YUS landowners including the creation of riparian corridors to protect waterways. The idea of protecting major streams and rivers for 15 meters on both banks came from landowners in Ronji Village who noted in an LUP workshop that their coral reefs were being harmed by silt from gardening on river banks in upstream communities. After landowners in Ronji pledged to protect the banks of all of their major waterways, the other four Wards followed suit. This is an example of the amazing way that traditional communal agreements can be strengthened by increased collaboration across the landscape, and a realization of the philosophy behind the YUS CA.

rekim 🚺 8. RIF ERIA

Ronji ward Land-Use Plan.

Community Services, Livelihoods and Healthy Families



YUS Conservation Organization committee members

Capacity building the YUS Conservation Organization

One of TKCP's most important activities is supporting the development of a community-based organization to help manage the YUS CA. The YUS Conservation Organization (YUS CO), registered in 2009, is made up of representatives nominated by each clan that has pledged land to the Conservation Area. In 2012 TKCP's Tingke Dope and Mikal Nolan worked with YUS CO to facilitate two executive committee meetings and two general committee meetings. These meetings allowed the representatives to discuss YUS CA issues and collaborate with TKCP on implementation.

In 2012, the organization won a planning grant from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in PNG to develop a proposal for small scale tree nurseries for local use, as well as for an awareness campaign about sustainable use of forests. This priority project first surfaced through 2011 agroforestry workshops, and again during land-use planning workshops in 2012. With help from staff at PNG's Forest Research Institute and advice from TKCP's land-use planning team, the YUS CO executives developed and submitted their proposal.

Voices From the Field: YUS CO President Timmy Sowang



CBO President Timmy Sowang. Photographed by Bruce Beehler, Conservation International

Timmy Sowang, from Gomdan Village, is a true conservation leader. A TKCP supporter since the earliest days of our partnership, Sowang has developed into a vocal advocate of the YUS CA. Since 2011, he has been working with Conservation International on the YUS climate transect work as the research coordinator. In 2012 Sowang was voted in as the President of the YUS Conservation Organization.

TKCP: What does it mean to you to be President of the YUS Conservation Organization?

T.S.: I have been working with TKCP from the start but it is my first time as a leader and I want to learn. My job now

is to educate people, help overcome challenges to conservation, and bring us all together. All of us executives and YUS CO members must be prepared to address tough challenges, answer questions, and take the message of conservation to the people of YUS.

TKCP: What does conservation mean to the people of YUS?

T.S.: All through Papua New Guinea, in every province, there is logging and mining. But we are the first Conservation Area. It is the people of YUS's job to preserve the environment for their grandchildren so they can see with their naked eye and not just learn from stories in newspapers and magazines.

TKCP: What are your hopes for YUS? **T.S.:** We need to continue to attract more scientists so we can share what we know and learn from them. We also need protection from mining and logging and of course we want to increase the number of tree kangaroos.

TKCP: What are the biggest challenges facing YUS now?

T.S.: Some people are looking after their own self-interests and expecting money from conservation. Some even oppose conservation because they don't yet understand it. We just need to educate them. Climate change is another thing. It hurts our agricultural systems. Insect infestations and shifts in weather patterns are causing changes to taro and sweet potatoes, some of our most important crops.

TKCP: What are the immediate goals of the CBO?

T.S.: YUS CO must educate YUS people about conservation and the environment so we can all look after resources for today and future generations of YUS communities. We also need to support livelihood programs like coffee and we must look for opportunities to attract outside money and submit proposals to develop the communities and the lives of people in YUS.



YUS community members celebrate the opening of a new YUS CA field office in Tapmange village.

Infrastructure for Improved Management

As the YUS CO gains capacity and the number of YUS people employed by TKCP expands, it is increasingly more important to be able to work efficiently within YUS. 2011 saw the opening of a field office and research station in Yawan village, and 2012 saw the completion of three field offices in Tapmange, Gogiok and Ronji villages. The offices are basic but are equipped with solar power, lights, desks, tables, chairs, and VHF radios. Additional radios were installed in five hard-to-reach villages of YUS, increasing our ability to communicate and ensuring greater team safety in the case of a remote emergency. Finally, TKCP's CBO team embarked upon a large infrastructure project in partnership with CBO representatives with the aim of building a foot-bridge across the Uruwa River on the YUS coast. Thanks to funding from the German Development Bank we completed a field survey and solicited bids for the project. The bridge which will be completed in 2013 will provide a far safer crossing on the Uruwa River for coastal communities as well as for TKCP staff and YUS CO members.



One of TKCP's major needs has been infrastructure to work efficiently directly from YUS. This need became a reality in 2012 thanks to the financial support from KfW. Four field offices are now open, equipped with solar power and lights, and will become hubs for YUS Conservation Area management going forward. TKCP, YUS CO and the YUS communities celebrated the opening of the Tapmange field office in November with colleagues from Woodland Park Zoo and Conservation International, and a sing-sing group from the area.



Leadership Trainings

Over the course of 2012, TKCP Education Coordinator Danny Samandingke began to develop and implement a new series of workshops for YUS landowners focused on what it means to be an environmental and community leader. Samandingke developed this program to build upon his 2011 fellowship with the US-based iLEAP Center for Critical Service. In 2012 he coordinated workshops across YUS for over 230 participants. In late October–early November he attended a professional seminar on Traditional Ecological Knowledge at the University of Goroka, his alma mater, and quickly integrated the content into the last of his conservation leadership workshops in YUS. These trainings are an important new direction for TKCP, emphasizing the qualities of leadership which people like Samandingke, who is from YUS, exhibit daily.



World Environment Day 2012 and the Balob Teacher's Scholarship Program

Because YUS communities have indicated education and environmental protection to be among their top priorities, these themes continue to be focus TKCP's work in the region. Every year TKCP organizes activities at local schools in honor of World Environment Day (June 5). This year TKCP's Danny Samandingke organized an environmental essay competition in YUS schools, culminating in an award presentation in June. TKCP also continued to support an ongoing scholarship program which helps support successful YUS candidates seeking teaching degrees from Balob Teacher's College in Lae. The scholarship program is a partnership among TKCP, the Yus LLG, and the candidate, whereby each partner pays an agreed portion of the tuition and in return the candidate agrees to teach in YUS schools for at least six years after graduation. The AZA's Marsupial and Monotreme Taxon Advisory Group (AZA's M&M TAG) supports one scholarship in memory of colleague Alice Gilley.

Since 2000, YUS has seen the graduation of 20 successful new YUS teachers. Four students completed their degrees in 2012, Mr. Max Bofengne, Miss. Fungkepa Yabot, Miss. Zurepe Firayu and Mr. Mungang Esisingnu. 2012 also marks the successful completion of six years teaching in YUS for former scholars Mr. Simon Baza, Ms. Kinawa Tamaeo, Mr. Mumbiangke Agobing and Mr. Jacob Zua. Further, Mr. Roberth Husa, Mr. Quasepe Sanangke and Mr. Otane Samandingke successfully completed their contracts of three years of teaching in YUS as self-funded graduates in additional spaces secured through TKCP's partnership with Balob Teacher's College.



Coffee and Cocoa: How Conservation Supports Household Incomes

Initiated as a pilot project in 2010, TKCP continued to expand support for YUS coffee farmers in 2012. YUS coffee was shipped for the first time to Seattle, Washington coffee roaster Caffé Vita in 2011. A coffee importer, roaster, and retailer with multiple Seattle outlets, Caffé Vita is committed to direct trade of environmentally and socially responsible coffees. 2011 brought a monumental milestone with 1,700kg of YUS coffee reaching the US and YUS growers realizing a price above the fair-trade premium for their conservation leadership and high-quality coffee. In 2012, Caffé Vita buyer Daniel Shewmaker paid a second visit to YUS. Together with TKCP Sustainable Livelihoods Coordinator Benjamin Sipa, Shewmaker travelled the length of the coffee project area, spending a week meeting with growers, assessing harvesting and processing techniques, and discussing the year's goals. During the trip Caffé Vita placed an order for double the amount requested the first time, 3,400kg, of conservation coffee.

The YUS farmers invested a portion of their previous earnings into building small-scale solar dryers which allow the coffee to be dried at more consistent temperatures, and remain protected from damp YUS nights and rainy days. Solar dryers, therefore, promote a more consistent, more dependable product. TKCP's Benjamin Sipa and Karl Aglai of the PNG Coffee Industry Corporation also delivered additional technical trainings on harvesting and processing, all in an effort to continue building the quality and appeal of YUS coffee.





Like coffee, cocoa is emerging as a possible income generator in YUS due to its conservation connection. Since 2010 TKCP has helped local farmers send cocoa samples to another prospective Seattle-based partner, Theo Chocolate. In December of 2012, TKCP staff visited Theo to taste a sample bar made of 100% YUS cocoa—no sugar, no milk, pure cocoa. While intense in flavor, the results were exciting. Theo cocoa buyer Nathan Palmer-Royston noted improvements in quality which could finally meet the exacting standards necessary for such a partnership, all due to the diligence and determination of the YUS growers. TKCP has since submitted a funding proposal to begin supporting cocoa development in earnest.





Healthy Families in a Healthy Environment

TKCP and YUS communities continued collaborating on addressing health issues throughout the year, realizing major achievements including a USAID-funded partnership called the BALANCED Project. The BALANCED Project is a joint public health initiative of CI, University of Rhode Island, and the PATH Foundation Philippines, Inc. Through this project, PATH's Dr. Joan Castro and TKCP's Ruby Yamuna facilitated three reproductive health trainings for adult and youth YUS peer educators. Over 50 local peer and youth educators were able to access new information, new training materials, and are now able to work with their peers to improve the lives of YUS people. The project directly links environmental

and family health, and is a response to a request for such support from YUS communities, particularly women. This two-year project will come to a close in early 2013 but the impacts are lasting, having been based entirely on local capacity building.

In a strategic attempt to complement existing government vaccination programs TKCP successfully installed a solarpowered vaccine fridge at the Yawan field office, greatly improving access for villages on that side of the landscape. This was the last of five solar fridges installed in YUS and supported by vaccination delivery training for all YUS healthcare workers.



Ms. Sotine Muga

Community Health Worker Tapmange village

"One of my dreams is to eradicate TB in YUS. Many people suffer from this disease and it would be wonderful if it could disappear from YUS."

Ms. Anita Maia Youth Peer Educator Towet village

"As a young person the BALANCED project gives me knowledge and I am better able to give advice to my peers. The training helped me to understand the importance of looking after my environment and the connections to my own wellbeing."

Wape Josingao

Yus LLG Program Advisor for the Morobe Provincial Health Department

Gangulut village resident Wape Josingao is the Yus LLG Program Advisor for the Morobe Provincial Health Department and worked closely with TKCP to help improve access to health services in YUS. In 2012, Josingao and his colleague Mr. Hessing Wayain of Sapmanga village partnered with TKCP's Ruby Yamuna to lead implementation of the BALANCED Project. Josingao also participated in our peer educator trainings and spoke with us about his experience.

"My dream for YUS is to educate more health workers who can promote and emphasize the BALANCED Project concept. YUS must have an efficient family health service, and YUS people must be better educated on environmental health and how it relates to population growth. TKCP's health work is very essential. It is vital for YUS communities. The BALANCED Project helped to educate and teach communities to care for themselves and the environment. As a YUS man I can also use the training I have received to help my people. To do this work in YUS is easier for me and the other Community Health Workers than for workers from other districts because we can communicate health issues and carry out training and awareness on health projects in our own language."

Research to Inform Management



Research remains a central component of TKCP's work in YUS. In 2012, TKCP and our partners worked on a number of important studies, including the ecological monitoring project. The backbone of research studies in YUS is a reef-to-ridge transect from about 200 meters to 3000 meters located in the mountains on the eastern side of the YUS landscape. The transect is a permanent system in which a wealth of information on the landscape's climate and wildlife has already been collected, making it a draw for outside researchers. In 2012, CI's Dr. Bruce Beehler and scientists from the PNG Institute of Biological Research and JCU conducted research on carbon accounting, flora and fauna surveys, and began a new transect designed to help study the effects of climate

change on subsistence agriculture. CI and WPZ's TKCP also collaborated on the development of a CI-produced foldable pocket wildlife guide for YUS. Presented in English and Tok Pisin, the guide will be printed in 2013 as a tool for researchers, landowners, and anyone interested in the wildlife of the area.

Also in 2012, former TKCP Research Coordinator Gabriel Porolak began his PhD candidature at James Cook University. For the next few years Porolak will study hunting practices in YUS—the methods, the effects, and the ecology of traditional practice, linked with the ecological monitoring data and further studies on tree kangaroo habitat use and behavior.



Dr. Lisa Dabek has been leading tree kangaroo research in YUS since 1996. In 2012, reproductive data gathered from our long term collared female tree kangaroo "Trish" has shown for the first time that inter-birth interval and length of time offspring spend with the mother is similar between wild and captive individuals. Long-term field studies linked to zoo-based studies allow biologists to utilize zoo resources for a better understanding of the animals and, in turn, application for their conservation. A new study led by Porolak and Dabek will compare tree kangaroo ecology at the high end of their range (previously done at 3,000m) to ecology and habitat use at the lower end of their range (1,500m). An initial trip was made in October to select the field camp site and determine the scope of work. Radio collaring tree kangaroos will start in April 2013. This research will inform the minimum size of protected area required from low to high elevations.

Current Research Priorities

Identifying opportunities and attracting researchers are keys to a successful research and management program. TKCP, YUS CO, and our partners maintain a list of current research questions to address in order to improve YUS CA management. The following are some of the current priority issues:




WPZ's Tree Kangaroo Captive Breeding Program

WPZ received a second female to join its captive breeding group of two males and one female in 2012. The initial female, Elanna, has given birth twice since she arrived at WPZ in 2010. The ability for WPZ to show visitors the direct link between a captive breeding program for an endangered species and a long term conservation program in the field is very powerful and helps gain support for tree kangaroos and endangered species globally.



Implementation and Management



Lessons learned workshop participants at Port Moresby's National Research Institute

Telling the Story

2012 was an excellent year for sharing project accomplishments and lessons learned. In October, TKCP and CI staff presented a twohour symposium at the Oceania Section of the Society for Conservation Biology meeting in Darwin, Australia. The team was also able to participate in a number of workshops and external meetings including discussions with ecological monitoring and indigenous ranger programs across Northern Australia. During the following week the majority of TKCP and CI team members, along with JCU's Dr. Mark Ziembicki met in Port Moresby, PNG for a dissemination workshop targeting government, donors, and the local NGO sector. Following up on a 2011 workshop on the process of setting up a Conservation Area, the group focused on identifying ways to make Conservation Areas sustainable in PNG. Several TKCP staff members presented content from the YUS landscape, including Tingke Dope who gave his first public presentation on TKCP's capacity building efforts with YUS CO.





In December, TKCP's Benjamin Sipa, Karau Kuna, Tingke Dope, Mikal Nolan, Ashley Brooks and Zachary Wells travelled to Woodland Park Zoo's TKCP office in Seattle, Washington, USA to participate in development of 2013 work plans and for the completion of the KfW grant. The trip was an opportunity to share and meet with multiple partners including various WPZ departments, Caffé Vita for the coffee project, Theo Chocolate on the development of a possible cocoa initiative, local conservation leaders and biologists, and members of Washington's Native American tribes. In addition, Dr. Ashley Brooks presented a comprehensive perspective on the YUS landscape initiative to an open audience at Woodland Park Zoo.

TKCP and CI staff also completed two articles stemming from lessons learned workshops held with the PNG government and NGO sector in 2011 and 2012. CI staff composed an article on Conservation Areas at large, while Wells, Dabek and PNG conservation veteran Mr. Gaikovina Kula wrote an article on experiences in implementing the first PNG Conservation Area, YUS CA. Both will be published as a joint piece in early 2013 through CI.



Professional and Organizational Development

In 2010, TKCP began the process of registering the Lae-based team as a local PNG NGO. In 2012, TKCP focused on developing the organization's constitution. To that end staff from WPZ and TKCP-PNG met multiple times with lawyers from the PNG legal group, Centre for Environmental Law and Community Rights (CELCOR), and American lawyer in Seattle Tammy Watts (K&L Gates). TKCP's application for NGO registration was officially filed with the PNG Government in October. The new NGO will be legally registered in 2013. In October, TKCP staff undertook a three-day training at the Lae office on financial policies and procedures with accounts expert Dr. Debra Wright. In October WPZ received a two-year grant from IUCN Save Our Species for TKCP of US\$100,000 over two years. The grant will nearly fund the completion of the Land-Use Planning for all remaining Wards, as well as the ongoing support of the Conservation Area Management Committee and continued support of the coffee initiative.







SAVING PAPUA NEW **GUINEA'S WILDLIFE** ONE CUP AT A TIME

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the FOREST

TKCP and YUS CA In the Media

TKCP and YUS CA continued to receive international media attention in 2012.

• A National Geographic Society Bird of Paradise book by Dr. Tim Laman and Dr. Ed Scholes featured two pages devoted to the YUS Conservation Area successes. Bird of Paradise species were photographed in YUS, and three species are endemic to the Huon Peninsula.

2 A lengthy article featured in Air Niugini's Paradise Magazine, describing the YUS CA initiative and TKCP's conservation efforts.

3 An article focusing on TKCP's conservation coffee work and the partnership between YUS growers and Caffé Vita was published in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) magazine Connect in July. TKCP's coffee work was also mentioned in an article written by the PNG Coffee Industry Corporation (CIC) thanking their partners for supporting the growth of Morobe Province's coffee exports.

4 Director Dr. Lisa Dabek advised on an advertisement for Canon cameras appearing in National Geographic magazine featuring Matschie's tree kangaroo.

5 TKCP's work was featured in French media with an informative article on YUS in the children's science magazine, Les Débrouillards.

Future Fundraising Priorities

After 16 years of collaboration, TKCP's partnership in YUS is maturing. The core strategies for managing the YUS CA have evolved through targeted planning exercises and now form the framework for the YUS CA Landscape Plan to be released in 2013. Fundraising priorities align directly with these five core strategies, designed to ensure the sustainability of the YUS landscape:



An important arena for developing our fundraising priorities has been the land-use planning workshops which contain specific sessions on conservation and sustainable development prioritization. The following are our near-term areas of focus:

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			US\$2 MILLION!

2013 GOALS



TKCP has set the following goals for 2013. Representing the core of TKCP work plans, these activities will ensure another busy year.

CONTINUE LAND-USE Planning for 15 yus ca wards	DEVELOP NEW QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEMS FOR YUS COFFEE	COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOT BRIDGE ON THE LOWER URUWA RIVER
ASSESS OPPORTUNITY	FINALIZE REGISTRATION	
FOR PILOT	OF TKCP-PNG AS	SUPPORT YUS CO
COCOA PROJECT	A PNG NGO	TO SUCCESSFULLY
		IMPLEMENT ITS FIRST
	RADIO-COLLAR TREE KANGAROOS AT	EXTERNALLY-FUNDED COMMUNITY PROJECT
	A NEW RESEARCH SITE IN THE YUS CA	

SUPPORT

TKCP depends on a growing team of people and organizations to accomplish our work, a number of which are long-term supporters. Together, we have achieved an incredible amount of success over the years. We wish to sincerely thank supporters throughout the years and thank the following friends of TKCP for their support in 2012:

\$100,000 and Above

Conservation International

Lifeweb Initiative of the German Federal Ministry of Environment (BMU) and German Development Bank (KfW) — through partnership with Conservation International

\$50,000-\$99,999

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Save our Species Program

\$20,000-\$49,999

Anonymous

\$5,000-\$19,999

Columbus Zoological Park Assoc., Inc. Enlyst Fund

The Leslie Fund

Victoria Leslie

Microsoft Corporation Matching Gifts

PATH Foundation Philippines, Inc.

Robert Plotnick and Gay Jensen

Roger Williams Park Zoo

Sedgwick County Zoo

Maria Semple and George Meyer

The Shared Earth Foundation

Margie Wetherald and Len Barson













44 TREE KANGAROO CONSERVATION PROGRAM

\$1,000-\$4,999

Albuquerque BioPark Cleveland Zoological Society/Cleveland Zoo Stuart N. DeSpain and Tina Weirauch Serena and Neal Friedman Ted and Tara Hart The Hoffmann Family Joel Sartore, Inc. Leonard and Norma Klorfine Amanda and Stuart Klorfine Klorfine Foundation Rob and Marti Liddell Ruth and Terry Lipscomb Milwaukee County Zoo Gena Shurtleff Toronto Zoo Utah's Hogle Zoo Gail Warren ZooParc de Beauval



Up to \$999

-
Anonymous
AAZK South Florida Chapter
Jane Alexander and Edwin Sherin
Paul and Sarah Balle
Anne Bartin
Glen and Susan Beebe
Dominique Bideau
Barbara Birney
The Boeing Company Matching Gifts
John and Sarah Brooks

- Kim Daly-Crews Janice and William Fischel Greater Kansas City American Assn. of Zoo Keepers IBM Employee Matching Gift Program Mike Kaputa and Suzanne Tomassi Rahul Kumar and Vasundhara Jain Jacob Langley Macbeth Family Christine May and Reagan Smith
- Chris McFarlane and Arianne Foulks
- Daniel and Meredith Morris
- Oaklawn Farm Zoo
- Darrin OBrien
- Greg Parrott
- San Antonio Zoo
- Kevin M. Schofield
- Benjamin Schweinhart
- Gary Smith and Kathleen Kemper

TKCP is grateful to all of our supporters listed below for helping us to raise \$2 Million to create the YUS Conservation Endowment.

\$100,000 & Above

Anonymous Conservation International Woodland Park Zoo

\$50,000-\$99,999

Cammi and Jeff Libby George Meyer and Maria Semple Robert Plotnick and Gay Jensen John F. Swift Swift Foundation Margie Wetherald and Len Barson

\$20,000-\$49,999

Anonymous Blumenthal-Edsforth Family Columbus Zoological Park Association, Inc.

\$5,000-\$19,999

Paul and Sarah Balle Carolyn Beard Ewel Sonya and Tom Campion Merrick and Lorraine Darley Stuart N. DeSpain Serena and Neal Friedman Lynn Hall

\$1,000-\$4,999

Anonymous John and Andrea Adams Albuquerque BioPark Jane Alexander and Edwin Sherin Paul Balle Anthony and Lillian Bay Glen and Susan Beebe Laura Bentley David Brunelle Mark Christiansen Cleveland Zoological Society Michael and Lois Craig Nina Dabek and Peggy Shannon Microsoft Employee Matching Gift Program Roger Williams Park Zoo

Rosemarie Havranek and Nathan Myhrvold The Hoffmann Family Rampa Hormel, Enlyst Fund Carol and Bruce Hosford Leonard and Norma Klorfine Amanda and Stuart Klorfine Klorfine Foundation

Richard and Ginger Goldman Ted and Tara Hart IBM Employee Matching Gift Program Sugi Kana Glenn Kawasaki Rob and Marti Liddell Ruth and Terry Lipscomb Bert and Susan Loosmore Steve Macbeth Milwaukee County Zoo Daniel and Meredith Morris Greg Parrott Kevin M. Schofield The Shared Earth Foundation

Victoria Leslie Trish Miner Richard Saada Sedgwick County Zoo Maryanne Tagney Jones and David T. Jones Craig Tall Gail Warren

The Reeve Family Patti and William Savoy Adam and Catherine Schaeffer Gena Shurtleff Gary Smith and Kathleen Kemper Lisa Tiedt UBS Financial Services Employee Matching Gift Program Utah's Hogle Zoo Christy Wyckoff Lauren Wyckoff ZooParc de Beauval

Up to \$999

Anonymous (4) **Richard Abel and Roberta Berner** Hannah Ahmed Harriet Allen Avery and Marcia Aten **Robert Bailey** Anne Bartin Dominique Bideau-de Rozario **Richard Biribauer** Barbara Birney Boeing Employee Matching Gift Program Victor Bozzo Mylene Brooks Barbara Christensen and Jeff Meyer Leonard and Sharon Clemeson Susan Cohen Stephan Coonrod and Cheryl Clark Gabriel Cronin Sophie Danforth Brian Darley James DeBonis Daniel Dechert Patrick Dessalle Scott Dew and Colleen Hanlon Tamara DiCaprio Laurie Ann and C. Bert Dudley George and Barbara Ermentrout Donna and Steve Estes Antebi

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Oaklawn Farm Anne Palaszewski Christopher Pepin and Ken Miller Craig Pepin Mimi Polk Gitlin Jeremy Potash Helen Ralph Helen Ramirez Roberta Roberts Rohrbach Family **Kimberly Sanders** Santa Fe College Foundation, Inc. Carol and Seymour Sarnoff Doug Schaaf and Judith Nyman-Schaaf Ellen Sciutto Patricia and Scott Sebelsky Judie and Rick Steenberg Laurie Stewart Jonathan and Tiffany Sweet **TCS & Starquest Expeditions** Steven Thornton and Nancy Ostrander Russ White Kevin and Jo Wilhelm Mike and Jan Williams Ann P. Wyckoff Stacie and Joseph Zane

Thanks

TKCP wishes to give thanks to all of our partners, supporters, and friends worldwide.TKCP is one of Woodland Park Zoo's most robust field programs, and numerous departments and colleagues within the zoo help to make our work possible. We extend a special thanks to the following colleagues at WPZ:

Woodland Park Zoo Board of Directors for their continued guidance.

Woodland Park Zoo's CEO & President Dr. Deborah Jensen for her ongoing leadership and support.

Woodland Park Zoo's Field Conservation Division including major support from Dr. Fred Koontz and Bobbi Miller.

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Woodland Park Zoo's Animal Health Department.

Woodland Park Zoo's Education Department including Katie Remine and R. Scott Vance.

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Yus Local Level Government including the Councillors, Magistrates, Manager Mr. Fidel Yapenare, and President Mr. Kitowe Mumusiong.

Wasu Local Level Government including President Mr. Aune Loto.

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Simon Rollinson of Pacific Island Projects.

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The Centre for Environmental Law and Community Rights (CELCOR) including Marjorie Warisaiho, Gracelyn Meauri, Joseph Lai, and Peter Bosip.

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Mike Kaputa and Suzanne Tomassi

Dr. Jane Mogina

Steve Whisker of PNG LNG project, ExxonMobil.

The Leahy family

Most importantly, we would like to thank the people of YUS for their unending dedication to being stewards of their environment and the most important of friends. Laikim yupela.

Maps

Papua New Guinea



YUS Conservation Area



Maps by Karau Kuna Jr, Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program





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