



INTERVENTION STRATEGY ON THE INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL

**as part of
The European Union-funded Forestry-Climate
Change-Biodiversity (FCCB) Programme
National Component implemented by
Expertise France**



EU-FCCB
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



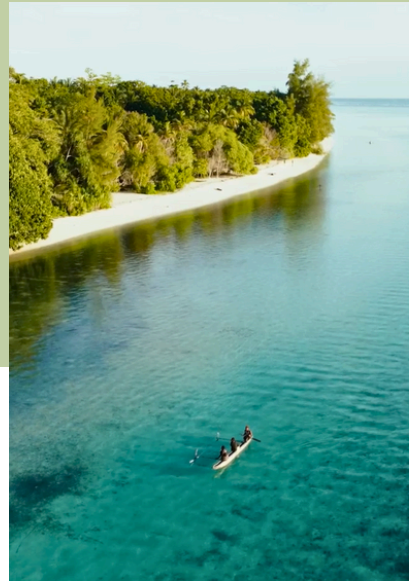
**EXPERTISE
FRANCE**
GRUPE AFD

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Within the national component of the European Union-funded Forestry-Climate Change-Biodiversity (EU-FCCB) Programme for Papua New Guinea, Expertise France, as an Implementing Agency for the institutional component of the EU-FCCB Programme has been supporting the Government of Papua New Guinea (GoPNG) in strengthening FCCB regulatory frameworks at the national level and will facilitate implementation of these policies and regulations at the provincial level.

In this regard it was agreed with key stakeholders during the national validation workshop on the 22 February 2024 that six target provinces will be selected to support:

- The development of Provincial Forest Plans.
- The development of Climate Resilient Green Growth Plans.
- Mainstreaming FCCB into primary and secondary schools.
- The development of Provincial and District Development Plans through Provincial and District Service Investment Programmes (PSIPs and DSIPs).
- The development of green energy profiles.
- The development of Provincial climate adaptation plans.
- The development of Provincial Protected Areas Round Table (PPART) to enforce the new Protected Areas Act.
- Strengthening and sharing knowledge of ground-based conservation practitioners through Regional Protected Areas Forums and sustainable livelihoods and business modelling capacity building workshops.



- Incentivizing green entrepreneurs and sustainable agricultural commodity producers to have access to international markets (application of EUDR).
- Facilitating forestry and agricultural and forestry downstream processes.
- The development of sustainable land use plans.
- The application of jurisdictional nested REDD+ (JNRs) projects.

For these to be impactful and help drive change it has also been noted that interventions should be focused within specific geographical areas this is based on a number of key reasons including:

- **Operational implementation** – implementation and monitoring of activities requires personnel and logistics and includes a level of cost. Clustering interventions in target provinces and areas allows for management support to occur in a cost-effective way.
- **Mutually supportive interventions** – the project is designed to implement a range of interventions from the local to the national level with a range of actors. By clustering interventions there is the

potential enhance impact through mutually supportive initiatives e.g. work with provincial governments on development plans that target increase levels of forest conservation, while supporting CEPA to work with target protected or proposed protected areas in the province and working with community groups on conservation action and business groups on small scale green economy development in areas surrounding the target conservation sites.

- **Clarity and coordination with other groups** – there is also significant interest in PNG from other development partners and significant interest in the FCCB project from government and NGO groups. By providing clarity on where the project will work this helps to facilitate easy coordination with different partners and clients.

Based on this identified need for identification of target province areas the project conducted an initial prioritisation exercise which combined key stakeholder inputs with national and subnational data. Key considerations within the process were:

- **Overall context of provinces** including their economic situation and potential environmental value / importance.
- **Existing rates of forest loss** and degradation and potential for further loss.
- **Threats** to the biodiversity and potential levels of climate impacts in province.
- **Opportunities** – this included information on levels of government engagement as well as approaches to targeting of project interventions to maximise donor coordination and cooperation and minimize overlap or straining the absorptive capacity of any one province.

In addition to these areas, consideration was also given to **the value of maintaining a regional spread across PNG and to the existing operation and security environment** within potential target areas.

Based on these six provincial sites were identified as priorities, are:

- **East Sepik** – Province has experienced significant forest loss and degradation and is

potentially at risk of increased loss linked to the rapid expansion of commercial agriculture. The province has also benefited from recent investments through the EU STREIT project in infrastructure, agricultural developments, and access to finance, which supports the potential for further development and expansion of interventions linked to the FCCB objectives.

- **Sandaun (West Sepik)** - The province has had the highest levels of forest loss in recent years and has the potential for increased levels of loss linked to rapid expansion of commercial agriculture. The province has also benefited from recent investments through the EU STREIT project on infrastructure, agricultural developments and access to finance which supports the potential for further development and expansion of interventions linked to the FCCB objectives.
- **The Autonomous Region of Bougainville** – the region has made recent commitments towards sustainable green



growth and as an autonomous region has the potential to develop a separate path towards sustainable growth. . A number of initiatives have also made progress in developing small-scale enterprises and there is potential for additional finance and support to build on a green development pathway.

- **Morobe** - the province has significant economic activity linked to its access to transport routes and markets and has the potential to show models of green development.
- **New Ireland** – the province has high levels of logging operations but has also be the site of one of PNG’s operational forest carbon projects. The provincial government have interest in developing further sustainable options for development.
- **Jiwaka** – the province represents a different geographical and environmental context in as a highlands province and faces challenges linked to high population density and expanding subsistence agriculture. It provides opportunities for development of sustainable agricultural systems for both domestic supply and for export products such as coffee.

The provinces identified provided a diversity of environments (see Figure 1) and economic activities as well as representing areas where significant forest clearing is occurring (see Figure 2) as well as high levels of timber extraction with target provinces accounting for 39-40% of log exports between 2019 and 2023 (see Figure 3).

The provinces also represent areas in which there has been existing development partner support that can be further catalysed and or existing programmes with which the EU FCCB project can coordinate.





Figure 1. Forest cover types by province

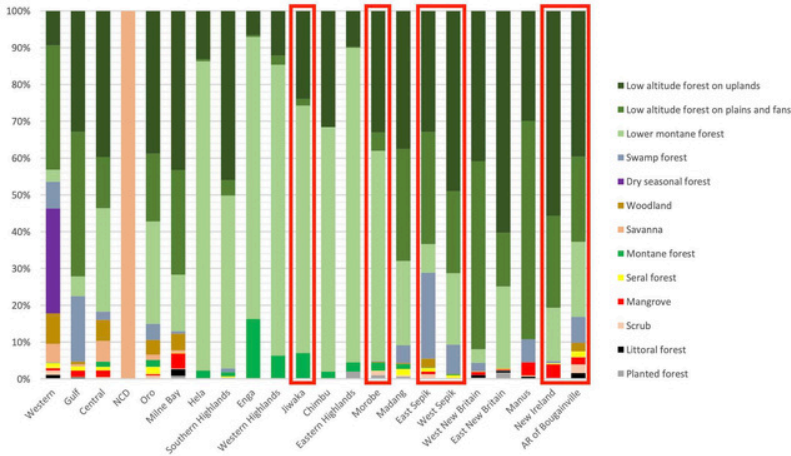


Figure 2. Levels of forest loss (ha) by province (2001-2018)

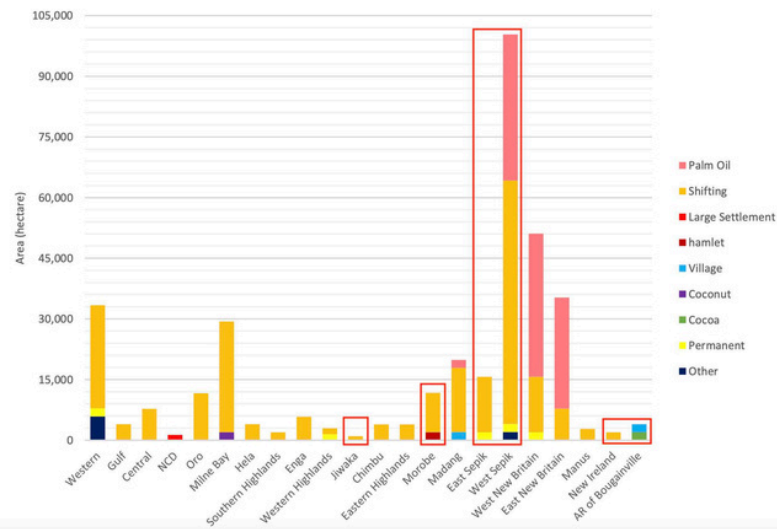
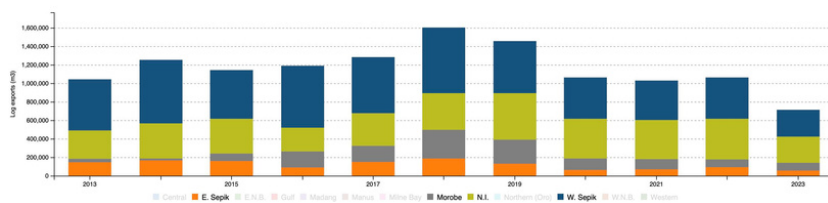


Figure 3. Log exports from target provinces



1. BACKGROUND



1.1 Background on Forestry, Climate Change and Biodiversity in Papua New Guinea

Climate change, environmental degradation and the loss of biodiversity are an interlinked and existential threat to Papua New Guinea (PNG), Europe and the world. Unprecedented climate hazards cause dangerous and widespread disruption in nature and affect billions of people, especially those living in the most vulnerable situations.

Because of PNG's high level of vulnerability, climate change action plays an important role in its policy agenda. It is included in PNG's overarching Vision 2050 and central to its 2014 National Strategy for the Responsible Sustainable Development (StaRs). In 2020, PNG submitted its Enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The 2022

adopted NDC implementation plan foresees a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions mostly by reducing deforestation and forest degradation. Initiatives promoting the Forestry-Climate Change-Biodiversity (FCCB) nexus are being pursued in several conservation/protection areas with strong engagement of local traditional landowner communities.

The importance of FCCB for PNG's policy agenda reflects both severe risks as well as important opportunities. Hosting one of the world's largest primary forests and 7% of the world's biodiversity, PNG is the custodian of an important global public good. Though increasingly important in the global effort to reverse the impact of climate change, PNG's forests – and with it its unique biodiversity –



are increasingly at risk through subsistence and commercial agriculture, unsustainable and often illegal logging, destruction of mangroves and the inefficient use of firewood. The sector faces major challenges in governance and law enforcement. On the other hand, PNG's advanced FCCB policies and legislation, the importance of forest for traditional landowner communities, and recent developments in carbon trading, biodiversity offsetting, and land stewardship/ecosystem services concepts, offer a unique opportunity for substantial EU support and investment, which is highly appreciated by PNG stakeholders.

Forestry, Climate Change and Biodiversity (FCCB) have been key considerations in PNG's development framework since independence with the wise use of natural resources and protection of environment once of the key stated objectives of the constitution (Objective 4). This commitment has continued into PNG's central and sectoral planning frameworks with targets for forest conservation, environmental protected climate resilience and emissions reductions included within Vision 2050, the National Development Strategic

Plan (DSP) 2010-2030 (Pillar 6.7) as well as subsequent Medium Term Development Plans (MTDP).

The MTDP 4 (2024-2027) emphasizes the need for Forestry and Biodiversity to be managed responsibly and sustainably under Strategic Priority Area 10 (Climate Change & Environmental Protection) focused on building a resilient economy, protected from the adverse effect of climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters.

PNG has taken significant strides in moving towards a trajectory of sustainable, carbon neutral, green development. However, there remain a number of key issues and challenges that are preventing rapid and sustained progress these include:

- **Data quality and management**
 - Gaps in detailed information on emissions levels from key industries, as well as operations within PNG's logging concessions combined by limitations in systems for data management severely inhibit decision making and capacity to effectively development and implement relevant environmental policies.



- **Access to information and information transparency** – linked to the above gaps in data here are also significant challenges in capacity of groups to access information presenting challenges for government decision makers, private sector seeking to invest and civil society to be able to play their role in providing oversight on the application of legislation by government.
- **Limited coordination across government and between different levels of government** – Coordination including information sharing and decision making across these levels is a significant challenge exacerbated by limited access to data, poor data management systems and lack of transparency in a number of key information areas, as well as the slow development of effective high level cross sectoral decision-making structures linked to FCCB.
- **Limited levels of capacity and emerging institutional structures** – insufficient level of capacity (human, institutional, technical) and relevant institutional structures at all levels.
- **Rapidly growing population with need for access to land and agricultural products** – 80% of PNG's approximately 9million population lives in rural areas and is dependent on small-scale agriculture for both subsistence and trade. With the population growing at close to 2% however there is increasing pressure on land and resources within land holding communities which is both challenging traditional agricultural systems and increasing changes in way land management is approached.
- **Global pressure on land, energy and natural resources** – PNG is abundant in natural resources including a range of important minerals, liquefied natural gas and land for farming. With global demands for these resources continuing to increase there remains significant international pressure on PNG to allow these resources to be fully accessed and utilized – putting significant pressure on any green, sustainable and low impact development agenda within the FCCB nexus.



- **Processes of land use decision making by land holding communities** – close to 97% of PNG’s land is under customary ownership with the majority of this not registered. Systems exist for the establishment of formally recognized land holder groups; however, these processes have a long history of weak implementation and subsequent challenges.
- **Opportunities for sustainable business development within rural areas** – there are significant barriers to development of sustainable rural enterprises that link to operational, regulatory and broader operating environment in PNG. Operationally PNG has some of the most challenging global geography which when combined with limited infrastructure and low levels of trade present significant barriers in moving products to market. Regulatory regimes that in many areas are outdated or do not provide for diversified business approaches (especially within the forest sector) also present challenges. These are combined with a broader operating environment where conflicts over land and resources are

- **Operationalizing of climate finance** – PNG has a significant need for an opportunity to mobilize climate finance but has been relatively slow due to a combination of the above elements that have made the establishment of a clear framework and institutional arrangements to operationalize climate finance difficult as well as a limited number of clear ‘bankable’ projects that can attract investment.

1.2 Background on the EU-FCCB Programme

Building on the EU’s extensive experience as one of PNG’s key development partners, including in the environmental and agricultural sector, in 2022, the European Union (EU) approved funding for €54.7 million (PGK 216 million) to implement the “Forestry, Climate Change and Biodiversity” nexus programme (EU-FCCB Programme) for the 2023-2027 period.

The European Union-funded Forestry-Climate Change-Biodiversity (EU-FCCB) Programme for Papua New Guinea aims “to support a development model that reconciles forestry, climate change and biodiversity



with sustainable, inclusive and gender-responsive green growth and jobs at national and pilot subnational/community levels". Its three specific objectives (SOs) are:

- **SO1: “Effective implementation of evidence-based FCCB policies, governance, and institutional frameworks”**
- **SO2: “Improved FCCB awareness, knowledge, capacities and mobilisation”**
- **SO3: “Increased inclusive and gender-responsive green growth”**

The EU-FCCB Programme consists of three components, each implemented by a different implementing partner:

- The first, “support at the national/institutional level with spillovers at the local/community level” – hereafter the “national component” (€33.5 million) – is implemented by Expertise France.
- The second, to support the Managalas Conservation Area (Oro province) (€18.2 million), is implemented by CIFOR-ICRAF, the Centre for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry.

- The third, regarding the extension of the National Forest Inventory (€3M), is implemented by FAO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

With approved funding in the amount of 54.7 million euros, the EU-FCCB Programme is one of the EU’s most ambitious forest-related programmes anywhere in the world.

It was launched on 31 October 2023 by the Rt. Hon. James Marape, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, and Mr Jacques Fradin, Ambassador of the European Union to Papua New Guinea.

1.3 Background on the national component of the EU-FCCB Programme implemented by Expertise France

One of the three components of the EU-FCCB Programme is the national component implemented by Expertise France over the period July 2023 to June 2027 with a budget of €33.5 million.

Its main features are indicated as follows:



Title of the project:	Support to Papua New Guinea at the national/ institutional level with spill-over effects at the local/ community level as part of the European Union-funded Forestry-Climate Change-Biodiversity (EU-FCCB) Programme for Papua New Guinea
Location(s) of the project:	Papua New Guinea
Implementing Partner	Expertise France (EF)
Nationality of the Implementing Partner	French
Implementing period	6 July 2023 to 5 July 2027 (48 months)
Amount	33,500,000 EUR

This project will entail support for a number of PNG-based public sector institutions operating in the FCCB intervention area, support for PNG-based research, education and awareness institutions as well as support for PNG-based communities engaged in conservation and sustainable livelihoods and green SMEs.

The project timeline is composed of two main phases:

- A launch and inception phase (July 2023 to February 2024);
- An implementation phase (March 2024 to June 2027).

The launch and inception phase was itself composed of two parts:

- During the ‘launch’ part of this phase (July 2023 to October 2023), Expertise France focused on the mobilisation and deployment of the project manager as well as of the

PROJECT TIMELINE

July 2023 - February 2024:
Launch & Inception Phase

March 2024 - June 2027:
Implementation & Monitoring



deputy project manager and technical coordinator, on the setting-up of basic operational capabilities, on the preparation of communication documents to present the EU-FCCB programme, and on the preparation of the ‘inception’ part of this phase.

- During the ‘inception’ part of this phase (November 2023 to February 2024), Expertise France focused on the detailed design of the project with the aim of revising and detailing the project’s intervention logic and strategy and consolidating the findings into an inception report that was endorsed on 05/03/2024 by the EU-FCCB Programme Steering Committee (PSC) (see part 3 hereafter).

Since then, the project has moved into the next phase, namely the implementation and monitoring phase (March 2024 to June 2027), when activities are to be carried out and performance is to be measured against the revised results framework.

1.4 Background on Expertise France

Expertise France is the French Government’s international

technical cooperation agency, and an entity of the French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement, AFD) Group.

Focusing on skills transfer and peer-to-peer dialogue, Expertise France’s mandate is to build the capacities of partner countries in the design and implementation of high quality public policies.

Expertise France adopts a needs-based approach when designing and implementing projects. Developing a good understanding of the partners’ needs is essential to ensure that the projects’ interventions are well designed in response to these needs.





2. PROVINCIAL INTERVENTION STRATEGY

2.1 Rationale and selection criteria:

As part of the inception process the need for development of field-based interventions has been clear. For these to be impactful and help drive change it has also been noted that interventions should be focused within specific geographical areas this is based on a number of key reasons including:

- **Operational implementation** – implementation and monitoring of activities requires personnel and logistics and includes a level of cost. Clustering interventions in target provinces and areas allows for management support to occur in a cost-effective way.
- **Mutually supportive interventions** – the project is designed to implement a range of interventions from the local to the national level with a range of actors. By clustering interventions there is the potential enhance impact through mutually supportive initiatives e.g. work with provincial governments on development plans that target increase levels of forest conservation, while supporting

CEPA to work with target protected or proposed protected areas in the province and working with community groups on conservation action and business groups on small scale green economy development in areas surrounding the target conservation sites.

- Clarity and coordination with other groups – there is also significant interest in PNG from other development partners and significant interest in the FCCB project from government and NGO groups. By providing clarity on where the project will work this helps to facilitate easy coordination with different partners and clients.

Based on this identified need for identification of target province areas the project conducted an initial prioritisation exercise which combined key stakeholder inputs with national and subnational data. Key considerations within the process were:

- The overall context of provinces including their economic situation and potential environmental value/importance.
- Existing rates of forest loss and degradation and the potential for further loss.



- Threats to the biodiversity and potential levels of climate impacts in the province
- Opportunities – This included information on levels of government engagement as well as approaches to targeting project interventions to maximise donor coordination and cooperation and minimize overlap or straining the absorptive capacity of any one province.

In addition to these areas, consideration was also given to the value of maintaining a regional spread across PNG and to the existing operation and security environment within potential target areas.

Based on this six provincial sites were identified as priorities, such as:

- **East Sepik** – Province has had significant levels of forest loss and degradation and has the potential for increased levels of loss linked to rapid expansion of commercial agriculture. The province has also benefited from recent investments through the EU STREIT project on infrastructure, agricultural developments and access to infrastructure, agricultural

developments and access to finance which supports potential for further development and expansion of interventions linked to the FCCB objectives.

- **Sandaun (West Sepik)** – Province has the highest levels of forest loss in recent years and has the potential for increased levels of loss linked to rapid expansion of commercial agriculture. The province has also benefited from recent investments through the EU STREIT project on infrastructure, agricultural developments and access to finance which supports potential for further development and expansion of interventions linked to the FCCB objectives.
- **The autonomous region of Bougainville** – The region has made recent commitments towards sustainable green growth and as an autonomous region has the potential to develop a separate path towards sustainable growth. A number of initiatives have also made progress in developing small-scale enterprises and there is potential for additional finance and support to build on a green development pathway.

- **Morobe** – The province has significant economic activity linked to its access to transport routes and markets and has the potential to show models of green development.
- **New Ireland** – The province has high levels of logging operations but has also be the site of one of PNG’s operational forest carbon projects. The provincial government have interest in developing further sustainable options for development.
- **Jiwaka** – the province represents a different geographical and environmental context in as a highlands provinces and faces challenges linked to high population density and expanding subsistence agriculture. It provides opportunities for development of sustainable agricultural systems for both domestic supply and for export products such as coffee.

The provinces identified provided a diversity of environments (see Figure 1) and economic activities as well as representing areas where significant forest clearing is occurring (see Figure 2) as well as high levels of timber extraction with target provinces accounting for 39-

40% of log exports between 2019 and 2023 (see Figure 3).

The provinces also represent areas in which there has been existing development partner support that can be further catalysed and or existing programmes with which the EU FCCB project can coordinate.

Further information on each province is included in the sections below:

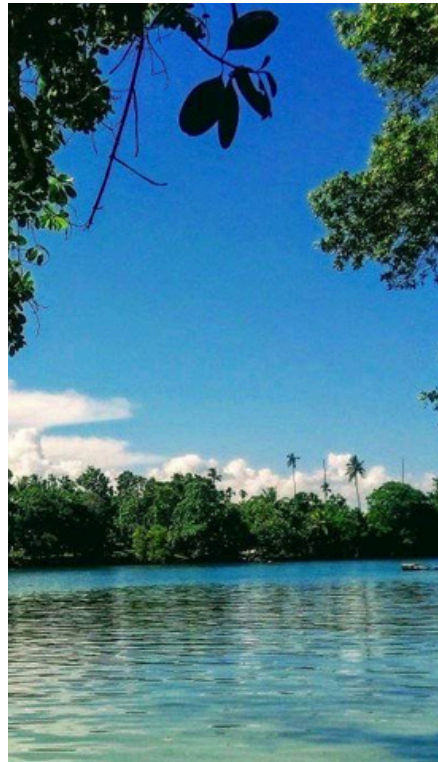




Figure 1. Forest cover types by province

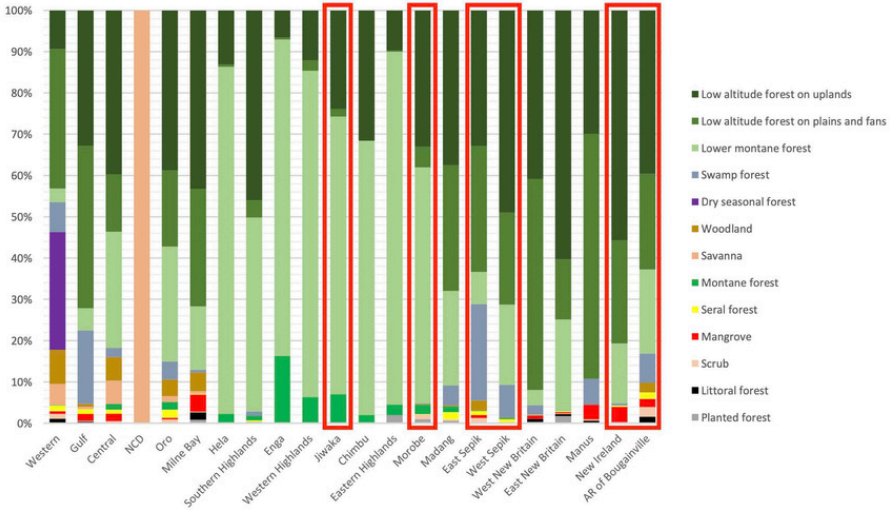


Figure 2. Levels of forest loss (ha) by province (2001-18)

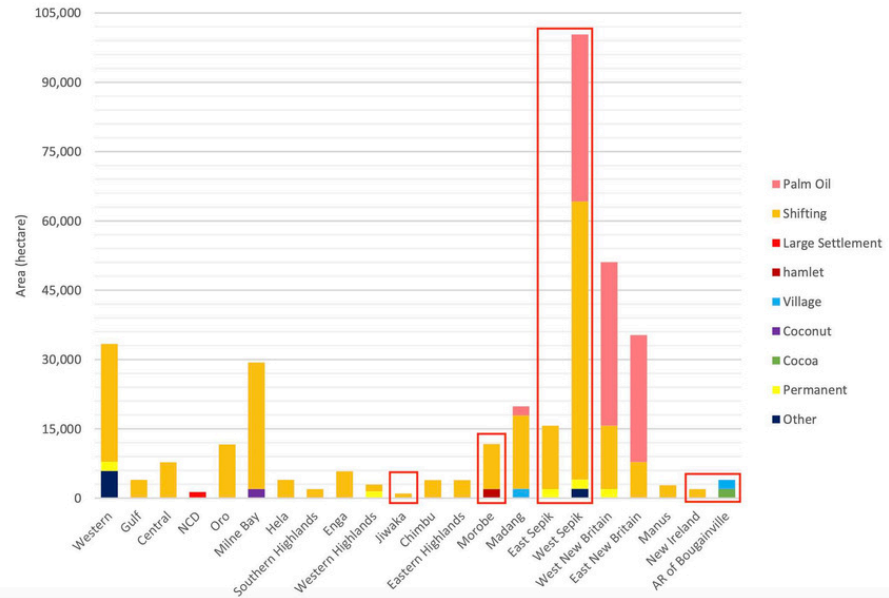
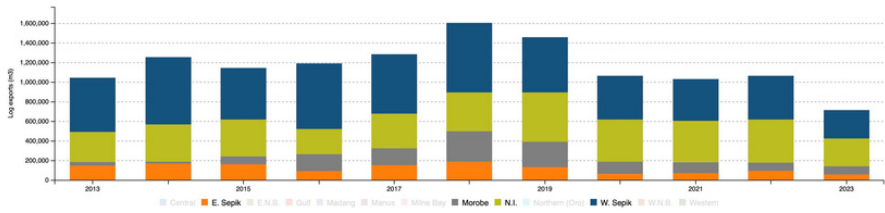




Figure 3. Log exports from target provinces



Note on data sources used:

The assessment is based on national data sets as far as possible. Data on forest cover, type and loss come from PNG’s reporting to UNFCCC specifically its second forest reference level (available at <https://pngreddplus.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/FRL2.pdf>). Data on log exports and concessions comes from reporting under SGS on log

exports as well as consolidated information from range of sources on status of those concessions. Population data is linked to PNG Census data as well as information from MTDP 4 which provides projections of population levels in 2021 – MTDP 4 data is also used with regard to social and economic context. District service provision classifications are provided as presented in MTDP 4 with their classification levels shown below:

Table 1. District classifications

CLASSIFICATION	CATEGORY OF DISTRICTS
Classification 1:	Category A: Districts in cities that have very good Public Utilities
Classification 1:	Category B: Districts in cities that have adequate Public Utilities
Classification 1:	Category C: Districts in cities that have some Public Utilities
Classification 2:	Category A: Districts in declared Provincial Towns that have very good Public Utilities
Classification 2:	Category B: Districts in declared Provincial Towns that have adequate Public Utilities
Classification 3:	Category A: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that have very good Public Utilities
Classification 3:	Category B: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that have adequate Public Utilities
Classification 3:	Category C: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that have some Public Utilities
Classification 3:	Category D: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that are remote and have very low access



Classifications and Categories of Districts

1. Districts in the cities
2. Districts in Provincial Towns
3. District Towns or headquarters in rural PNG

2.2 Proposed target provinces

2.2.1 East Sepik Province

2.2.1.1 Overall Status:

- Area – 4,342,600ha
- Population – 450,530 (681,518 estimated in 2021) Density – 7.98 per km²
- Forest Cover – 2,952,546ha at 68% of area.

Over 60% is low altitude forest with approximately 8% (236,237ha) on plains and fans (flat areas most at risk of commercial exploitation)

• **Economy:**

The Province has been identified within MTDP 4 as having economic potential in agriculture in rice, cocoa, spice, livestock, rubber, oil palm, forestry, mining, tourism, aquaculture and fisheries development It has also potential in geothermal energy for food processing.

MTDP 4 also notes that the as the province hosts the country’s biggest river this should be utilized to reap

the economic benefits that increase the agriculture productivity, generate electricity and become the transport means to support the Provinces along the waterway.

The province has a number of mining tenements for exploration but no active mines. The Frieda river project (<https://www.friedariver.com>) has the potential to bring significant additional investment to the southwest of the province with investment spanning both east and west Sepik.

• **Governance and development status:**

The province is made up of six Districts with levels of facilities ranging from Classification 2 – A to 3 – D (see Table 3 below) with 26 LLGs.

• **Biodiversity value:**

The province has a number of Key Biodiversity areas (KBAs) as well as extensive biodiversity priority areas (see Figure 5).

The province has three areas under protection based on CEPA’s registration (Table 2. Protected areas East Sepik) and one area for proposed conservation with this



area covering the upper Sepik Wetlands and some 2.4m ha of land. Uma and Me'ha Wildlife Management Areas adjacent to the Hunstein Range WMA are also identified by WWF but do not appear within national data bases – these areas cover an additional 47,000ha (Me'ha WMA - 10,770 ha and Uma WMA - 36,363 ha).

It should be noted that the Hustain range WMA also overlaps with the April Salumei forest carbon project.

The province also has some of the most significant peat areas within PNG with peat running across a large area of the province (see Figure 5).

Table 2. Protected areas East Sepik

Protected Area	Province	Area (ha)	Governance	Support
Cape Wom Memorial Park	East Sepik	165	State and customary	Provincial Government
Hunstein Range WMA	East Sepik	220,000	Customary	WWF
Mojirau WMA	East Sepik	5,079	Customary	

Figure 4. Peat presence in East Sepik

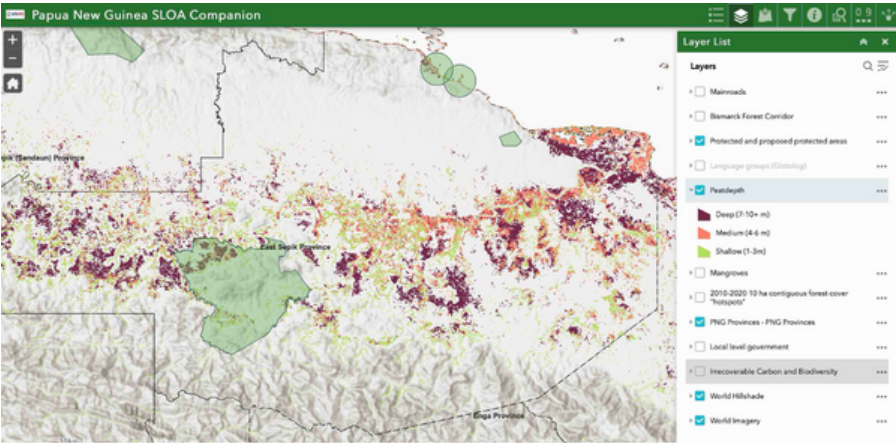
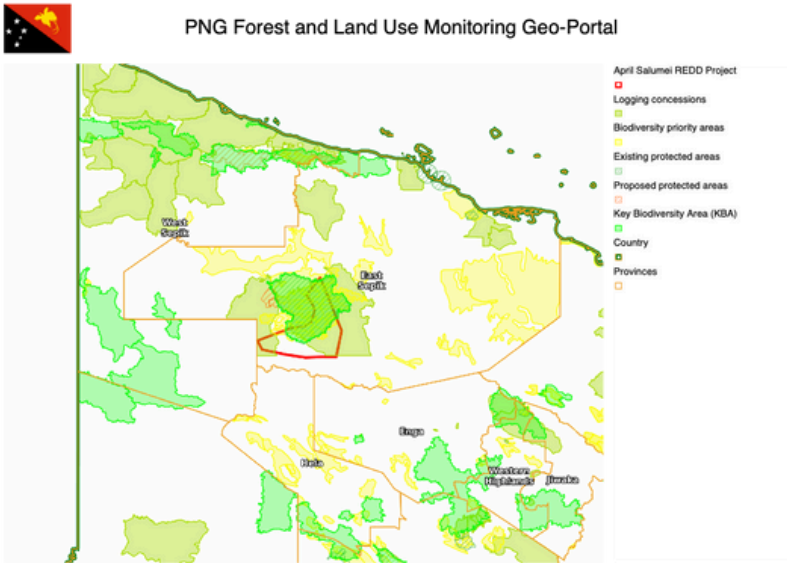




Figure 5. Conservation areas, biodiversity and logging concessions East Sepik



2.2.1.2 Threats

The province has seen relatively low levels of forest cover change (2001-18) with the loss of 15,500ha or 0.005% of forest cover – close to 14,000ha of this attributed to shifting cultivation patterns.

Logging operations and land conversion:

21 registered concessions covering over 201,339ha (there is limited data on areas of concessions so this covers only 9 of the 21 areas with the others being registered Timber Authorities with no spatial data).

- 3 FCA – covering 253,127ha
- Log exports of 2,230,161m³ between 2001-2022, 0 m³ 2020-22.

2.2.1.3 Opportunities:

The province has received support through a number of projects, most significantly the EU STREIT project which has provided considerable support to development of key value chains within the province as well as working to build capacity of local stakeholders and investing in key infrastructure. This would provide a valuable baseline for the development of further action within the province.



In addition the province is home to one of only three operational forest carbon projects. While a number of issues have occurred around this project that may present challenges in further expansion of land use based initiatives it does mean that a number of groups in the area have an increased understanding and capacity for engagement around forest and land use projects.




Linked projects:

- April Salumei – The April Salumei voluntary carbon project is operational within the April Salumei FMA covering


521k ha. The project is verified under the Verra voluntary carbon standard using the VM0007 REDD+ and the VM0010 Improved forest management methods.

- EU STEIT project – the EU Rural Entrepreneurship investment and trade project has been operational in ES since 2021 working with local farmers and other groups on increasing levels of agricultural productivity and improved access to markets and investment.

Table 3. District classifications East Sepik

<p>Ambunti-Dreikikier</p>	<p>1. Ambunti Rural 2. Tunap-Hunstein Range Rural 3. Gawanga Rural 4. Dreikikier Rural</p>	<p>Ambunti</p>		<p>Classification 3: Category D: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that are remote and have very low Access</p>
<p>Angoram</p>	<p>1. Angoram-Middle Sepik Rural 2. Keram Rural 3. Karawari Rural 4. Marienberg 5. Yuat Rural</p>	<p>Angoram</p>		<p>Classification 3: Category C: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that have Some Public Utilities</p>
<p>Maprik</p>	<p>1. Albiges-Mablep Rural 2. Bumbita-Muhian Rural 3. Maprik-Wora Rural 4. Yamil-Tamaui Rural</p>	<p>Maprik</p>		<p>Classification 3: Category A: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that have good Public Utilities</p>



Wewak	1. Boikin Rural	Wewak		Classification 2: Category A: Districts in declared Provincial Towns that have very good Public Utilities
	2. Turubu Rural			
	3. Wewak Islands Rural			
	4. Wewak Local			
	5. Wewak Urban			
Wosera-Gawi	1. Burui-Kunai Rural	Wosera		Classification 3: Category D: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that are remote and have very low Access
	2. Gawi Rural			
	3. North Wosera Rural			
	4. South Wosera Rural			
Yangoru-Saussia	1. East Yangoru Rural	Yangoru		Classification 3: Category C: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that have Some Public Utilities
	2. Numbor Rural			
	3. Saussor Rural			
	4. West Yangoru Rural			

2.2.2 West Sepik Province

2.2.2.1 Overall Status

- Area – 3,592,000ha
- Population – 248,411 Density – 5.12 per km²
- Forest Cover – 3,234,546 ha at 90% of area.

Over 70% is low altitude forest with approximately 25% (646,909ha) on plains and fans (flat areas most at risk of commercial exploitation).

• **Economy:**

The Province has been identified within MTDP 4 as having economic potential in agriculture in rice, cocoa, spice, livestock, rubber, oil palm, forestry, mining, tourism, aquaculture and fisheries development. The potential for the

development of the agricultural crops are mostly in Aitape, Lumi and Nuku areas with some potential for Vanimo area particularly the oil palm development in the Bewani area and vegetable supply in the Telefomin district.

Vanimo has also benefited economically for about the last 20 years from the cash generated in the area by the presence of a major logging operation in the area. There will continue to be cash in the area due to expansion of logging operations into the Amanab area. The logging operation has invested into retail and wholesale activities which contributed to cash-flow in the area. Aitape is presently experiencing cash-generation due



to logging operations. These also have retail and wholesale activities which are contributing to the local economy[1].

The head water of the Sepik River is situated in the Province with MTDP4 noting the need to “utilize the river system to reap the economic benefits” – increase the agriculture and forestry productivity, generate electricity and become the transport means to support the riverine communities along the waterway.

The province will also be the host to the Vanimo SEZ and is set to have a new wharf developed.

- **Governance:**

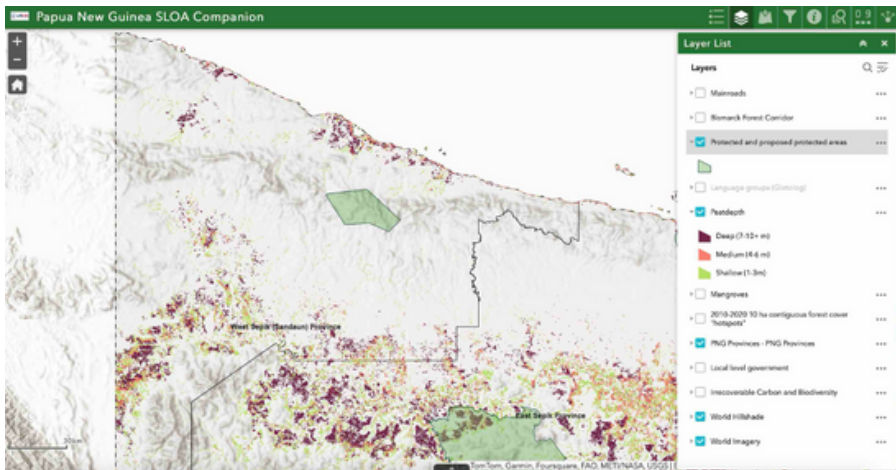
The province is made up of four districts which are classified between 2-A and 3-D based on MTDP4 ranking and 17 LLGs.

- **Biodiversity and environmental value:**

The province includes significant areas identified as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) but no gazetted conservation areas and only one proposed conservation area the Torricelli Mountains Conservation area which covers 185,000ha of land (see Figure 7).

The province is also has significant areas of peat (see Figure 6).

Figure 6. Peat depth and presence West Sepik



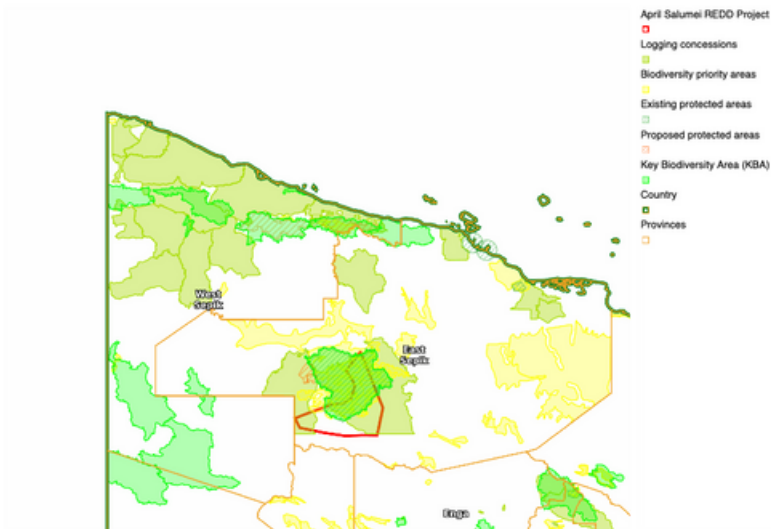
[1] https://www.pngfacts.com/west-sepik-province.html#google_vignette



Figure 7. Conservation areas, biodiversity priority areas and logging concessions west sepik



PNG Forest and Land Use Monitoring Geo-Portal



2.2.2.2 Threats

Levels of forest cover change (2001-18) – loss of 100,00ha or 0.03% of forest cover – close to 36,000ha attributed to oil palm conversion, and just over 60,000ha attributed to shifting cultivation.

Logging operations and land conversion:

- 28 logging concessions covering over 1,275,355 ha (no data on area is available for 17 Timber Authorities within the 28).
- 9 FCA – covering 378,032ha.

- Log exports of 10,171,022m³ between 2001-2022, 1.3million m³ between 2020-22.

2.2.2.3 Opportunities:

The province has received support through a number of projects, most significantly the EU STREIT project which has provided considerable support to development of key value chains within the province as well as working to build capacity of local stakeholders and investing in key infrastructure. This would provide a valuable baseline for the development of further action within the province.



Linked projects:

- EU STEIT project – the EU Rural Entrepreneurship investment and trade project has been operational in ES since 2021 working with local farmers and other groups on increasing levels of agricultural productivity and improved access to markets and investment.
- JICA Capacity Development project – supporting improved adoption of PNG’s legal framework and guidance in forestry concessions and identifying potential for assessment of the potential for reduced carbon based approaches to logging.

Table 4. District development classifications West Sepik

District	LLG Name	District Headquarter	Current Status
Aitape-Lumi	1. East Aitape Rural	Aitape	Classification 3: Category B: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that have adequate Public Utilities
	2. East Wapei Rural		
	3. West Aitape Rural		
	4. West Wapei Rural		
Nuku	1. Mawase Rural (Nuku)	Nuku	Classification 3: Category C: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that have Some Public Utilities
	2. Palai Rural		
	3. Yangkok Rural		
	4. Maimai Wanwan Rural		
Telefomin	1. Namea Rural	Telefomin	Classification 3: Category D: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that are remote and have very low Access
	2. Oksapmin Rural		
	3. Telefomin Rural		
	4. Yapsie Rural		
Vanimo-Green	1. Amanab Rural	Vanimo	Classification 2: Category A: Districts in declared Provincial Towns that have very good Public Utilities
	2. Bewani-Wutung-Onei Rural		
	3. Green River Rural		
	4. Vanimo Urban		
	5. Walsa Rural		





2.2.3 Autonomous Region of Bougainville

2.2.3.1 Status:

- Area - 938,400ha
- Population – 249,358 (641,431 estimated 2021) Density 15.18per km²
- Forest Cover - 381,929ha at 40% of area. Over 60% is low altitude forest with just over 20% (76,386ha) on plains and fans (flat areas most at risk of commercial exploitation)

• Economy

ABG's economy is primarily based around small scale farming and fisheries. The region was one of the largest cocoa producers but was heavily impacted by cocoa pod borer. Efforts to revive the industry have seen some progress with small scale processing also now occurring.

The Panguna copper mine also remains at the center of potential economic activities with potential investment from Rio Tinto in remediation actions for past mining activities as well as efforts on going to identify and mobilise investment for the reopening of the mine.

• Governance:

The ABG governs as an autonomous region of Papua New Guinea and is the only region with this political status. It is "autonomous within" rather than "independent from" Papua New Guinea, which means it is not an independent sovereign state and cannot conduct certain activities (for example, ABG cannot make laws that contradict the national system of law or establish diplomatic posts in foreign countries).

It does have its own:

- Legislative - Bougainville's House of Representatives (Parliament) seated in the in the parliamentary buildings in Kubu, Buka.



- Executive - an elected President, Ministers (selected from Members of Parliament) and the Bougainville Executive Council.
- Judiciary - the Courts of Justice that operate within Bougainville. The region also retains the Papua New Guinea Supreme Court as the highest level of its Judiciary system.

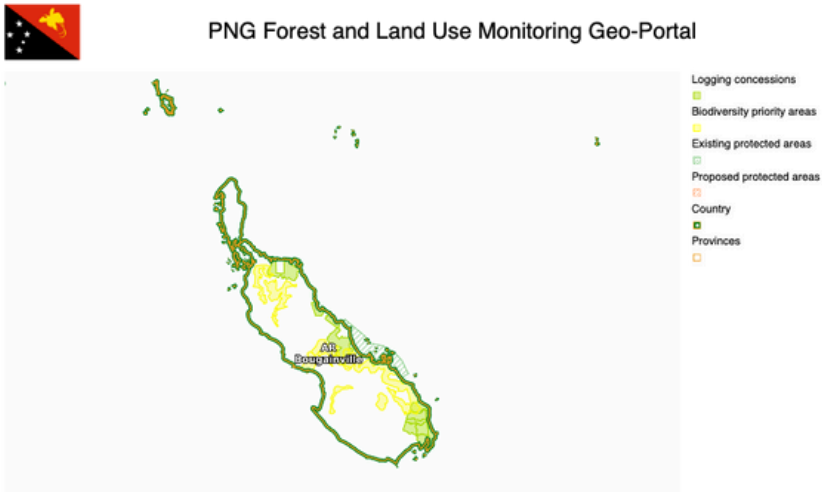
The area is also divided into three districts (which are classified as having category 3 – C and 2 – B levels of service provision by MTDP4), and 12 LLGs.

Following an independence referendum, ARB is seeking to transition to full independence by 2027 – although this process continues to be slow and contentious in its development and engagement with PNG central government.

- **Biodiversity value:**

The province has a number of areas identified as priority biodiversity areas as well as KBAs but has no gazetted terrestrial protected areas or proposed protected areas.

Figure 8. Conservation areas, biodiversity priority areas and logging concessions AROB





2.2.3.2 Threats:

Levels of forest cover change (2001-18) – loss of 4,000ha or 0.01% of forest cover.

Rates of forest cover change within ARB have been more limited over the past 20 years with identified areas of forest cover change attributed to conversion to settlements and cocoa.

Logging operations and land conversion:

- 5 registered concessions (all TRP) covering 77,223ha
- 1 FCA – covering 48,648ha (former TRP – no data on log exports from site)
- Log exports of 125,871m³ between 2001-2022, 0 m³ 2020-22.

2.2.3.3 Opportunities:

The ARB presents a positive perspective on development of environmental initiatives and passed BEC Decision 164, dated 14 December 2021 on the enactment of the Green-Blue Growth Policy. With enhanced levels of decentralization and a roadmap to full independence the ARB provides an opportunity for high level engagement at the subnational level

to work on establishment of a policy and regulatory framework and to guide the emerging governance structures.

Linked projects:

EU – potential support to the development of Bougainville’s Blue and Green Economy in ARB.



UNDP/Japan – Innovation Hub - to support micro-, small-, and medium-sized businesses in developing their operations.

Australia - In 2023-24, Australia's development assistance to Bougainville of approximately AUD52.4 million is being delivered through:

- The Bougainville Partnership, which is a program specifically designed to meet the needs of Bougainville. The Bougainville Partnership includes specific initiatives supporting capable institutions, economic development and stronger communities (AUD22.8 million)
- National sector programs in health, education, transport infrastructure, law and justice, and gender (AUD29.5 million).



Table 5. District development status AROB

District	LLG Name	District Headquarter	Current Status
Central Bougainville	1. Arawa Rural	Arawa-Kieta	
	2. Wakunai Rural		
North Bougainville	1. Atolls Rural	Buka	
	2. Buka Rural		
	3. Kunua Rural		
	4. Nissan Rural		
	5. Selau-Suir Rural		
	6. Tinputz Rural		

2.2.4 Morobe Province

2.2.4.1 Overall Status:

- Area – 3,370,500 ha.
- Population – 674,810 (estimated 1.1m in 2021) Density – 5.92 per km2.
- Forest Cover – 2.76 million ha at 82% (approx) of area.

Over 57% is low altitude forest with approximately 19% (329,270 ha) on plains and fans (flat areas most at risk of commercial exploitation).

• Economy :

The strategic location of the port of Lae has enabled Morobe Province to be the industrial hub of PNG.

The economy of Morobe is dominated by the exploitation of primary products, from agriculture, forestry, mining, and to a lesser extent, fishing. Agriculture remains the dominant sector. About 452.3 ha

is under cultivation with coffee as the largest cash crop, followed by cocoa, cardamon, coconut, rice and chilies. Livestock development is dominant in the Markham Valley, and to some extent Wau and Bulolo Districts. Key challenges include poor infrastructure and weak service delivery which are impediments to economic development.

The economic base of the Morobe Province depends on agriculture production, especially horticulture, as well as forestry, fisheries, tourism and light manufacturing. Mining is re-emerging as a prominent industry led by the coming onstream of the Wafi-Golpu mine. These industries will flourish with improved transport, logistics and marketing systems supported with quality utility services and growth centres. Investments within the MTDP IV period will target these areas to maximise on the scarce resources.

- **Governance:**

The province is made up of 10 districts (which range in classification from 3-A to 3-D in the MTDP 4 service provision) and 36 LLGs.

- **Biodiversity value:**

Morobe has significant areas identified as both KBAs and priority conservation areas particularly to the north of the province.

The province has six gazetted conservation areas and two proposed areas (one spanning Morobe, Gulf and Central province).

The YUS Conservation Area established in the northern part of the Huon Peninsula in 2009 stretches over 760 km² and includes three rivers: Yopno, Uruwa and Som, after which it was named. It is a critical habitat for the endangered matschie's tree-kangaroo. [28] The area has been one of the most effectively managed in PNG with work done to develop sustainable economic opportunities through coffee production as well as other agricultural initiatives around the area.

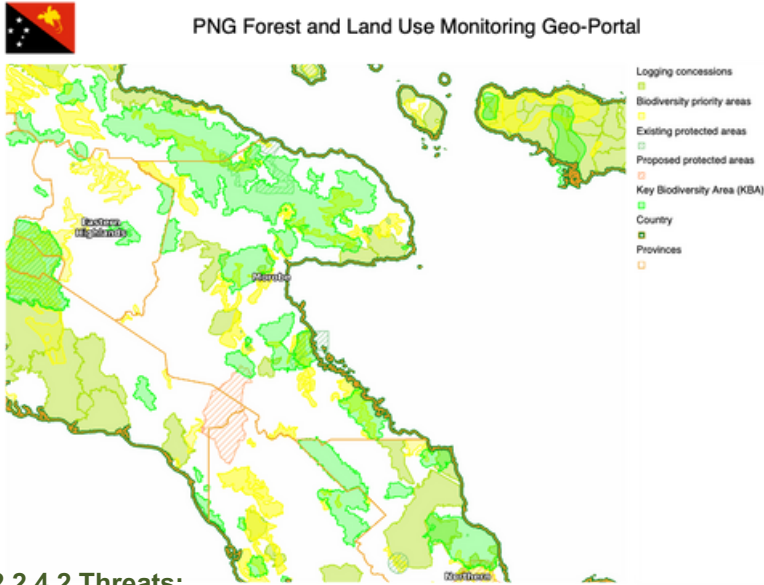
Table 5. District development status AROB

Protected area	Province	Area (ha)	Governance
Kamiali WMA	Morobe	47,413	Customary
Mc Adams National Park	Morobe	1,821	State (CEPA)
Mt Kaindi WMA	Morobe	1,502	Customary
Mt Susu Natural Reserve	Morobe	260	Customary and state
Nusareng WMA	Morobe	22	Customary
Yus CA	Morobe	75,000	Customary





Figure 9. Conservation areas, biodiversity priority areas and logging concessions Morobe



2.2.4.2 Threats:

Levels of forest cover change (2001-18) – loss of almost 9,000ha or 0.003% of forest cover – almost all of which is attributed to shifting cultivation.

Logging operations and land conversion:

- 25 logging concessions covering over 513,778 ha
- 4 FCA – covering 148,571 ha
- Log exports of 4.95 million m3 between 2001-2022, 1.3 million m3 between 2020-22 (400k m3 from 1 FCA) with all exports in this period.

2.2.4.3 Opportunities:

Linked projects:

- USAID Sustainable Landscapes project (2022-27) - Targeting improved land and natural resource governance, increased environmental sustainability of forestry, improved sustainable supply chains and market access for forest products. Rights of communities regarding Natural Resource Management protected – communities are able to protect and safeguard their forests and natural resources.

- USAID Lukatim Graun (2020-25) – Support to overall governance environment for natural resource management and conservation. Specific focus in Morobe on YUS conservation area.



Table 7. District Development status Morobe

District	LLG Name	District Headquarter	Current Status
Bulolo	1. Mumeng Rural	Bulolo	 Classification 3: Category A: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that have very good Public Utilities
	2. Waria Rural		
	3. Watut Rural		
	4. Wau-Bulolo Urban		
	5. Wau Rural		
	6. Buang Rural		
Finschhafen	1. Hube Rural	Gagidu	 Classification 3: Category C: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that have some Public Utilities
	2. Kotte Rural		
	3. Finschhafen Urban		
	4. Yabim-Mape Rural		
	5. Burum-Kwat Rural		
Huon Gulf	1. Morobe Rural	Salamaua	 Classification 3: Category C: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that have some Public Utilities
	2. Salamaua Rural		
	3. Wampar Rural		
Kabwum	1. Deyamos Rural	Kabwum	 Classification 3: Category C: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that have some Public Utilities
	2. Komba Rural (Seko)		
	3. Yus Rural		
	4. Selepet Rural		
Lae	1. Ahi Rural	Lae	 Classification 1: Category B: Districts in cities with adequate Public Utilities
	2. Lae Urban		
Markham	1. Onga-Waffa Rural	Kaiapit	 Classification 3: Category B: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that have adequate Public Utilities
	2. Umi-Atzera Rural		
	3. Wantoat-Leron Rural		
Menyamya	1. Kapao Rural	Menyamya	 Classification 3: Category D: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that are remote and have very low Access
	2. Nanima Kariba Rural		
	3. Kome Rural		
	4. Wapi Rural		
Nawae	1. Labuta Rural	Boana	 Classification 3: Category C: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that have some Public Utilities
	2. Nabak Rural		
	3. Wain-Erap Rural		
Tewai-Siassi	1. Sialum Rural	Wasu	 Classification 3: Category C: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that have some Public Utilities
	2. Siassi Rural		
	3. Wasu Rural		
Wau-Waria	1. Wau Rural	Wau	 Classification 3: Category A: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that have very good Public Utilities
	2. Wau Urban		
	3. Waria Rural		

2.2.5 New Ireland Province

2.2.5.1 Status:

- Area – 957,700 ha [2].
- Population – 232,351 2021.
estimate Density – 5.92 per km²
- Forest Cover – 750k ha approx
78% (approx) of area.

Over 57% is low altitude forest with approximately 19% (329,270ha) on plains and fans (flat areas most at risk of commercial exploitation).

- **Economy:**

New Ireland Province consist of mainland with many scattered islands. Delivering government services to the scattered islands is a major challenge, including high cost of transport, remoteness, rising sea level, and limited economic opportunities. The province has

potential for sustainable fisheries, agriculture, forestry and tourism development, and mineral resources. NI province hosts two World class gold mining projects in Lihir and Simberi both of which operate on islands off the main New Ireland island. It has Kavieng airport and other economic projects including proposed St Mathias SEZ.

- **Governance:**

The province is made up of two districts (which are classified as 2 -A and 3 – B within MTDP4 in terms of service delivery) and 10 LLGs.

- **Biodiversity value:**

The province contains a number of KBA and priority biodiversity areas and has one small protected area gazetted.

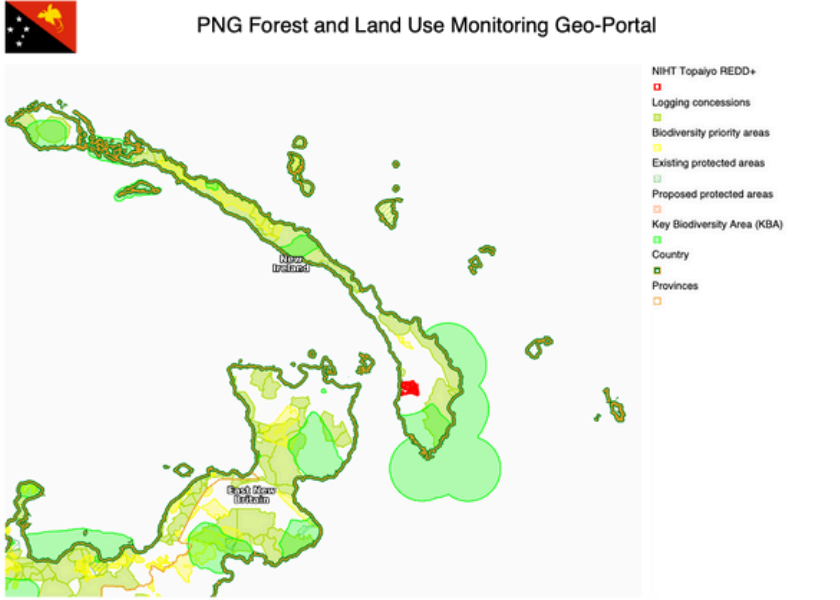
Table 8. Protected areas New Ireland Province

Protected area	Province	Area (ha)	Governance	Management support
Lihir Island	New Ireland	1,980	Customary	Provincial government and Lihir gold mine

[2] Note the area presented here comes from spatial data and differs from the value of 740,400 ha reported in the MTDP 4 – it is not clear to the author why this discrepancy exists but the spatial data is taken as primary as otherwise areas such as that of the logging concessions would exceed the total provincial area.



Table 8. Protected areas New Ireland Province



2.2.5.2 Threats:

Levels of forest cover change (2001-18) – loss of approximately 2,000ha or 0.003% of forest cover – almost all of which is attributed to shifting cultivation.

- Log exports of 1.96 million m3 between 2001-2022, and 312,501 m3 between 2020-22 with all exports in this period from FCAs.

Logging operations and land conversion:

- 40 logging concessions covering over 590,449 ha with no FMAs (no data on the area is available for 14 areas).
- 3 FCA – covering 112,111 ha.

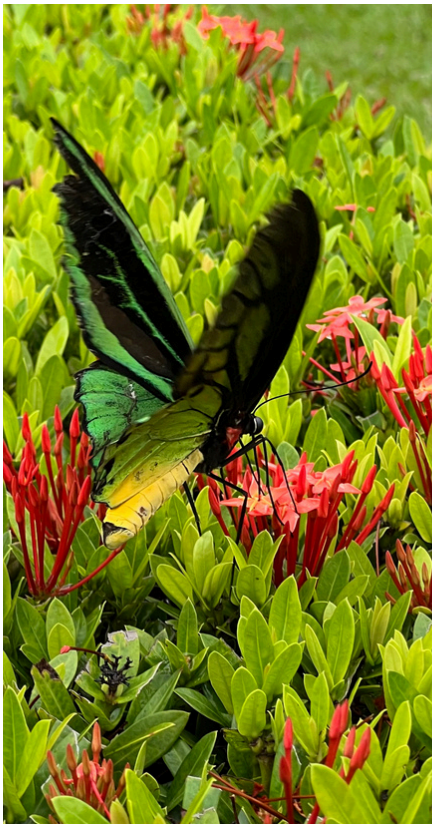
2.2.5.3 Opportunities:

New Ireland hardwood timber, Topaiyo REDD+, is a voluntary carbon project certified under the VCS standard but is facing criticism of the legitimacy of credits and mechanisms for community engagement.



Table 9. District development status New Ireland

District	LLG Name	District Headquarter	Current Status
Kavieng	1. Kavieng Urban	Kavieng	Classification 2: Category A: Districts in declared Provincial Towns that have very good Public Utilities
	2. Lavongai Rural		
	3. Murat Rural		
	4. Tikana Rural		
Namatanai	1. Konoagil Rural	Namatanai	Classification 3: Category B: Districts or Rural Towns in Rural Districts that have adequate Public Utilities
	2. Namatanai Rural		
	3. Matalai Rural		
	4. Nimamar Rural		
	5. Central Niu Ailan Rural		
	6. Tanir Rural		



2.2.6 Jiwaka Province:

2.2.6.1 Status:

- Area – 479,800 ha
- Population – 451,496 Density – 94 per km2
- Forest Cover – 311,870 ha at 65% (aprox) of area.

The province has the third highest level of cropland by percentage and forest area is dominated by lower montane forest.

• Governance

The province is made up of 3 districts and 11 LLGs which are classified as 3, C based on MTDP4’s grading.

• Economy

The economy of Jiwaka Province is predominantly based on agriculture, with the majority of the population



engaged in subsistence farming –the province has the third highest level of agricultural land by percentage of any province in PNG. The fertile highland soils support the cultivation of various crops, including coffee, tea, potatoes, vegetables, and fruits. Coffee production, in particular, is a significant economic activity in the province, with Jiwaka being known for its high-quality Arabica coffee beans.

The province is relatively well connected by road and air with the Highlands Highway linking it to other highland provinces as well as the coastal towns of Lae and Madang. It also shares some key infrastructure with Western Highlands Province (which it was part of until 2012), including Kagamuga International Airport.

- **Governance**

The province is made up of 3 districts and 11 LLGs which are classified as 3, C based on MTDP4's grading.

- **Economy**

The economy of Jiwaka Province is predominantly based on agriculture, with the majority of the population engaged in subsistence farming – the province has the third highest level of agricultural land by percentage of any province in PNG. The fertile highland

- soils support the cultivation of various crops, including coffee, tea, potatoes, vegetables, and fruits. Coffee production, in particular, is a significant economic activity in the province, with Jiwaka being known for its high-quality Arabica coffee beans.

The province is relatively well connected by road and air with the Highlands Highway linking it to other highland provinces as well as the coastal towns of Lae and Madang. It also shares some key infrastructure with Western Highlands Province (which it was part of until 2012), including Kagamuga International Airport.

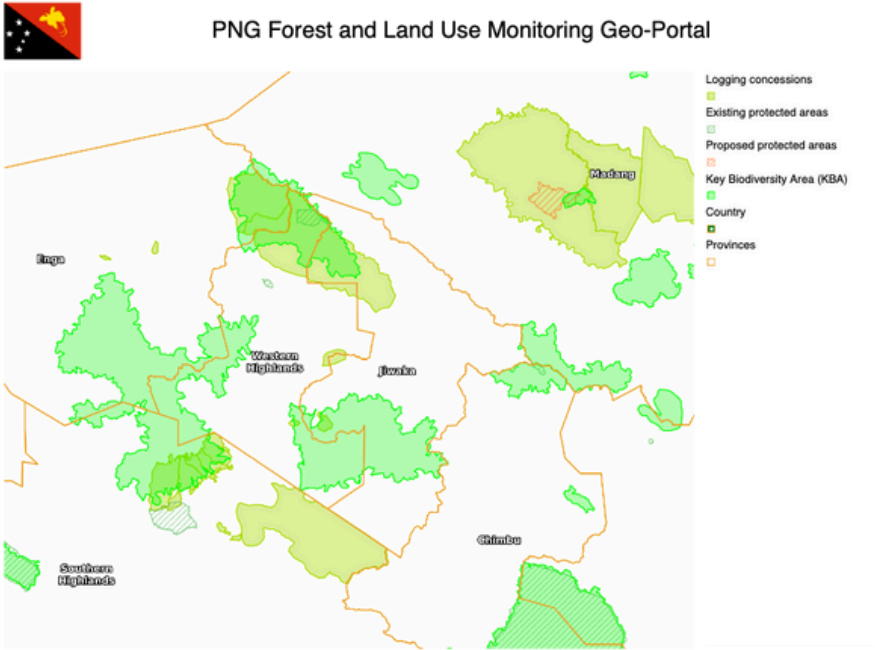
The province faces challenges linked to population density (only WHP has a higher density) and growth (at 31% between 2011 and 2021). There are cases of squatting communities in Minj and Banz, while the poor quality of the road network and no road connectivity to Kambia and part of Jimi District present challenges for mobility.

- **Biodiversity value:**

The province has a number of locations identified as KBAs as well as priority biodiversity areas but has not protected areas at present.



Figure 11. Conservation areas, biodiversity priorities and logging concessions Jiwaka province





2.2.6.2 Threats

Levels of forest cover change (2001-18) – loss of 1,00ha or 0.32% of forest cover – all of which is attributed to shifting cultivation.

Logging operations and land conversion:




There is only one logging

concession in the province which overlaps Western Highlands and Enga Province.

2.2.6.3 Opportunities:

The province has shown interest in working further on conservation initiatives and signed an MoU with CEPA in early 2024.

Table 11. District development status as shown in MTDP 4

District	LLG Name	District Headquarter	Current Status
Anglimp-South Waghi	1. Anglimp Rural	Minj	
	2. South Waghi Rural		
Jimi	1. Jimi Rural	Tabibuga	
	2. Kol Rural		
	2. Koinambe Rural		
North Waghi	1. North Waghi Rural	Banz	
	2. Nondugl Rural		



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