



Australian Government

# Kokoda Initiative Annual Report 2010–2011



# KOKODA INITIATIVE



# Background



On the 8th of July 2010, the governments of Australia and Papua New Guinea entered a Second Joint Understanding (2010–2015) with the shared vision of:

*Sustainable development of the Owen Stanley Ranges, Brown River Catchment and Kokoda Track Region and protection of its special natural, cultural and historic values.*

The Second Joint Understanding builds on the significant progress made under the first Joint Understanding, signed in 2008. Led by the strong partnership between the Papua New Guinea and Australian governments, the Kokoda Initiative (the Initiative) brings together shared interests, promoting the economic and social development of Papua New Guinea while protecting the important values of this region.

Through this Second Joint Understanding, the Governments of Australia and Papua New Guinea have agreed to continue working in the region in order to achieve five shared Goals:

1. A safe and well-managed Kokoda Track, which honours its wartime historical significance and protects and promotes its special values.
2. Enhanced quality of life for landowners and communities through improved delivery of basic services, income generation and community development activities.
3. The wise use and conservation of the catchment protection area, including the Kokoda Track, and its natural and cultural resources and values.
4. Building national and international tourism potential of the Owen Stanley Ranges and Kokoda Track region, supported by a possible future World Heritage Nomination.
5. Working with communities, landowners, industry and all levels of government to ensure that activities established under the Kokoda Initiative are sustained into the future.

Managed jointly by the Department of Environment and Conservation in Papua New Guinea and the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in Australia, the Initiative focuses on the effective protection and sustainable development of the cultural, natural and military heritage values of the Owen Stanley Ranges and Brown River catchment and Kokoda Track region. It provides the basis for the ongoing development and management of the Kokoda Track, including improved service delivery to communities along the Track, support for management of the Track through the Kokoda Track Authority and the promotion of the Track as a world class tourist destination.

Cooperation and partnerships are key to the success of the Initiative and the achievements demonstrated in this report are the result of effective collaboration and support between all of the Papua New Guinea and Australian agencies involved in its implementation.

The Kokoda Initiative is a flagship of the bilateral cooperation between Papua New Guinea and Australia

# Achievements in 2010–2011

In 2010–11 the Papua New Guinea and Australian governments continued to make strong progress towards achieving the shared vision of sustainable development and protection of the special values of the Owen Stanley Ranges, Brown River catchment and the Kokoda Track region. This progress is demonstrated in a number of key outcomes achieved under each of the five goals of the Second Joint Understanding.

## Goal 1: A safe and well-managed Kokoda Track, which honours its wartime historical significance and protects and promotes its special values.

The Kokoda Track Authority has been working with communities, landowners, government, and tour operators to continue to ensure that the Kokoda Track environment and trekking experience is valued, protected and conserved. In 2010–11 this was achieved through the effective operation of the Kokoda Track Authority and the continued implementation of a number of activities such as the Kokoda Track Rangers Program and Safety Package Projects. Key achievements in these and other areas over the past year include:

### Effective operation of the Kokoda Track Authority

- In February 2011, Mr James Enage became the first PNG national to be appointed to the role of Chief Executive Officer of the Kokoda Track Authority. The Kokoda Track Authority is now entirely run by Papua New Guinea nationals, supported by Australian Government advisors.
- The Kokoda Track Authority delivered its second Annual report to the Papua New Guinea Government with audited accounts.
- Track Maintenance Agreements, worth PGK 2000 each, were entered into with 18 villages along the Track, with funding directed to priority works.
- The Kokoda Track Authority delivered the 2010 Tourism Services Payments (approximately 25% of trek permit revenue) to communities along the Kokoda Track allowing a total of PGK 160,000 (approximately AUD \$70,000) to be distributed to 14 Wards and the two Local Level Governments across the Track.
- The first trekking season with a tour operator licensing system in operation was completed. This new system in addition to the track activities above, led to a successful trekking season in which the Track remained continuously open.
- The Kokoda Track Authority acquitted significant funding agreements with both the Papua New Guinea and Australian governments (Public Investment, Safety Package, Livelihoods and organisational support programs) to deliver a range of services and assets throughout the Kokoda region.



Credit Volker Scholz







Top: Safety Package works at Kokoda Airstrip.  
Credit Kokoda Track Authority

Bottom: Minister Burke, Michael O'Kave,  
Elizah Peter, Donald Csiga and Martin Fortescue  
@ Booderee National Park

"We met with Aboriginal landowners to learn about their culture, how their communities come together and work in the Park...What I've learnt can improve myself and my community," said Ranger Elizah.

## Kokoda Track Rangers Program

- There are now four trained rangers each responsible for a part of the Track. They work with the local communities to improve the safety and conditions along the Track for trekkers and local villages. The Rangers, working closely with the Kokoda Track Authority Operations Manager and advisors, continued to play an essential role in ensuring that the track is well maintained and that all trekkers and tour operators are compliant with licensing and permitting.
- A total of seven Rangers and Kokoda Track Authority staff members have undertaken short term placements with Parks Australia to acquire skills and experience in park management and track maintenance.
- Track conservation work teams have been established through village maintenance agreements and each year a new maintenance program is developed in consultation with landowners, communities and the trekking industry. Through this employment, communities develop skills, capacity and a better understanding of trekkers' expectations.
- Rangers and Kokoda Track Authority Management undertook four 'management treks' where every Track village was visited and public meetings were held to assess the effectiveness of management strategies and to gain feedback.

## Safety Package

- A number of Safety Package projects addressing air, road and track safety were successfully implemented during 2010–2011, including:
  - Airstrip safety equipment installation at five village airstrips;
  - Lengthening and clearing of the Kokoda airstrip to 1000 metres;
  - Scoping studies for the installation of an automatic weather system and improvements to VHF radio, to aid information available to aircraft in Kokoda region;
  - Owers' Corner Road upgraded to all-weather two wheel drive standard, with improved drainage and road safety signage;
  - Installation of new radios at six locations along the Track and assessment of existing village radios;
  - Subsidised certified first aid training for 58 porters and guides; and
  - A survey of unexploded ordnance along the Kokoda Track and distribution of awareness raising materials to trek operators and communities.
- The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities also supported an expert consultant and worked collaboratively with the Kokoda Track Authority to develop Trekker Activity and Operator Safety maps which include safety information, facilities and key points along the Track to assist trekkers in preparation for and throughout their trek.



### The Lost Battlefield of the Kokoda Track

- The site of the 'Lost Battlefield' along the Kokoda Track was rediscovered by a tour operator with the support of the local community in June 2010 after remaining relatively undisturbed since World War II.
- The Kokoda Initiative is working in partnership with the Lost Battlefield Trust which has been formed with the express approval of the local community. This partnership will ensure protection and conservation of this important site as a "living battlefield".
- The Lost Battlefield Trust has been working with the Papua New Guinea National Museum and the Australian Government Department of Defence on surveys undertaken at the site.

### Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel Day

- A nationally recognised day to commemorate the role of Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels was formally gazetted by the Papua New Guinea National Executive Council in 2009. The Kokoda Track Authority, with the funding support of the Papua New Guinea Government, worked with communities in Kokoda and Efogi to organise events and activities to celebrate Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel Day on the 3rd of November 2010.
- The Australian High Commissioner presented medallions for Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels, and community celebrations were held including sports events, cultural performances and remembrance ceremonies.



Top: Australian High Commissioner Ian Kemish @ Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel Day with medal recipient. Credit Australian High Commission  
Bottom: Nuana Moama. Credit Volker Scholz



Isurava Memorial. Credit Volker Scholz

For Ranger Nuana, becoming a Ranger holds sentimental value to him because he is the proud son of a Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel. "I often wonder about the dangers my father faced and the feelings he had during WWII. He was barely out of his teens trying to understand a war fought on his land by strange men."





Top: Students at Kovel Elementary School  
Bottom: Health Lab

“For years people have been suffering, but the Kokoda Development Program is doing something good and people are starting to take action. Other leaders are now approaching us to educate their villages in new health skills.”  
John Daire,  
Village Health Volunteer

## Goal 2: Enhanced quality of life for landowners and communities through improved delivery of basic services, income generation and community development activities.

Progress continued in 2010–11 on the implementation of activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for Track communities. These activities were: the AusAID led Kokoda Development Program which aims to improve access to basic services; the Livelihoods Project delivered by the Kokoda Track Authority which focuses on capacity building in tourism and agriculture; and the Department of Environment and Conservation led Social Mapping Project which is collecting information on customary social groups and their land. Key achievements to date under these programs are as follows.

### Kokoda Development Program

- The Kokoda Development Program continued to work with Provincial and Local Governments to improve student enrolment and the quality of education delivered in schools across the region. Local communities were also engaged to source and cut timber for building new classrooms and teacher housing. Since 2008<sup>1</sup> significant achievements made in the area of education include:
  - An increase in the number of registered schools open along the Kokoda Track from 12 to 23;
  - An increase in the number of teachers from 36 to 82;
  - An increase in primary school enrolments by 49% and elementary school enrolments increased by 325%;
  - Completion of classrooms in three villages and construction underway in a further ten villages;
  - Supply of curriculum materials and stationary supplies to 22 schools;
  - Completion of Board of Management capacity building workshops by 57 teachers and school board members;
  - Completion of Elementary Teaching Certificates by 18 trainees; and
  - Training to upgrade qualifications for 12 primary school teachers along the Track.
- Considerable improvements have been made to the delivery of health services since 2007<sup>2</sup> including:
  - Renovation of five health facilities (3 Health Centres and 2 Aid Posts) to minimum standards;
  - Opening of a new Aid Post at Naoro;
  - Distribution of medical equipment and health supplies to all health facilities;
  - Building of waiting houses for pregnant women at Efogi, Manari and Naduri;
  - Training of 64 Village Health Volunteers to promote healthy behaviour in their communities;

<sup>1</sup> Data covers the period from 2008 until late 2010 as 2011 data was not available at the time of publication.

<sup>2</sup> Data covers the period from 2007 until late 2009 as 2010–2011 data was not available at the time of publication.

- Training of 40 health workers in infection control, clinical practice, health facility management, maternal care and STI & HIV; and
- Regular integrated health patrols, including child health and immunisation, conducted in the Efogi, Kokoda and Sogeri catchment areas.
- Development activities continued to be implemented within local communities. For example since 2008, 43 people have participated in the women's leadership and organisational training programs; five villages have received food preparation and small-scale business training; two sports training programs have been conducted for communities around Kokoda and Efogi; and six locals have been trained in toilet construction.
- A new reticulated water supply was built for Naoro village.

#### Livelihoods Project

- Pilot projects of basic business training and technical training in skills such as animal husbandry, food preparation, and screen printing were implemented in Naoro 1 & 2 and Isurava, Alola and Abuari. Micro-business training was also provided in other villages along the track.
- Governance training was delivered to Ward Development Committees to provide them with the skills to effectively assess community proposals for the use and management of the Kokoda Track Authority Tourism Services Payments.

#### Social Mapping

- The Social Mapping Project, led by Department of Environment and Conservation staff and expert consultants from the Australian National University and University of Papua New Guinea with support from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, has provided the Department of Environment and Conservation with information to better understand the social and cultural context of the local people and communities of the Owen Stanley Ranges, Brown River Catchment and Kokoda Track region. Findings from this project will assist in developing better consultation for future sustainable development, tourism and biodiversity projects.
- To date, data has been collected and analysed from 16 villages, encompassing: family and clan history; identity; community concerns; and local level government boundaries. An officer from the Department of Environment and Conservation presented the early results of the project at a Pacific Development Colloquium at the Australian National University in Canberra in January 2011.

#### Goal 3: The wise use and conservation of the catchment protection area, including the Kokoda Track and its natural and cultural resources and values.

The Department of Environment and Conservation, with the support of the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, has continued to build expertise in Geographic Information Systems and develop information systems, tools and databases which will lead to better land use information and planning in the region and protection of its natural resources and values.



"I know a little bit about keeping honeybees but I needed to learn how to set it up as a business and run it. This workshop helped me have a longer term look at outside markets. It's the first time we have had a workshop like this, the whole community is really interested."

Mark Inara, Naoro village



Top: Participants at a Livelihoods Project, Basic Business Workshop at Naoro Village  
Bottom: Villager from Naoro using a rice mill provided by the PNG National Agricultural Research Institute



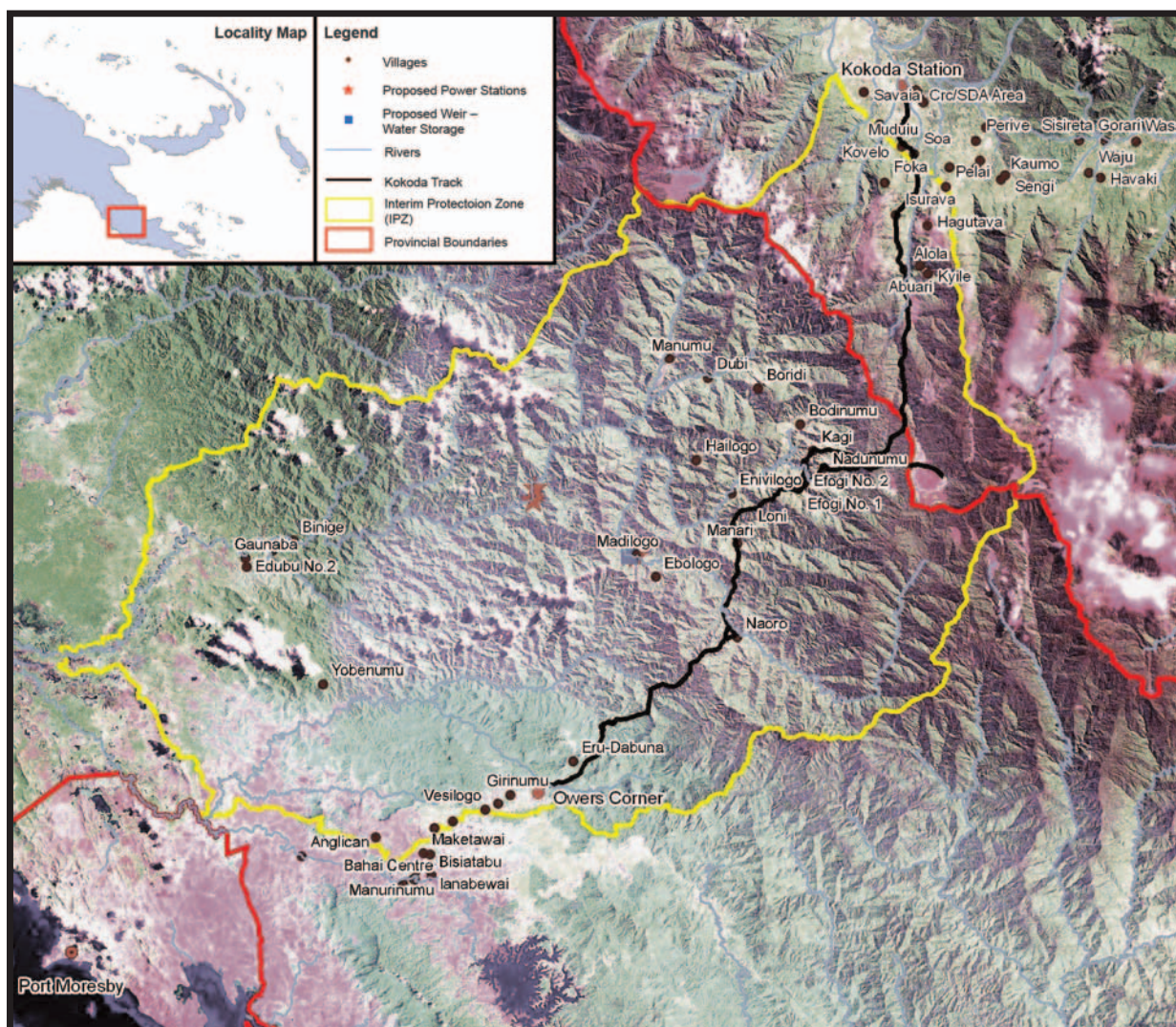


### Integrated Land Use Planning, spatial systems and databases

- Officers from the Department of Environment and Conservation completed advanced training in the use of specialised software, and consolidated skills working with the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities' Environmental Resources Information Network. The gathering of information will improve the quality of national datasets which will form a data library of the special values of the region.
- The Department of Environment and Conservation has engaged the Australian Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information to build a high resolution Digital Elevation Model and related spatial datasets including a land cover classification and biomass estimates for the region.

### Interim Protection Zone

- The Department of Environment and Conservation's advanced spatial systems and expertise were used to identify an Interim Protection Zone for future legal protection of the Brown River Catchment and the Kokoda Track region. The Department of Environment and Conservation subsequently led whole of government negotiations through the National Taskforce to establish the Interim Protection Zone. The Interim Protection Zone encompasses priority catchments for future hydropower and water supplies for Port Moresby.





### Future hydropower development in the Brown River Catchment

- The Department of Environment and Conservation worked collaboratively with Papua New Guinea Power to facilitate a feasibility analysis of future hydropower development options for the Brown River Catchment. The study was completed in 2010 and will provide a basis for whole of government land use planning decisions for development of the catchment and protection of its key assets.

### Global Environment Facility funding

- The Department of Environment and Conservation was awarded funding from the United Nations Development Program's Global Environment Facility for a major program of protection of terrestrial biodiversity including in the Owen Stanley Ranges and Kokoda Track region. This important five-year program will be implemented by the Department of Environment and Conservation in collaboration with the Kokoda Initiative and will contribute to outcomes consistent with its goals.
- The major areas of complementary focus between the Kokoda Initiative and the Global Environment Facility program include: creating an enabling environment for sustainable financing of protected areas; creating mechanisms for identifying and establishing protected areas; the development of management plans with local communities; and community based capacity building.

### Goal 4: Building national and international tourism potential of the Owen Stanley Ranges and Kokoda Track region, supported by a possible future World Heritage Nomination.

The Department of Environment and Conservation has been working closely with Initiative partners and experts to identify the key values of the region and work towards protection of these values, and strategies for promotion.

### Heritage conservation

- The Papua New Guinea National (World) Heritage Committee and Secretariat located within the Department of Environment and Conservation held their first meeting in 2010. The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities supported this process through its World Heritage and Protected Area advisor to the Department of Environment and Conservation who assisted in the establishment and running of the Secretariat and its first committee meeting.
- A desktop study of outstanding natural heritage in the Owen Stanley Ranges Region including the Kokoda Track was completed by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities' World Heritage and Protected Area advisor working in collaboration with Department of Environment and Conservation. This study will provide the basis for a feasibility analysis for a possible World Heritage nomination by the Papua New Guinea Government.

### Kokoda Track and Owen Stanley Ranges Regional Tourism Strategy

- A framework outlining tourism opportunities in the region was completed in March 2011 and is being used as the basis for the development of a Regional Tourism Strategy.



Credit Volker Scholz





Livelihoods Community Consultation meeting at Alola February 2011



- A Tourism Steering Committee chaired by the Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority was established. It includes representatives from the Kokoda Track Authority, the Department of Environment and Conservation, Provincial government, the Australian Department of Resource, Energy and Tourism and the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.
- Biannual pre and post trekking season Trek Operator forums were held in Port Moresby and Brisbane to present progress on works programs and engage operators, landowners and Government in track management decisions.
- The Tourism Roadshow 'The Last Frontier', hosted by the Tourism Promotion Authority, visited four cities – Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney and Cairns. The biannual annual event aims to create greater awareness of Papua New Guinea as a tourist destination and educate Australian travel agents on the range of travel opportunities and tourism infrastructure now in place.
- The Kokoda Track Authority Chief Executive Officer represented the Authority at the Roadshow to promote the Kokoda Track and explain efforts to create a safe and authentic trekking experience.

### Goal 5: Working with communities, landowners, industry and all levels of government to ensure that activities established under the Kokoda Initiative are sustained into the future.

Effective cooperation and collaboration between communities, landowners, industry and all levels of government is essential to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the Initiative. In 2010–11 a number of key activities were undertaken to enhance coordination between partners of the Initiative, maximise service delivery and build capacity to achieve the goals outlined in the Second Joint Understanding.

#### Implementation of the Second Joint Understanding

- A meeting of key partners was held in 2010 to develop a four-year program design to implement the Initiative with a focus on ongoing Papua New Guinea leadership and long-term sustainability. A draft program design is being considered by implementing partners.

#### Joint coordination and improved information sharing

- Both the Papua New Guinea and Australian governments have established national taskforces to coordinate agencies with responsibilities relevant to the Initiative. The Papua New Guinea National Taskforce oversees implementation of the Initiative in Papua New Guinea and is led by the Department of Environment and Conservation. The Australian Kokoda Taskforce is coordinated by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.
- A Papua New Guinea Program Management Committee was established in 2010 consisting of key Papua New Guinea agencies involved in the Initiative. The committee provides a monthly forum for joint discussion and decision making and oversees implementation of all activities for the Initiative. These meetings have created a strong information sharing culture amongst delivery partners and key stakeholders.



### Kokoda Initiative Stakeholder Forums

- In 2011 two stakeholder forums were held to strengthen relationships with key stakeholders and establish valuable partnerships. The Australian forum was held in Sydney on 9 March and the Papua New Guinea forum was held in Port Moresby on 27 May. The forums were attended by Papua New Guinea and Australian Government representatives, Ward Councillors, landowner representatives, tour operators, academics, veterans, military experts, and non-government organisations. The wide variety of stakeholders allowed for effective discussion of achievements, emerging issues and the ongoing sustainability of the program.

### Encouraging communication and information sharing between Initiative partners

- A Joint Communications Action Plan for the Kokoda Initiative outlining a clear strategy for proactive and effective communication with targeted key stakeholder groups was developed and is being implemented.
- The Second Joint Understanding has been translated and printed in English, Tok Pisin and Motu and along with other communications products such as factsheets and newspaper supplements have been widely used to better communicate the work of the Initiative.
- The Department of Environment and Conservation in collaboration with the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, has developed a quarterly newsletter publication, Kokoda Initiative Nius, with the first edition produced in-house and circulated to stakeholders in Papua New Guinea and Australia for the July–September 2011 quarter.
- Community notices known as ‘toksaves’, village VHF radio updates and regular patrols have encouraged two-way communication with communities and landowners.

### Capacity building within agencies

- The Department of Environment and Conservation’s organisational capacity has been strengthened through the recruitment of a Communications Officer in September 2010 with mentoring and assistance provided by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities’ Communications Officer based in Port Moresby.
- A number of short-term placements have been undertaken by executive and officer level staff from Department of Environment and Conservation and Kokoda Track Authority within Australian Government agencies. Placements have included capacity building in leadership development, people management, finance management, stakeholder engagement, social mapping analysis, project management and communication and negotiation skills. The placements have provided opportunities for the exchange of knowledge, skills and experience between Australian and Papua New Guinea counterparts and have provided a valuable contribution to the development of effective partnerships.
- A Leadership Training Program to support senior managers in Papua New Guinea responsible for implementation of the Initiative has been developed and is being delivered by an expert trainer contracted by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in close consultation with the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Kokoda Track Authority.



Credit Volker Scholz





# Next Steps



Kovelo Village. Credit Rawena Russell



The Second Joint Understanding continues until 2015 and the Papua New Guinea and Australian governments will continue to work in partnership to implement the Kokoda Initiative and achieve the shared vision and goals outlined in the agreement. In particular, work is expected to progress in the following areas throughout the remainder of 2011 and into 2012.

## Kokoda Development Program

- The Kokoda Development Program will work towards expanding the area and number of villages covered under the Program, including improving health facilities and providing health and education supplies to these new areas.
- Law and justice community programs, such as village courts and policing, are expected to commence.
- An agricultural program targeting food security and rehabilitation of cash crops is expected to commence.

## The Lost Battlefield of the Kokoda Track

- A full site survey was completed by the Lost Battlefield Trust in July 2011 with a full management and visitor plan to be finalised by early 2012. A good management strategy for this site is essential for its future in terms of conservation, tourism and social development for the local community. Any planning for this site will be developed in consultation with Kokoda Initiative partners, the Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery and landowners.

## Building capacity

- Training targeted to support leadership priorities and management needs of Papua New Guinea staff will be delivered via workshops and follow-up mentoring.
- Ongoing training of Kokoda Track Authority Rangers in collaboration with Parks Australia and other protected area agencies will be implemented through staff exchanges, in-country visits and technical support.

## Encouraging communications and information sharing between Initiative partners

- In October 2011 a short video documentary will be launched which includes interviews with health workers, teachers, Rangers, communities and local leaders involved in the Kokoda Initiative. The DVD and web clips are being produced by the University of Goroka in partnership with the Kokoda Initiative.





Credit Volker Scholz





### Catchment protection

- The Papua New Guinea Government will continue working towards formal protection of catchments in the Interim Protection Zone to secure Port Moresby's future power and water supplies.
- Formal protection is expected to be implemented in parallel with integrated land use planning to ensure sustainable development of catchment infrastructure and protection and management of key assets including heritage values.
- The Department of Environment and Conservation's proposed transition to a statutory authority responsible for conservation and environmental protection, and development of a new protected area policy framework consistent with sustainable development and customary land management, will support formal protection of the catchments.

### Continued work with philanthropic groups and industry to better target aid delivery

- Kokoda Initiative partners will continue to work with stakeholders to streamline the delivery of philanthropic activities along the Track, assisting a wide range of local communities and encouraging the direct participation of trekkers in the ongoing wellbeing of those along this iconic route.



Credit Volker Scholz



# Kokoda Initiative 2010–11 Expenditure

DEPARTMENTAL OPERATING BUDGET	2010–2011 Expenditure (AUD)
Employees	1,215,776
Suppliers	13,075
<i>Total Departmental Expenditure</i>	<i>1,228,851</i>
ADMINISTERED BUDGET	2010–2011 Expenditure (AUD)
Program development, bilateral meetings, special envoy fees, other consultants, travel and incidentals	410,765
Kokoda Track Authority Support	1,090,284
Grant to DEC to support protection projects	600,000
Grants to trust Account/Kokoda Track Authority	208,500
<i>Total Administered Expenditure</i>	<i>2,309,549</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,538,400</b>



Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel Day. Credit Australian High Commission



Credit Volker Scholz





# KOKODA INITIATIVE

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