

Australian Government

Kokoda Initiative Annual Report 2011–2012

The Kokoda Initiative is a partnership between
Papua New Guinea and Australia on the Owen Stanley Ranges,
Brown River Catchment and Kokoda Track Region



KOKODA INITIATIVE



Introduction



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

On 8 July 2010, the Second Joint Understanding between Papua New Guinea and Australia on the Owen Stanley Ranges, Brown River Catchment and the Kokoda Track Region (2010–2015) was agreed. The Kokoda Initiative implements activities under this agreement, bringing together a range of organisations to work together towards achieving the common 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 long relationship between the two countries – a bond that was born in a time of shared sacrifice and strengthened through mutual respect. Today, Papua New Guinea and Australia work together in strong partnership to deliver real, tangible outcomes for communities, landowners, trekkers and the future generations of the two countries.

Building on activities delivered under the first Joint Understanding signed in 2008, the Kokoda Initiative implements activities under the five Goals of the Second Joint Understanding:

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.

The Kokoda Initiative is a whole-of-government program, managed jointly through a specially mandated taskforce in each country. The two taskforces are chaired by the Papua New Guinea Department of Environment and Conservation and the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC). Under the leadership of these two agencies, this model of governance ensures an inclusive approach to management and program delivery, reflecting the unifying nature of the Kokoda story.

The year 2012 marks the 70th Anniversary of the war in the Pacific, including the campaigns along the Kokoda Track. The celebrations throughout this year commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of Papua New Guineans and Australians and provide an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the collaborative partnership that continues between the two countries today.

This Annual Report captures the outcomes delivered through partnership and cooperation for the period from 1 July 2011–30 June 2012. The core delivery agencies under the Kokoda Initiative include the PNG Department of Environment and Conservation, the Kokoda Track Authority, the Kokoda Development Program (AusAID), the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority and the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

Key Achievements 2011–12

The 2011–12 year has significantly progressed strategic planning for the final four years of the Kokoda Initiative. This planning has involved considerable development in the design of the program, with a specific focus on long term sustainability of all activities, services and assets delivered as part of the Initiative. This year also marks a shift to a Papua New Guinean led partnership, with Australia's role becoming one of support, advice and capacity building. The Initiative continues to progress activities under each of the five goals and the following report provides an overview of the year's key achievements.

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

Throughout 2011–12, the Initiative continued to prioritise the safety of all men, women and children who use the Kokoda Track by maintaining the effective operation of the Kokoda Track Authority and working with communities and tour operators to improve the Track, and ensure a safe experience for communities and visitors.

Effective operation of the Kokoda Track Authority

Support for the ongoing effective operation of the Kokoda Track Authority was provided by the Kokoda Initiative partners throughout 2011–12.

This included ongoing program activities to strengthen the organisational capacity of the Kokoda Track Authority, construction of additional infrastructure for the Kokoda Track Authority and continuing work placements for Kokoda Track Authority staff in Australia (discussed under Goal 5).

- Annual Management Treks continued in 2011–12, with Kokoda Track Authority staff -James Enage (Chief Executive Officer), Robert Batia (Training Officer) and Ruben Maleva (Chairman) – walking the length of the Track in late January 2012 to carry out consultations with communities. The visit provided an opportunity to explain future projects, answer questions and gather feedback from Track communities.
- Work on a Kokoda Track Authority office, shed and staff house in Kokoda Station was undertaken throughout 2011–12. The new office will be fully operational at the end of 2012. The adjacent shed houses the tractor-slasher, which is used to maintain the Kokoda airstrip. The Kokoda office will be used by Chairman Ruben Maleva and the new Kokoda ranger Ivan Itua. The staff house will be occupied by the Deputy Operations Manager. Maintenance of the Owers' Corner ranger's hut was completed in December 2011 by local villagers with the support of Kokoda Track Authority.
- Review of the Kokoda Track Authority continued over 2011–12, with local firm Sinton Spence undertaking audits and providing financial reporting training and assistance to the Kokoda Track Authority where required.



Kokoda Track Authority CEO, and Landowner representatives trek together for the 2012 Chairman's Trek. Credit Kokoda Track Authority





Top: Maintenance and safety upgrades at Kokoda Airstrip. Credit Alison Fleming
Bottom: Unexploded ordnance at Isurava. Credit Kokoda Track Authority

Working with communities and tour operators to improve the Track

Track conservation work continued throughout 2011–12, including under community Track maintenance agreements, annual track conservation work with expert supervision, and training of Kokoda Track Authority rangers in Track conservation.

- Track maintenance agreements continued with 18 village communities, with a 50 per cent increase in payments to each village from 2010–11 (from PGK 2,000 to PGK 3,000).
- Track conservation work along the length of the Kokoda Track was undertaken from July 2011 to April 2012 to make potentially risky sections of the Track safer, while maintaining the Track's authentic jungle experience. The Kokoda Track Authority led conservation work to clear fallen trees, construct and mend bridges, create drainage points to ease corrosion, revegetate damaged areas and assess areas for future work. Three bridges were constructed between Templeton and Isurava village with the support of an expert track builder. Eleven community workers from Ioribaiwa were employed by the Kokoda Track Authority in the building and repair of sections along the Track at Ioribaiwa and Ofi Creek. Quarterly ranger meetings chaired by Operations Manager Michael O'Kave provided updates, discussed Track management issues and delivered track conservation training.
- Revised Commercial Operations Licence Conditions came into effect on 31 March 2012. The changes introduce stronger safety measures, improved working conditions for trekking staff and robust environmental management requirements. An online permit system is due to go live in 2012–13.

Ensuring a safe experience for communities and visitors

In addition to the extensive track maintenance work led by the Kokoda Track Authority, additional measures were undertaken in 2011–12 to ensure a safer experience for locals and visitors.

- Kokoda Track Tour Operator Maps were produced and made available in July 2011.
- In October 2011, at the invitation of the Kokoda Track Authority, a team from the Australian Defence Force visited the Kokoda Track and Northern Beaches to locate and render safe WWII munitions and reduce the risk of Unexploded Ordinances. Prior to commencing removal, the Kokoda Track Authority raised awareness among communities of risks by issuing *toksaves* (community notices) and through Kokoda Track Authority rangers.
- Maintenance of the Kokoda airstrip has improved with the purchase of a new tractor/slasher and targeted training for an operator. The tractor/slasher was first put to work on the Kokoda Station airfield on October 2011 and has operated since that time to maintain the lengthened Kokoda airstrip.
- Basic first aid training was provided to 121 porters, guides and rangers and an additional 58 underwent further advanced training to reach wilderness-level certifications.

- Under the 2011–12 program of works there has been a continuation of Owers' Corner Road maintenance at an all-weather 2WD standard for the safety of trekkers and communities.
- Non-technical radio maintenance training was provided to Kokoda Track rangers in March 2012, and rangers have commenced non-technical radio maintenance checks.



Communities at work maintaining the crossing at Eora Creek. Credit Kokoda Track Authority



Newly constructed Kokoda Track Authority Office at Kokoda. Credit Alison Fleming



Ivan Itua, Isurava Village Ward Councillor and Kokoda Track Authority Ranger – Track Conservation Work 2012

With the increase in the number of trekkers, many sections of the Kokoda Track are experiencing a lot of 'wear and tear'.

The men and I from the Isurava community did conservation work along certain parts of the Track within our Ward. Under the advice and guidance of KTA we erected a bridge at a prominent river crossing and made drainage points and planted vegetation along the northern side of the Isurava memorial that was wearing away.

The maintenance of the Track is very important because we want our visitors and our people to be safe when they are walking along the Track. We also want visitors to experience the natural beauty of our place. The Kokoda Track is our home and our livelihood; we want to look after it because it looks after us.



(OWEN STANLEY RANGE)



Top: Supporting teacher training at elementary level in Kovelov Village. Credit Yumi Piksa
Bottom: Kokoda Memorial Hospital. Credit Yumi Piksa

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

Kokoda Development Program: Working to improve health and education for Track communities.

Education

During 2011–12 the Kokoda Development Program built on previous achievements, increasing school enrolments and improving education infrastructure for Track communities.

- Infrastructure work included construction of four double classrooms, a teacher's house and a training room at the Kokoda Vocational Skills Training Centre.
- A range of education related training was delivered to support teachers throughout the Kokoda region. Highlights include:
 - Support for 24 elementary teachers to attend provincial workshops to obtain their 'Certificate in Elementary Teaching/Trainer Directed Training';
 - Eleven teachers from primary schools along the Kokoda Track attended a refresher course in 'Diploma in Primary Education'; and
 - Sixty three individuals from 21 school boards in the Track region completed 'Roles and Responsibility' training.

Health

The Kokoda Development Program continued to make improvements to the delivery of health services in the Kokoda Track region through supply and installation of health equipment, as well as continuing health related training.

An overview of the key achievements is outlined below.

- Procurement of medical equipment to the value of K560,000 for health facilities in nine villages along the Track and installation of health radios at Naoro and Abuari.
- Continued support for Integrated Outreach Patrols – overnight foot patrols every six weeks originating from Kokoda, Efogi or Sogeri. These patrols support and improve immunisation, maternal and child health and access to early treatment as well as general health promotion and education.
- A range of health related training was undertaken including: "Emergency Management and Patient Care" for 12 health workers; general hospital training in the areas of maternal and child health, minor surgery and oral health; and tuberculosis treatment training for 30 participants.
- Improved workforce and succession planning for Kokoda Track Health facilities has been achieved through the Community Health Worker undergraduate program. Four students from Veifa'a School of Nursing College and St Margaret's nursing school graduated and commenced a 12 month post-graduate supervision program in Kokoda Track health facilities.

- The 'Village Health Volunteers' program continues to engage community members by providing training and support to complete health-related work to improve conditions in their villages including support for village health facilities. For 2011–12 this included activities such as:
 - Health and hygiene household surveys in villages, including 63 households surveyed across the Sogeri, Mt Koiari and Kokoda catchments; and
 - Village Health Volunteer training programs undertaken in *'Improved Health and Wellbeing'* in Hoi and Vesologo villages.
- HIV prevention awareness work continued, including activities such as:
 - Training for Village Health Volunteers to become 'Peer Educators' to work with their communities to educate about aspects of HIV, including reducing risky behaviours;
 - Improving access to preventive measures; and
 - Two health workers trained for Voluntary Counselling testing undertook clinical attachments and assessments in Port Moresby.

Livelihoods

Through the Kokoda Track Authority a program of livelihoods activities was finalised in September 2011, building on lessons learned from previous pilot projects. Activities in the work plan were designed to increase the capacity of Kokoda Track communities to generate income from tourism by adding value to the trekking experience. All proposals were developed in close consultation with communities.

In addition to these specific projects, the Kokoda Track Authority has continued to deliver tourism services payments to local villages from trek permit revenue and continued to train and contract local communities in the delivery of Track management and safety project activities. A new Livelihoods Program Officer, Hollen Mado, was recruited to the Kokoda Track Authority in March 2012.

- The Community Based Mentor Program continued this year, with 19 mentors operating in villages along the Track. These carefully selected mentors assisted village members to prepare for, and run, small business ventures, and reported to the Kokoda Track Authority on issues, progress and successes.
- The Livelihoods Program responded to requests from trekkers, tour operators and communities in providing basic physiotherapy training. Training sessions were held in Efogi from 9–14 May 2012. Each ward selected a male and a female representative to receive training in remedial treatment techniques, focusing on neck, shoulder and lower leg therapy. There are now 23 certified remedial therapists along the Kokoda Track. Due to the success of the first training, a second round of training at Kokoda is planned for communities in the northern areas of the Track.



Top: Village Health Workers and family at Efogi Village. Credit Yumi Piksa

Middle: Supporting maternal health at Kokoda. Credit Yumi Piksa

Bottom: Livelihoods Initiatives at Isurava. Credit Yumi Piksa



Social Mapping

Social mapping projects have continued this year, building on an extensive program of works undertaken in 2010–11. The PNG Department of Environment and Conservation continues to work closely with experts from the Australian National University and the University of PNG to develop an understanding of the genealogical make up and relative poverty of the communities within the Kokoda Initiative program area. This information helps to identify the men and women that need to be consulted regarding catchment protection plans.

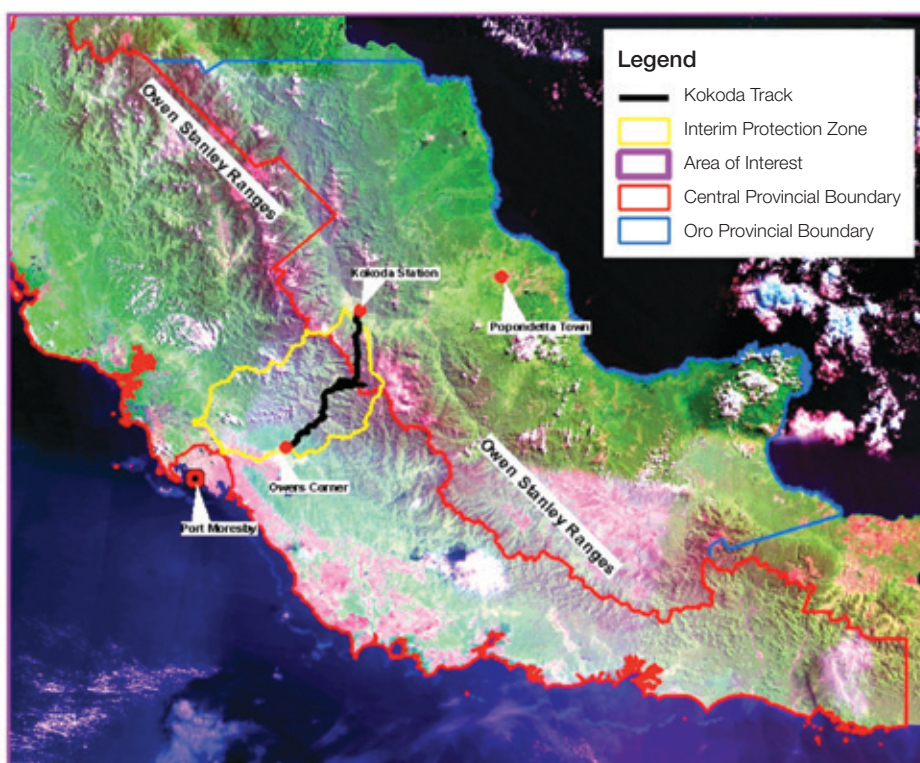
- Throughout 2011–12 data has been collated from an additional two villages, bringing the total to 18 villages and around 4000 people visited within the Koiari Local Level Government; both on and off the Track. An early finding of note is that around 75 per cent of residents or more live away from their villages of origin, many living in Port Moresby. The majority of the Koiari wards have now been mapped and future social mapping work will focus on obtaining information in the Kokoda wards.
- A Kokoda Initiative Social Mapping Workshop was held on 23–24 May 2012 in Canberra, Australia. Workshop participants included staff from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the PNG Department of Environment and Conservation, the Forest Research Institute, the University of Papua New Guinea, and the Australian National University. The purpose of the workshop was to examine the concept of social mapping in the communities of Papua New Guinea and review the efficiency and effectiveness of the current methodological approach as it applies to the outcomes of the Kokoda Initiative. The workshop helped plan future social mapping work in the Kokoda Initiative 'area of interest' and identified an archaeological scoping project, which subsequently started in October 2011.

Jackson Fred: Graduate; Community Health Worker Scholarship Program 2012

It was a relief for the people from the community to finally have a local becoming a health worker. They have been waiting for it to happen and it finally did.

As recently graduated health workers, we live and work in the community and try to assist them to live a healthy lifestyle. This is where we practice what we have learnt in the school. For water and sanitation; we dig wells and build toilets for most of the community members as they don't usually use a toilet. We also train them to look after themselves in terms of hygiene and we assist in safe motherhood activities. We give health talks on family planning and looking at the needs of pregnant mother.

Prior to Kokoda Development Program coming in to Mt. Koiari area, health services were poor. Now, services have improved a lot. We have also benefitted in many ways. I am proud and grateful for this opportunity.



PNG Department of Environment and Conservation

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 PNG Department of Environment and Conservation has made significant progress under this Goal, investing in activities that provide a strong foundation for effective management and protection of the Brown River Catchment. Key achievements include forging strong partnerships with institutions including Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and Parks Australia, to support a biodiversity capture and collection program and to continue capacity building and training in the areas of spatial and social mapping and archaeology.

Catchment Protection

A NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA POLICY FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA

On 18 January 2012, the Department of Environment and Conservation released a discussion paper for a policy to develop a National Protected Areas System in Papua New Guinea. A series of workshops followed in Goroka, Kokopo, Madang and Port Moresby to provide a platform for the department to engage in detailed discussions with interested individuals and organisations. This policy paper is a vital step towards ensuring better sustainable protection of areas including the Owen Stanley Ranges, Brown River Catchment and Kokoda Track Region. The policy paper outlines the important aim of gaining support from landowners for environmental protection through payment for ecosystems services, either through service delivery or support for economic development.



Top: Frederick Ohama working on land classification of the Area of Interest. Credit Pauline Riman
Bottom: Graeme Beech



In an opening statement in the Protected Areas Policy discussion paper, the then Minister for Environment and Conservation, the Hon. Thompson Harokaq'veh MP, stated that *'the greatest impediment to protecting biodiversity in PNG is the lack of sustainable financing for protected areas. Landowners cannot be expected to give up rights over areas of land or water without seeing benefits. Protected areas need to be seen as an alternative development option to resource developments. Only then will we see support for their establishment'*.

SPATIAL MAPPING

The Department of Environment and Conservation has been working closely with the Australian Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information, supporting and improving the technical skills of officers, and building important data sets and maps that are essential for effective future management of the region. In September 2011 a team of officers undertook extensive fieldwork across the Brown River Catchment area. The field work was designed to collect data to improve the accuracy of the land cover classification and carry out aboveground biomass sampling work to estimate forest carbon of the project area.

Values Identification

- Since June 2011, DSEWPaC has been supporting the "Lost Battlefields Project." The vision of this project was "to keep the site as a living battlefield and as a safe and traditional place for locals." Completed in March 2012, the project included an archaeological investigation with extensive community consultation and scoped a future oral history project near the site.
- DSEWPaC organised a stakeholder forum in Sydney in March 2012 which attracted representatives from academia, the tour industry, government and philanthropic organisations. The forum focused on the values (cultural, natural and military) of the Kokoda experience and engaged participants on the development of an interpretation plan for the Track.
- In relation to the recognition and promotion of the special values of the region, in June 2012 DSEWPaC engaged a consultant 'Geoscene International' to undertake a scoping study for interpretation planning for the heritage values of the region. This study involved extensive consultation with Kokoda Initiative stakeholders and will be completed shortly.

Malcolm Keako, Senior Program Officer – Department of Environment and Conservation.

I am a GIS officer working with the Spatial Mapping Project undertaking work to provide detailed land cover information to support land use planning of the whole of the Kokoda Initiative region. The most interesting part of my job is being outside among the elements to verify data acquired from Radar (satellite imagery) – checking its accuracy in the assessment of Land Cover.

I enjoy seeing the map refined with the data that I have collected. It is like seeing a map transform into a much clearer image. It provides a wealth of information that will benefit many of our programs. Access to our sample sites is really challenging particularly due to the lack of roads and the availability of flights into the area. For some areas in high terrain, trekking is really the only option.

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:

During 2011–12 the Kokoda Initiative has increased the focus on building the national and international tourism potential of the region by strengthening capacity of local operators through conferences and field trips and tourism training targeted for Track communities. In partnership with the Tourism Promotion Authority, a series of key planning and strategic documents have been developed for release in early 2013, including a Portfolio of Opportunities for potential investors.

- The Kokoda Initiative supported representatives from PNG, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands to attend the inaugural Pacific Asia Indigenous Tourism Conference in Darwin in March 2012. The conference focused on sharing knowledge about Indigenous tourism business development and the role of tourism in Indigenous advancement and cultural preservation. Participants had opportunities to be exposed to outstanding and relevant examples of Indigenous cultural and natural heritage tourism in Australia and to strengthen their networks. A 3-day fieldtrip was also organised for participants to Kakadu National Park and the Tiwi Islands to demonstrate Indigenous tourism products in Australia – with a focus on small-scale and community based cultural heritage tourism products. This was augmented by a half day workshop to reflect on lessons learned.
- The Kokoda Track Authority worked with the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority to develop a Kokoda Track Region Action Plan. This planning document builds on the Kokoda Tourism Framework developed in previous years, collates the tourism priorities of the Tourism Promotion Authority, Department of Environment and Conservation and Provincial Governments, and identifies priority actions for immediate investment and implementation.
- The Kokoda Track Authority commissioned research into the economic value of trekking to the local and PNG economy. Completed in March 2012, the research report provides an important baseline and understanding of the distribution of profit from the trekking industry. Copies of the report are available on the Kokoda Track Authority website at http://www.kokodaTrackauthority.org/kokoda-Track-authority/economic-significance-of-trekking-kokoda-Track_idl=1_idt=1259_id=5937_.html
- Guesthouse certification training was carried out from 17–24 May 2012. This included three training sessions in Efogi, Manari and Kokoda in preparation for the 2013 launch of the Kokoda Track Authority Guesthouse Certification program. A total of 57 guesthouse owners participated in the training. The Guesthouse Certification program consists of independent assessments of campsites, trekkers' huts, guesthouses and lodges against a set of criteria. The program is a mechanism to upgrade and improve guest house services along the Track.
- Tour Operator Forums were held biannually at the beginning and end of the 2011–12 trekker season in Port Moresby and Australia. Kokoda Track Authority Tour Operator Forums were held in October 2011 in Port Moresby and Brisbane and in March 2012 in Port Moresby and Sydney. Over 50 participants attended the March Tour Operator Forum.



Top: Kokoda Track Authority Operations Manager and Safety Project Officer view the new Trekker Maps. Credit Kokoda Track Authority

Bottom: PNG Participants of the Pacific Asia Indigenous Tourism Conference admire Ubirr Rock on a field trip to Kakadu. Credit Alison Fleming



Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel Day Celebrations at Kokoda 2011. Credit Rawena Russell

- Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels' Day is a nationally gazetted day in Papua New Guinea to commemorate the 50,000 Papua New Guineans who aided Australian troops during World War II. Celebrated on the anniversary of the Battle of Kokoda, Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels' Day provides an opportunity for Papua New Guineans and Australian's to remember their shared sacrifice and celebrate the mateship and mutual respect that continues between the two countries today. The Kokoda Track Authority supported the Kokoda Station community's commemorations of Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels' Day on 2 November 2012.
- A final draft of a desktop scoping study to identify potentially outstanding heritage values of the region was completed in October 2011. It highlighted areas with natural heritage values of likely international significance and with the potential to justify a World Heritage nomination. The study also identified data deficiencies, significant gaps in knowledge and uncertainties associated with currently-available information that need to be addressed to assess the outstanding universal value of the region. This information will be crucial for any possible future World Heritage nomination.



Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel Day Celebrations at Kokoda 2011. Credit Rawena Russell



Credit Alison Fleming

Muriel Gerari Kokoda Carriers Trekking Pty Ltd

I was one of three Kokoda Tour operators supported by the Kokoda Initiative to attend the Pacific Asia Indigenous Conference in Darwin, March 2012. We learnt firsthand the way Indigenous tourism operates in Australia, particularly seeing the way it is possible to develop tourism products which both bring benefit to the communities but can help protect cultural sites. Trips such as these build important professional networks and assist in developing a better understanding of how to promote and protect indigenous tourism in PNG.

I believe that tourism is the way forward for the people living along the famous Kokoda Track Corridor right down to the Northern Beaches of Oro Province. Local tour operators are ambassadors for our culture: we must be proud of our culture – it is our legacy and we must promote it.

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

Goal 5 of the Second Joint Understanding details the ways in which the Kokoda Initiative partner agencies aim to implement activities. It recognises the importance of effective collaboration and cooperation between a broad range of stakeholders to ensure the success and sustainability of the Kokoda Initiative. Particular efforts in this area in 2011–12 included:

- building capacity of PNG-based agencies and partners to manage and implement activities; and
- strategic planning and program design to ensure activities are responsive to the needs of the region, enabling programs to have a lasting influence on the vision of sustainable development of the Kokoda Track and Owen Stanley Ranges Region.

Joint Planning Meetings

Joint planning meetings are an important strategic event in the calendar of the Kokoda Initiative. In November 2011, the Department of Environment and Conservation as chair of the Taskforce in PNG, hosted a planning meeting in Port Moresby. During five days of strategic discussion, partner agencies were able to establish key priorities for the next six months, and to focus on policy areas such as program sustainability. During the meeting the then Secretary, Department of Environment and Conservation Dr Wari Iamo and Deputy Secretary of DSEWPaC, Ms Kimberley Dripps, signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the two departments for continued cooperation on environmental matters, of which the Kokoda Initiative is a key element. A second joint planning meeting was held in Canberra in July 2012.

Leadership Management Training

An extensive program of leadership training was delivered during 2011–12. This successful program involved senior management from all PNG-based Kokoda Initiative partner agencies and the program advisers. Training was delivered in three modules and included tailored leadership and management training, joint adviser/counterpart training and practical leadership and management skills. The final phase of the leadership training was a trek from Efogi to Menari, allowing senior managers to meet with communities and continue discussions from earlier training sessions in the context of the Track environment. The key to success of this program is that it followed an iterative process with reflection after each phase from both the consultant and the participants. Individual work plans have been developed for each of the eight participants.



DSEWPaC Deputy Secretary Kimberley Dripps shakes hands with the former Secretary of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Dr Wari Iamo on the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two departments. Credit Pauline Riman



Top: PNG Department of Conservation staff view collections at CSIRO in Canberra. Credit Maggie Turnbull

Bottom: Yumi Piksa Film Crew interview Ranger Nuxie for the "One Journey, Many Stories" Documentary. Credit Yumi Piksa.



Communities. Credit Yumi Piksa

Work Exchanges

Supporting staff exchanges between Australia and Papua New Guinea is an important part of program delivery. These exchanges provide opportunities for staff to improve their capacity in delivering the program, as well as to strengthen relationships between the two countries.

- James Enage (Chief Executive Officer of the Kokoda Track Authority) visited Canberra, Australia in mid 2011 to strengthen working relationships with the Kokoda Initiative agencies in Australia, build leadership skills and learn about Australian Government funding processes and systems.
- In early 2012, Michael O'Kave, Kokoda Track Authority Operations Manager spent time with staff in Canberra building a better understanding of funding systems and processes, as well reporting and risk management.
- Six staff from PNG Department of Environment and Conservation and one officer from the PNG Forestry Research Institute were hosted by DSEWPac from late April to early June. PNG staff worked with CSIRO, the Australian National University, the Australian National Botanical Gardens, the Atlas of Living Australia and other agencies including within DSEWPac to further understand the biodiversity collections held in Australian agencies, spatial mapping capabilities and potential support for future works. The PNG staff also attended the Social Mapping Workshop in May 2012.

Forums and Events

Through the Kokoda Initiative events and forums have been successfully used to engage with a wide range of stakeholders both in Australia and PNG.

- The Kokoda Track Authority and Tourism Promotion Authority held pre-season Tour Operator Forums in Port Moresby and Sydney in March 2012.
- In early 2012, the Kokoda Initiative launched a DVD, "One Journey, Many Stories". The DVD presents stories about the many people involved in the Kokoda Initiative. During recording, the filmmakers involved the Track communities in a way that inspired storytelling, providing insight into their way of life and how they have been involved or influenced by the Kokoda Initiative. Government officers, health workers, school teachers, rangers and community leaders are interviewed in different film clips and share their stories about the work being delivered in the region. The clip can be viewed online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufpBSBFKt-M&feature=plcp>.

Stella Harika Kokoda Women's Development Association; Women's leadership training.

I am from Ward 4 in the Kokoda LLG. We have 6 Ward associations which are made up of 22 women's groups. In total we have 80 members. The women they sew and cook. Along the Track, we are sharing our own resources and skills to make this group stronger.

In this leadership workshop we are emphasising on women to come out and we are looking for good quality leaders. Hopefully the fruit of this program we are conducting will come out in the 2012 election in the Kokoda Local Level Government Council.



Orokaivan Dancers from the Kamondo Cultural Group
at Kokoda. Credit Alison Fleming

Kokoda Initiative 2011–2012 Expenditure

Australian Government Funding 2011–12

	AUD	Converted to PGK
Program development and implementation	571,428	1,222,661
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and stakeholder engagement • Tourism support projects • World Heritage activities • Twinning, partnerships and counterpart training • Automatic Weather Station, Kokoda airstrip 		
Capacity building and adviser support to the Kokoda Track Authority	270,352	578,461
Capacity building and adviser support to the PNG Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC)	537,712	1,150,521
Grants to DEC (Imprest Account) for PNG Government expenditure on agreed activities for the following priorities:	150,000	320,949
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and legal framework • Social Mapping • Management and Protection • Spatial Systems Development • Benefit Streams • Heritage Values Identification • Program Development • Communications Strategy • Landowner and Community Engagement 		
Grants to the Kokoda Track Authority	1,409,410	3,015,658
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational support • Safety activities • Livelihoods 		
Operating expenditure	1,423,516	3,045,840
Total Expenditure	4,362,418	9,334,091

PNG Partner Funding

Kokoda Track Authority (2011–12)

	PGK	Converted to AUD
Trek Fee Income	857,910	400,956
• Local trekkers: 9,320		
• Overseas trekkers: 848,590		
Licence Fee income	1,600	748
First Aid Training Course Fees	12,810	5,987
Total	872,320	407,691

PNG Department of Environment and Conservation 2011*

	PGK	Converted to AUD
Travel and Subsistence Expenses	170,000	79,452
Operational Materials and Supplies	122,000	57,018
Transport and Fuel	65,000	30,379
Administrative Consultative Fees	958,000	447,735
Other Operational Expenses	240,000	112,167
Grants and transfers	400,000	186,946
Furniture and office equipment	45,000	21,031
Staff Remuneration	350,000	163,577
Total	2,350,000	1,098,305

*Figures not yet available for the 2011–12 financial year – DEC accounts by calendar year

PNG Tourism Promotion Authority 2011–12

	PGK	Converted to AUD
Venue hire for Tour operators conference Port Moresby (October 2011)	3,656	1,708
Total	3,656	1,708

Note – exchange rates calculated as per rates at 2/11/2012 (1AUD = 2.13966 PGK, or 1PGK= 0.467364AUD)

Kokoda Development Program

	PGK	AUD
Infrastructure	552,815	258,366
Capacity building	442,396	206,760
Procurement	200,540	93,725
Community and public health (including HIV)	387,657	181,177
Remote service delivery review	247,465	115,656
Staff office costs and management	1,123,523	525,094
Total Expenditure	2,954,395	1,380,778



Credit Yumi Piksa

Conclusion

The 70th anniversary year of the World War II campaigns in the Kokoda Track region is an important reminder of what drives this program. We are inspired by our shared history to work together towards achieving sustainable development and improving the quality of life for men, women and children in the region, while celebrating the unique values that attract thousands of tourists every year.

The next 12 months of the Kokoda Initiative provide opportunities to consolidate activities, particularly in areas of social and spatial mapping, and to translate research findings into action. The ongoing commitment shown by the governments of Papua New Guinea and Australia ensures that the Initiative continues to work towards achieving the goals of the Second Joint Understanding.



Sing sing groups commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the World War II Campaigns along the Kokoda Track 2012.
Credit Kokoda Track Authority



Leadership Management Trek.
Credit Graeme Beech





KOKODA INITIATIVE

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