

**Australian Government**

# **Kokoda Initiative**

## **Annual Report 2012–13**

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

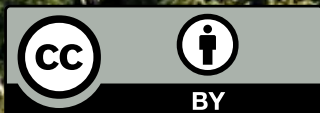


# KOKODA INITIATIVE





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# Executive summary



This annual report provides an overview of the key outcomes delivered under the Kokoda Initiative for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. The Second Joint Understanding 2010–2015 of the Kokoda Initiative provides the overarching vision under which the initiative partners work and sets out five clearly defined goals. Work carried out to meet these goals is undertaken in a manner that will continue to be sustainable after the Second Joint Understanding expires at the end of 2015.

The delivery of outcomes in 2012–13 has been achieved through the partnership of key agencies from Australia and Papua New Guinea in cooperation with a number of key stakeholders. These are:

- PNG Central and Northern Provincial Administrations
- PNG National Museum and Art Gallery
- landowners and communities living in the region, especially along the Kokoda Track
- tour operators and trekkers
- charity groups and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)
- the Returned Services League (RSL)

Activities carried out in this reporting period include:

- ongoing maintenance of the Kokoda Track in partnership with local communities to provide a safe environment for track communities and trekkers
- delivery of health, education and infrastructure services to track communities
- continued mentoring for local community members to assist in the creation of long-term livelihood opportunities
- continued progress on the long-term conservation and wise use of the Kokoda Track and its cultural, natural and military values through scientific studies and development of management strategies
- increasing capacity of initiative partners through work exchanges, reciprocal visits and cooperative work practices to ensure the long-term sustainability of Kokoda Initiative outcomes

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



Senior Kokoda Initiative staff Kimberley Dripps and Kay Kalim (centre) with children from Alola Primary School

The upcoming 12 months of the Kokoda Initiative will see the delivery of a number of projects that will continue to enhance trekker experiences and improve the livelihoods of local residents in the Owen Stanley Ranges. In addition the implementation of a number of strategic management systems and processes will ensure continued success of initiative programs after the Second Joint Understanding draws to an end. The ongoing commitment shown by the governments of Papua New Guinea and Australia will ensure that the initiative continues to work towards achieving the goals of the Second Joint Understanding and building closer ties between the two nations.





# Acronyms



AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
DE	Australian Department of the Environment (formerly Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities – DSEWPaC)
DEC	PNG Department of Environment and Conservation
DFAT	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DNPM	PNG Department of National Planning and Monitoring
DPLGA	PNG Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs
DVA	Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IPZ	Interim Protection Zone
JU	First Joint Understanding 2008 between Papua New Guinea and Australia on the Kokoda Track and Owen Stanley Ranges
JU2	Second Joint Understanding 2010–2015 between Papua New Guinea and Australia on the Owen Stanley Ranges, Brown River Catchment and Kokoda Track Region
KDP	Kokoda Development Program
KTA	Kokoda Track Authority
KTF	Kokoda Track Foundation
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NMAG	Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery
PNG	Papua New Guinea
RET	Australian Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism
TPA	PNG Tourism Promotion Authority
WHMD	Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division (Department of the Environment)

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cooperation between  
Papua New Guinea  
and Australia

# Kokoda – our shared interests



The Kokoda Track is one of the vital battlegrounds of the Second World War. The second half of 1942 saw some of the bloodiest fighting of the war as the Australians sought to stem the Japanese advance across the PNG mainland. Wracked by disease, fatigue and jungle infections, the wounded soldiers relied heavily on support from the local communities. Through dense rainforest, 'Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels' guided Australian troops in an act of dedication and courage that helped to protect our region during wartime. Today the Kokoda Track symbolises the lasting bond of friendship and mutual understanding between the people of Papua New Guinea and Australia.

The past decade has seen an increase in the number of Australians visiting the Kokoda Track, bringing significant economic opportunities for the track's communities and transforming it into one of Papua New Guinea's premier tourism destinations. This reflects the existence of a generation of Australians who recognise the track and the region's historic significance, its exceptional biodiversity and natural landscape, and the unique experience it offers in connecting the people and cultures of Papua New Guinea and Australia. The Owen Stanley Ranges, within which the track is located, includes the critically important Brown River catchment, which has been identified as a potential source of clean water and energy for the rapidly growing national capital, Port Moresby.

Recognising the special values of the track and the catchment area, as well as the pressure on these values from higher levels of use by trekkers and potential alternative land uses such as mining and forestry, the PNG and Australian governments are working closely together to promote the sustainable development of the area and preserve its important natural resources and military heritage values.

Through the Kokoda Initiative, established in April 2008, the PNG Government has made strong progress in defining a broad area of interest for the initiative and an interim protection zone (IPZ) (see images page 7). The IPZ provides a focus for the interests in the area and the management of competing land uses. It is a useful mechanism for protecting the core values of the Brown River catchment area and helps to assure the long-term protection of the Kokoda Track. However, the area of interest of the Kokoda Initiative is broader than the identified IPZ. The wider Owen Stanley Ranges region – already placed on Papua New Guinea's Tentative List under the UNESCO World Heritage

Convention – provides significant opportunities in areas such as tourism, and full World Heritage listing is a possibility. In the next two and a half years the Kokoda Initiative will continue to investigate the natural, cultural and historic values in this broader area while at the same time exploring sustainable economic opportunities for the communities in the region. This may result in an extended protected area requiring careful and strategic integrated land use planning.

The Kokoda Track and Owen Stanley Ranges region is proving to be a very successful pilot area for the PNG and Australian governments to demonstrate how a balance between the competing pressures of development and protection can be achieved for the long-term benefit of all Papua New Guineans. The Kokoda Initiative has also developed models within PNG for collaboration on the delivery of basic services, the development of economic opportunities, the managed growth of sustainable tourism, integrated land use planning and sustained cooperation between the PNG and Australian governments. Both governments are committed to working together to ensure that the Kokoda Track and broader Owen Stanley Ranges region retain their special qualities while also making a significant contribution to PNG's long-term sustainable development.

The Kokoda Initiative brings together a range of Papua New Guinean and Australian stakeholders, including all levels of PNG government, local communities and landowners, the tourism industry and non-government organisations to support the wise use and economic development of the region and the protection of its special values.



Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel Raphael Oimbari leading Australian soldier Private George 'Dick' Whittington to a field hospital (1942)



# The Kokoda Initiative



On 8 July 2010 the Second Joint Understanding between Papua New Guinea and Australia on the Owen Stanley Ranges, Brown River Catchment and Kokoda Track Region 2010–2015 was agreed. Activities implemented under the agreement bring together a range of organisations to work towards achieving this common vision:

*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. These goals are:

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 the Environment. Under the leadership of the two agencies, this governance model ensures an inclusive approach to management and program delivery, reflecting the unifying nature of the Kokoda story.



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# Area of interest



The Kokoda Initiative Area of Interest is subject to a broad assessment of natural, cultural and historic values within which a sustainable development management plan will be developed. This plan will include a regional tourism strategy, along with other potential economic development opportunities. The outcome of this process may result in a recommendation for World Heritage nomination highlighting the outstanding universal values in the region, thereby enhancing the tourism potential as the global significance of the Owen Stanley Ranges becomes internationally recognised.



Kokoda Initiative Area of Interest

The interim protection zone (IPZ) – identified by the orange line on the map (see below) – represents the core area for possible legal protection of the Brown River catchment area and most of the Kokoda Track. The IPZ incorporates the Brown, Naoro and Goldie Rivers – the priority areas in Central Province – for future development of hydro power and water supply for Port Moresby. It extends into Northern Province to provide a buffer zone that protects the historic values of the Kokoda Track to maintain its potential as PNG's premier land-based tourist destination.



Kokoda Track Interim Protection Zone



# Partners and stakeholders



The following is a list of key partners and stakeholders delivering the Kokoda Initiative.

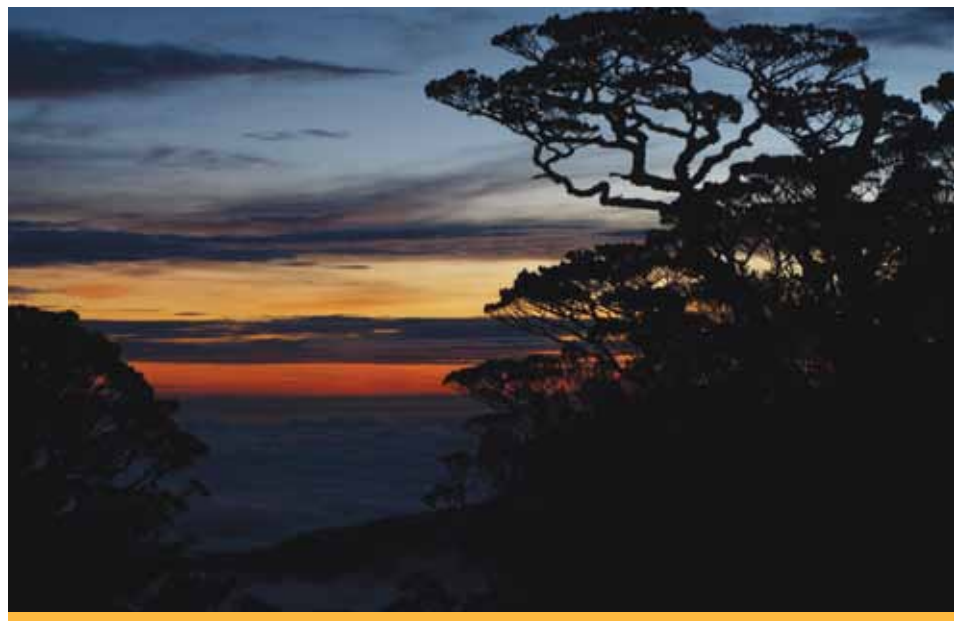
## GOVERNMENT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA PARTNERS

**Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC):** DEC is the lead PNG agency for the Kokoda Initiative and is the secretariat for the PNG Kokoda Initiative Taskforce as mandated by the PNG National Executive Council. DEC's mission is 'To ensure our natural resources are managed to sustain environmental quality, human wellbeing and support improved standards of living', supporting the vision of the Second Joint Understanding (JU2).

**Kokoda Track Authority (KTA):** The KTA is a special purposes authority commissioned to promote and manage the Kokoda Track for tourists while improving the lives of communities living along the track through funding and development programs. The KTA is charged with preserving the legacy of the track, promoting trekking and tourism, administering revenue from trekking, supervising track-related projects and consulting with landowners on their needs and priorities.

**Tourism Promotion Authority (TPA):** The TPA is a statutory body responsible for marketing PNG as a desirable tourist destination. Its mission is to enhance the development, marketing and sustainability of PNG Tourism in partnership with industry, government and community. The TPA is responsible for marketing the Kokoda Track as a premier trekking destination and is involved in strategic development of tourism in the Kokoda Track and Owen Stanley Ranges region, which includes capacity building and training for local tourism businesses.

**Provincial administrations:** The interim protection zone identified in the Kokoda Initiative falls within the Northern Province and Central Province. The two provincial administrations are responsible for developing and implementing their



Nothofagus sunset from Mt Victoria

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corporate and five-year development plans in response to a wide range of influences, including the Kokoda Initiative. These administrations work closely with the national agencies to ensure Kokoda Initiative planning is integrated within provincial planning processes and available resourcing.

**Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs (DPLGA):** DPLGA's main function is to provide effective liaison with and coordination of assistance to provincial and local administrations. It coordinates and monitors national policies implemented at provincial levels and also coordinates capacity building for provinces.

**Department of National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM):** DNPM has the primary role in development planning and administering the development budget. PNG funding for the Kokoda Initiative is administered through DNPM, which also monitors the expenditure of funds and the effectiveness of activities.

**Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery (NMAG):** NMAG is PNG's custodian of national historic and cultural heritage collections, and provides a cultural focal point for the Kokoda Initiative. NMAG administers the national legislation protecting World War II military artefacts and houses the modern history collection, which includes objects from the Kokoda campaign.

## GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA PARTNERS

**Department of the Environment (DE):** DE is the lead Australian agency for the Kokoda Initiative. Its International Heritage Section (Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division) undertakes the secretariat role for the Australian Kokoda Initiative Taskforce. DE's contribution to achieving the outcomes of the Kokoda Initiative is through strategic and deliberate building of PNG partner capacity and relationships as well as through its responsibility for heritage places, recognising the importance of the Kokoda Track as a place of heritage significance to Australians.

**Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID):** AusAID delivers the Kokoda Development Program, an element of the Kokoda Initiative, which supports the sustainable development of communities in the region through assistance to provincial administrations in basic service delivery in the areas

of education and health. AusAID funds the Australian component of the Kokoda Initiative through its development assistance program and ensures that it is aligned to Australia development priorities in Papua New Guinea.

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT):** DFAT provides foreign and trade policy advice and ensures that Australia's pursuit of its global, regional and bilateral interests is coordinated effectively. DFAT ensures that the Kokoda Initiative continues to actively contribute to Australia's bilateral relationship with PNG in accordance with foreign policy priorities.

**Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA):** DVA's mission is to support those who serve or have served in defence of Australia and to commemorate their service and sacrifice, along with management of war graves. DVA aims to protect the war history values of the Kokoda region through provision of expert advice and to assist the DE to manage stakeholder issues relating to war veterans.

**Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (RET):** RET provides advice and policy support to the Australian Government regarding Australia's resources, energy and tourism sectors. The Tourism Division of RET works towards enhancing international government-to-government relationships through a range of bilateral agreements and participation in multilateral fora. This involvement reflects the importance of tourism in international trade and global markets. RET provides advice to the Kokoda Initiative on tourism issues.

## IMPORTANT STAKEHOLDERS

The following stakeholders also contribute to the success of the Kokoda Initiative:

- landowners and communities in the region, especially along the Kokoda Track
- tour operators and trekkers
- charity groups
- the Returned Services League (RSL)
- non-government organisations.



# 2012–13: year in review



The Second Joint Understanding on the Owen Stanley Ranges, Brown River Catchment and Kokoda Track Region (JU2) specifies the vision, goals and objectives for the Kokoda Initiative. There are five concurrent and mutually reinforcing program goals. They are:

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.



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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.



This annual report captures the outcomes delivered through partnership and cooperation for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. The following sections highlight progress towards achieving these five goals and their associated outcomes throughout the year.



# Goal 1

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

The objectives associated with Goal 1 are:

- Further supporting and enhancing the Kokoda Track Authority's management of the track and trekking operations
- Working with local communities and tourism operators to improve the trekking experience and track facilities
- Working with regulatory authorities to improve safety for local communities living along the track and tourists visiting the region.

## ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2012–13

During the 2012–13 year, Kokoda Initiative partners continued to prioritise the safety of all people who use the Kokoda Track by maintaining the effective operation of the Kokoda Track Authority (KTA) and working with communities and tour operators to improve the track and the trekking adventure. This work has greatly assisted in ensuring a safe experience for communities and visitors.



Ruben Maleva (KTA Chairman) addressing a community meeting at Alola. KTA CEO James Enage is in the foreground. (Photo: Luke James)

## Effective operation of the Kokoda Track Authority

The Kokoda Initiative provided ongoing support throughout 2012–13 for the continued effective operation of the KTA. This included the funding and implementation of ongoing program activities to strengthen the organisational capacity of the KTA, including continuing work placements for KTA staff (discussed under Goal 5).

- The Annual KI Management Trek was held in February 2013, with representatives from Kokoda Initiative partners led by James Enage (CEO), Ruben Maleva (Chairman), and Robert Batia (Deputy Chairman) of the KTA.

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The trek provided a valuable opportunity for community consultation on matters of importance regarding the impact of trekking and community development opportunities, to increase awareness of KI activities and encourage a closer working relationship between KI partners.

- Improvements and upgrades to IT systems were undertaken to strengthen the KTA's ability to deliver services. A pilot database was developed to better manage information on the number and location of trekkers on the track at any one time. When fully developed this will enable the KTA to quickly locate particular people in times of emergency, and will assist with more effective management of trekker numbers at campsites along the track.



Removal of fallen trees is part of the track maintenance program (Photo: KTA)

### Working with local communities and tour operators to improve the track

Kokoda Initiative partners continued to ensure the safety of communities and trekkers who use the track by implementing a comprehensive maintenance program. The maintenance program quickly responded to emergency maintenance needs arising from landslides and tree falls, and oversaw the construction of safer crossings over the larger waterways.

- Track conservation work continued to be provided under community track maintenance agreements, longer term annual track conservation work programs, and the provision of training of KTA rangers in more effective track conservation.
- The number of track maintenance agreements with communities along the Kokoda Track increased from 18 in early 2012 to 24.

- A major track conservation program was completed along all 96 kilometres of the track from Owers' Corner to Kokoda under the supervision of the KTA rangers.
- Construction of a major cane bridge across Eora Creek was completed in February using local materials and technology dating back hundreds of years. This bridge provides a prototype for future bridges built by community members to improve the safety of creek crossings.
- Upgrades were undertaken to toilet facilities at Owers Corner and Depo.

### Ensuring a safe experience for communities and visitors

In addition to the extensive track maintenance work led by the KTA, a range of measures were undertaken in 2012–13 to ensure a safer experience for communities and visitors.

- The Kokoda airstrip continued to be maintained by local community members under the supervision of the KTA.
- Owers' Corner Road continued to be maintained to an all-weather two-wheel drive standard.
- Maintenance and upgrades of the radio system continued and new radios were purchased for Isurava War Memorial Park and Madilogo. A maintenance program for the radio system continues to be implemented.
- The KTA arranged for the training of 20 guides and porters in either basic emergency or remote area first aid.



A river crossing on the Annual Kokoda Initiative management track (Photo: KTA)



## LUCY MIRO

### Permits/Finance Officer

Lucy has worked at the Kokoda Track Authority since April 2013. Prior to this she worked as Deputy Finance and Administration Officer for the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme funded by the European Union.

As Permits Officer, Lucy is responsible for issuing licences and trekking permits to tour operators. Since joining the KTA, she has worked on the **Trekker Number Database System** (TNDS), which provides information on the number of trekkers on the track and their planned location on any particular day.

Data for the TNDS is collected mainly from the applications the KTA receives for trek permits. According to Lucy:



*The TNDS will enable KTA to provide tour operators with up-to-date, quick and easy information on the location and number of trekkers at any given date on the track. This information will assist tour operators in planning when and where to guide their groups on the track to avoid congestion and over-booking of campsites. The system will also improve safety of the track by providing accurate information on the location of groups to be used in times of emergency.*

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## INDIGENOUS ENGINEERING – THE STORY OF THE CANE BRIDGE



Indigenous engineering. The cane bridge at Eora Creek built by the Papuan Waria in the Northern Province is considered a demonstration of their character through their bridge-building skills.

The story of the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea can never be fully appreciated until you experience the local people and their skills. The cane bridge built by the Papuan Waria people in the Northern Province showcases indigenous engineering skill rarely found anywhere in Papua New Guinea.

The Waria tribal area covers the upper reaches of the Waria River and extends along the Kira in the Northern Province and across to Garaina in the Morobe Province to the north. Stories talk about Waria people and how their lifestyle is fused into nature and nurtured by the rich alluvial plain of the Waria River. They talk about the river that in ordinary times remains tame and harmless but in the wet season runs wild like a raging boar, causing destruction and misery to people and the surrounding areas.

I remember sitting in a meeting contemplating the latest technology on sustainable bridge building, which had become the subject of contested debate between the tour operators, the local people and the KTA, the custodian of the track. I remember one participant saying,

‘We need to preserve the authenticity of the track.’ Another agreed but asked ‘What about the 1942 World War II stories – how can we understand what the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels did to get the Diggers over the torturous rivers?’. There seemed little chance of consensus and no clear solution was apparent.

The cane bridge hanging proudly over the Eora Creek demonstrates the skills of the local indigenous people. It attracts and entices as it swings its belly across the fast flowing river, encouraging users to hang on. It is a unique experience for trekkers, coming face to face with the unique craftsmanship of the Papuan Waria cane bridge.

I had my taste of this spectacular bridge in February, crossing with a smile, knowing the local indigenous skills have found their rightful place in this beautiful, pristine environment showing its majesty towards gorgeous rainforest mountains. I wrote in my diary that evening, ‘Confirmed trustworthy.’

*By Michael O’Kave, Operations Manager,  
Kokoda Track Authority*



## Goal 2

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

The objectives associated with Goal 2 are:

- Continuing to sustainably improve the standard of health, education, water, sanitation and infrastructure services for communities along the track.
- Facilitating access to benefit streams, income generation and other community development projects for communities in the interim protection zone, including potential opportunities through development of renewable resources, particularly hydro power and water, forest carbon, and tourism.
- Enabling communities and landowners to manage development opportunities and income streams generated through this initiative.
- Nurturing the alliance between all levels of government, tourism operators and not-for-profit organisations to provide strong and coordinated support for the sustainable development of the region and the wellbeing of its people.

### ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2012–13

AusAID's Kokoda Development Program (KDP) focuses its activities on improving health and education services for track communities. This work is undertaken in conjunction with local communities, local and provincial governments and other Kokoda Initiative partners to ensure increased levels of service in this remote area of PNG. It aims for sustainable outcomes beyond the end of the JU2.

#### Health

The intention of the PNG Government's National Health Plan 2011–2020 is to transform the health system through 'strengthening primary health care for all and improved service delivery for the rural majority and urban disadvantaged'. Throughout the year the KDP continued to make improvements to the delivery of health services in the Kokoda Track region through the supply and installation of health infrastructure, as well as through the continued provision of health-related training. An overview of the key achievements is outlined below.

- Six staff houses at the Kokoda Health Centre were renovated.
- A staff house was constructed at the Abuari aid post; related buildings were also renovated.
- Substantial maintenance was carried out at the Kepara aid post.
- A new community health post was built at Naduri. Works commenced in October 2012 and the post was commissioned in June 2013.
- Health radios were procured and installed at the Naoro and Abuari Aid posts. Repairs and maintenance to existing radios were undertaken at Sogeri.



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- An additional 14 village health volunteers were trained and joined the Village Health Volunteers (VHV) program. This program continues to engage community members by providing health promotion/education and support to complete primary health care activities to improve health and wellbeing in their villages. For 2012–13 this included activities such as:
    - community-based health-related training, including home-based care
    - first aid training and refresher for 38 participants, including community leaders, village health volunteers and community health workers.
  - HIV prevention awareness work continued, including activities such as:
    - assessment and supervision of trained HIV health workers and VHV counsellors
    - increasing the number of voluntary counselling and testing counsellors at health facilities
    - support for ongoing training for HIV peer education
    - a workshop held in Sogeri with 18 representatives from across the track to explore strategies for a 2013 HIV prevention and behaviour change strategy
    - improved access to preventative health measures.
  - Two health workers trained for voluntary counselling testing undertook clinical attachments and assessments in Port Moresby.
  - Continued support was provided for the delivery of integrated outreach every six weeks through patrols. These patrols support and improve immunisation, maternal and child health and access to early treatment, as well as providing general health promotion and education.
  - Two health workers from Northern Province and the newly trained Sohe district village health volunteer coordinator were mentored on the VHV program. The KDP health adviser also mentored Oro provincial health office workers on the use of the new National Department of Health facility audit tool.
  - Health-related training was undertaken, including sessions on emergency management and patient care for 12 health workers at Kokoda General Hospital and on maternal and child health, minor surgery and oral health.
  - Clinical attachments were facilitated for the Naduri community health worker to Sogeri Health Centre, and two health workers from the Kokoda District Health Centre received additional training on maternal and child health, birthing, medicine, paediatric care and minor surgery.
  - A community health worker from Kokoda District Health Centre completed a clinical attachment to Popondetta General Hospital for an oral health program.
  - In partnership with the Hiri district health manager, the KDP provided two health workers on six-weekly rotations to maintain health services in the region.
  - Postgraduate supervision was provided for four students from Veifa'a School of Nursing College and St Margaret's nursing school in partnership with the Kokoda Track Foundation (KTF), which provided scholarships for the community health workers' training and salaries for their internships.
- ### Education
- During 2012–13 the Kokoda Development Program built on previous achievements, with the focus being on completing the first stage of its two-stage infrastructure program. School infrastructure development follows a community-based process, particularly in remote areas, where the KDP delivers basic materials to the site and the community takes responsibility for construction. Infrastructure work included:
- delivery of materials for a double classroom for Alola Elementary School – the KTF supported the community to complete one room of the double classroom
  - delivery of materials for double classrooms at Naduri – the KTF supported the community to complete one room of the double classroom
  - delivery of materials for double classrooms at Envilogo – the KTF supported the community to complete one room of the double classroom



- completion of a kit set double classroom for Kokoda Primary School – the classroom was provided by the Oro provincial administration and the KDP funded transportation to Kokoda and met construction costs
- completion of a kit set training room for the skills vocational training centre in Kokoda
- completion of renovations to some of the classrooms at the Kokoda Elementary School.

### Livelihoods

Through the KTA, a variety of facilitated training courses were provided throughout the year to the local track communities, helping to build capacity, expertise and confidence to carry out a broad range of livelihood and track management activities. These livelihoods activities are designed to increase the capacity of Kokoda Track communities to generate income from tourism by adding value to the trekking experience. All activities were developed and implemented in close consultation with communities.

- The number of community based mentors increased from 19 in the previous year to 22. These mentors provide valuable locally based advice on basic business management, bookkeeping and the identification of potential business opportunities.
- Twenty-five participants undertook refresher training in basic physiotherapy.
- Guesthouse audits were conducted at 87 sites along the track to ensure that local villagers are able to provide an appropriate standard of accommodation to trekkers. The auditors also provided suggestions for improvements to facilities in line with PNG national standards.
- Additional toilet facilities were provided by the KTA to 25 accredited guesthouses and campgrounds along the track.
- Basic financial management training was provided for a number of track communities.



Construction of a drying room for the Efogi primary school using timber from the milling process training

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## TIMBER MILL TRAINING

Timber mill training was conducted for six representative chainsaw mill operators on the track, with timber from the training used to construct a drying room for the Efogi primary school. The pilot drying room project is to be used for trekkers to dry their wet gear and will be a small business activity for the school. The extra timber that was a by-product of the process was used by villagers to do maintenance work on community buildings, while sawdust was used as mulching for gardens.

*By Hollen Mado, Livelihoods Officer, KTA*

## Social mapping

The PNG Department of the Environment and Conservation (DEC) continued to work closely with experts to develop an understanding of the genealogical make-up and land ownership systems of the communities within the Kokoda Initiative program area. The objective of the social mapping program in the interim protection zone (IPZ) is to better understand the communities and their environment in order to guide an effective consultative process in the Kokoda Initiative for delivery of the JU2. This information will help to identify the men and women who need to be consulted regarding catchment protection and management plans. The fieldwork for the current program was completed in October 2012 and a final report of the Koiari social mapping project in Central Province has now been released. Plans are underway for similar social maps to be developed for the Orokaiva people from Northern Province.

A social mapping workshop was held in June 2013 in Port Moresby with the aim of comparing different methodologies used by practitioners of social mapping in scenarios across PNG. Participants in the workshop included prominent practitioners from both PNG and Australia.



Social mapping being carried out at Envilogo



James Sabi from DEC speaking at the June 2013 social mapping workshop

DEC is now in the process of reviewing the methodologies and approaches discussed at the workshop to determine a practical, efficient and affordable method for use in the Kokoda IPZ. This exciting work will shape the way in which the PNG Government engages with communities for protected area management into the future.



## Goal 3

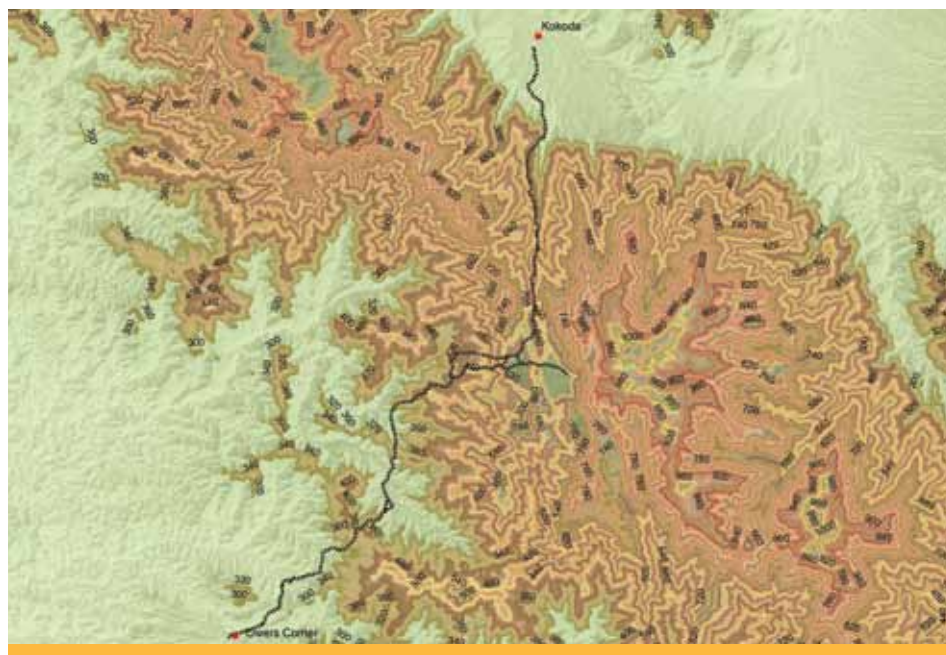
The wise use and conservation of the catchment protection area, including the Kokoda Track and its natural and cultural resources and values

The objectives associated with Goal 3 are:

- Developing an integrated land use plan for the catchment protection area in partnership with key National, Provincial and Local Government stakeholders which provides an effective balance between environment conservation and development
- Identifying and conserving the key natural, cultural and historic values of the Owen Stanley Ranges for heritage conservation, protection and tourism development purposes.

### ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2012–13

The PNG Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has continued to make significant progress under Goal 3, 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 the Bishop Museum, the Forest Research Institute of Papua New Guinea and the Australian National Botanic Gardens to support a biodiversity capture and collection program and to continue capacity building and training in the areas of spatial mapping and archaeology.



DEC contour map for the region containing the interim protection zone

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## CATCHMENT PROTECTION

In 2012 DEC released a discussion paper for a policy guiding a national protected areas system in Papua New Guinea. This policy paper provides valuable guidance for Kokoda Initiative programs and is a vital step towards ensuring more sustainable protection of diverse areas including the Owen Stanley Ranges, Brown River catchment and Kokoda Track region. The paper continued to stimulate national debate on the final form of the national protected areas policy. In May 2013 a draft policy was finalised and circulated for further discussion.

- Ms Maureen Ewai was engaged in December 2012 as the Land Use Planning and Biodiversity Assessments Officer. Ms Ewai, a doctoral candidate from the University of Queensland in biodiversity management, has helped progress the biodiversity program this year, including running two biodiversity workshops and scoping terms of reference for biodiversity studies in the region. The position has proven invaluable for the success of the Kokoda Initiative, and DEC has advertised for a long-term position to aid future efforts in land use planning and biodiversity assessments.
- A biodiversity workshop was held in Goroka, PNG, in April 2013 with a further meeting planned for Cairns, Australia, in July 2013 to develop standardised methodologies in biodiversity surveys, data analysis and species information management for application in PNG. The Goroka meeting encouraged PNG field practitioners to share experiences and prepared them to engage in discussions with international experts in Cairns.

Recommendations from the two workshops will provide standardised guidance for future work of this kind in PNG.

- DEC continued to work closely with the Australian Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information (CRC-SI) through capacity building to support and improve the technical skills of DEC officers, who have learned to interrogate datasets to develop a range of maps to be used for effective future management of the region. These maps can show land use change, land cover and a range of other high-resolution features necessary for effective land use planning.



Coring and sieving soil for lab analysis during the Madilogo archaeology survey in November 2012 (Photo: Elton Kaitokai)

- The Kokoda Initiative Spatial Mapping Workshop held in conjunction with CRC-SI in June 2013 was a great success and was attended by geographic information system (GIS) technicians across PNG agencies, research institutions and universities. The focus of the workshop was on how spatial technicians can work more closely together across PNG agencies and NGOs, what spatial data is accessible to each institution and what data can be shared. The workshop also highlighted the cutting-edge technology used to produce a digital elevation model for the Kokoda IPZ and how remotely sensed data was used to classify land cover for management purposes. DEC now chairs a newly formed group of PNG GIS specialists to encourage information and data sharing among agencies and to work towards the development of national standards.



Eclectus parrot (Photo: David Kirkland)

### Values identification and conservation

Work continued on the identification of cultural, historic and natural values in the IPZ in advance of developing a sustainable development management plan for the region.

- A scoping study was undertaken of the historical and military values of an area outside Port Moresby known as Blamey's Garden, which was established by General Blamey during the Kokoda campaign in the Sogeri area. While the majority of the built structures and landscaping have disappeared, it is believed that the remaining features may have sufficient military heritage value that they should be conserved and will be of interest to tourists visiting the area. Recommendations from the study are now being considered in conjunction with the National Museum and Art Gallery (NMAG) to identify further work necessary to properly manage the site for visits by military historians, tourists and other interested parties.
- A preliminary assessment of the World War II military collection at NMAG was undertaken, with emphasis on the Kokoda Campaign Collection. DEC, together with NMAG, is in the process of progressing recommendations from the study to improve conservation and preservation of these materials and to develop the skills and technical expertise of museum staff.
- Exploration of the archaeological values of the region commenced with an initial desktop study of the IPZ to collect archival literature and relevant reference site records as part of the values mapping of the area. This was followed by a rapid survey of the proposed hydro project at Madilogo and the surrounding area to identify sites of local cultural significance. The four-day survey involved coring, soil sampling and documenting surface finds and other sites of interest, with the aim of identifying conservation measures needed to preserve the cultural and historical values. These values form an integral part of the Kokoda story and need to be professionally managed before any hydro power development goes ahead.

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# 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 objectives associated with Goal 4 are:

- Promoting the natural, cultural and historic military values of the track
- Developing a strategic tourism plan and associated marketing activities
- Exploring the heritage conservation values of the region and conducting a feasibility study for possible World Heritage nomination, consistent with its inclusion in the PNG Government World Heritage Tentative List (2006).
- The TPA, in conjunction with the KTA, agreed to the inclusion of Kokoda guesthouses and campsites in the National Accommodation Accreditation System. This will ensure that accommodation sites along the track meet nationally agreed minimum standards.
- The TPA convened the Sustainable Cultural Tourism Conference in Kokopo, PNG, in October 2012. The conference achieved wide industry participation, with representatives from tourism businesses, cultural tourism site management authorities, education facilities, government agencies and NGOs. The objective of the conference was to take a solutions-based approach to addressing identified challenges of cultural heritage tourism that can be applied at a varying scale, from small business to broader strategies at provincial or national levels. The conference strengthened regional networks between tourism professionals operating in PNG, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and encouraged sharing of information and lessons learnt in areas of common challenges, including sustainable cultural heritage tourism practices that might be applicable in the Kokoda Track region.

### ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2012–13

During 2012–13 the Kokoda Initiative continued to build the national and international tourism potential of the region by strengthening the capacity of local tour operators through conferences, field trips and training targeted for track communities. There is ongoing negotiation between the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority (TPA) and other KI partners for the planning of tourism activities in the wider Kokoda Area.

- The TPA and the Northern Provincial Governor's Office undertook a review of the Oro Provincial Plan to identify possible activities at the Northern Beaches (Buna, Gona and Sanananda) where the Japanese advance across the Kokoda Track began in July 1942 and where the Japanese were finally defeated in January 1943.
- The TPA was invited to become a member of the Central Province Economic Sector Coordination Monitoring Committee to ensure that tourism has a voice in provincial development, particularly in relation to the Owen Stanley Ranges. The TPA's presence on this committee ensures that KI tourism development activities are aligned with priorities and resources of the Central Provincial Administration.
- The KTA, in association with other KI partners, assisted in honouring the 70th anniversary of the Kokoda campaign. In July 2012 the KTA sponsored students from Sogeri High School, situated on the road to Owers Corner, to mark the anniversary of the first engagement between Australian and Japanese armies. The school hosted a day long 'sing-sing' where students from provinces all over PNG donned traditional dress and danced for the appreciative crowd. The celebrations were opened by the Australian High Commissioner, Mr Ian Kemish, and attended by a number of other members of the diplomatic corps.



- The KTA also assisted with celebrations in November to mark the anniversary of Australian soldiers retaking Kokoda. This was attended by a number of Australian veterans of the Kokoda battles, assisted by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Kokoda Track Foundation. A range of large events and smaller village-based events were held, such as the Brigade Hill celebration in Efogi on 7 September 2012 and the event at Isurava on 18 December 2012 celebrating the battles of Isurava, Alola and Eora Creek.
- The increased publicity resulting from these activities appears to have had a direct impact on trekker numbers and thus increased revenue for the year. Trekker numbers for 2012 were about 20% higher than those for 2011.

## WORLD HERITAGE

The Owen Stanley Ranges and Kokoda Track region was initially nominated for UNESCO World Heritage Tentative Listing by DEC in conjunction with the World Wide Fund for Nature in 2006. In 2012–13 some effort was made to develop a plan for exploring whether the region could claim the 'outstanding universal values' required for a World Heritage listing, with desktop studies revealing some intriguing possibilities. Biodiversity experts point to the series of high mountains (including Mount Victoria, over 4,000 metres high) in the region that host a variety of rare and endemic species of flora and fauna. Most areas are largely unexplored and many species remain undescribed. Archaeologists point to Myola Lakes on the track itself and note the spectacular similarities with lakes further north along the Owen Stanley Ranges, dating from the Pleistocene period, where evidence of human occupation more than 35,000 years ago has been discovered.



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Sub-alpine Lake at Mount Victoria (Photo: Peter Hitchcock)

The important natural heritage values identified to date include:

- Glacial landscapes: Mount Victoria retains clear evidence of glaciation during the last Ice Age. Evidence of glaciation includes glacial lakes, ice sculpting and probable moraines. These features are of high heritage value.
- Peatlands: There are extensive areas of probable peatland development. Peatlands are potentially very important as an ancient pollen resource for scientific research, especially research on past climate change.
- Gondwanian 'time capsule': The Mount Victoria region is a virtual time capsule, with relictual plant taxa with clear links to Gondwana dating back more than 65 million years. The closest relatives of some ancient conifer and flowering plants are found as far away as Tasmania, New Zealand and Chile.
- Local endemic plants: The higher mountain peaks of the Owen Stanley Ranges support many local endemic plant species. Mount Victoria, in particular, is the site of a number of species of rhododendrons found only on this mountain, while others are found on just a few of the highest mountains in the ranges.
- Local endemic animals: Faunal surveys on the high mountains of the Owen Stanley Ranges have been limited to date; nevertheless it has been established that there are some endemic bird species confined to the high mountains of the ranges, such as Macgregor's honeyeater and the greater ground-ribbon.



## 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

The objectives associated with Goal 5 are:

- Maximising the delivery and maintenance of services and activities through the responsible PNG provincial and local-level governments
- Building capacity within key PNG and Australian Government agencies to ensure the goals of this initiative can be delivered and are sustainable.

### ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2012–13

This goal directs the ways in which the Kokoda Initiative partner agencies aim to implement activities to ensure sustainability is achieved. It recognises the importance of effective collaboration and cooperation between a broad range of partners and stakeholders to ensure the success and sustainability of the Kokoda Initiative. Particular efforts in this area in 2012–13 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 and the priorities of the PNG and Australian governments, enabling programs to have a lasting influence on the sustainable development of the Kokoda Track and Owen Stanley Ranges region.



Participants in the Canberra joint planning meeting, August 2012 (Photo: Department of the Environment)

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### Joint planning meetings

Joint planning meetings are an important strategic event in the calendar of the Kokoda Initiative. In August 2012 the Department of the Environment, as chair of the taskforce in Australia, hosted a planning meeting in Canberra. Over the course of the meeting the partner agencies undertook a series of strategic discussions and established key policy priorities for the forward work plan. A second joint planning meeting was held in Port Moresby in March 2013 to progress the development of the annual work plans for the KI agencies and to ensure they aligned with the JU2 Design Document, which was also undergoing finalisation before being completed in April 2013.

### 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 increase their technical skills, improve their capacity to deliver, and strengthen relationships between agencies by better understanding the cultural and political drivers of the two countries.

- Tausi Alekevu (Finance and Administration Manager, Kokoda Track Authority) visited Canberra in late 2012 to build a better understanding of funding systems and processes and of work practices within the Australian partner offices.
- Malcolm Keako and Frederick Ohmana (GIS specialists, DEC) attended two weeks of professional development training at the University of New South Wales in October 2012, followed by a short placement with the DE's Environment Resources Information Network, which has worked closely with DEC over the past few years.
- Staff from the Canberra DE office visited PNG on a number of occasions to assist partners with Kokoda Initiative work and to liaise with stakeholders.

### Forums and events

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

- End-of-season tour operator forums were held in November 2012 and beginning-of-season tour operator forums in March 2013 in both PNG and Australia. These forums enabled the KTA to report on their activities and to identify and discuss any areas of concern relating to track management, administration and marketing. Key outcomes of these forums included:
  - agreement on the need to change some track management practices to ensure greater compliance with the licensing conditions and the Tour Operators Code of Conduct
  - agreement to improve the standards of accommodation and facilities along the track in line with PNG national standards
  - agreement on recognising the rights of porters and guides, including ensuring that they are properly accommodated, that maximum pack weights are monitored and enforced, and that the age of porters is confirmed to prevent employment of child porters
  - agreement to work collaboratively on protecting the environment along the track, including management of firewood at campsites, rubbish removal by tour operators and ensuring village gardens do not impact on the track
  - agreement to resolve industry concerns regarding entry visas to PNG for Australian tour operators.

Feedback from tour operators was very positive and provided endorsement that such forums are vital for effective track management.



- The KTA participated in the First World Indigenous Network Conference held in Darwin in May 2013 with a number of staff, including the CEO and business adviser, attending. KTA rangers attended a wide variety of presentations regarding innovative and successful land and sea management, including many examples from remote locations. The KTA livelihoods officer attended a number of community development presentations, which increased awareness of international initiatives in this space and provided understanding of the issues and opportunities faced by others doing similar work.

### Program design

A number of program design discussions were undertaken over 2012–13; these helped to increase the effectiveness of the program into the future, and assist in the long-term sustainability of the Kokoda Initiative post JU2.

- The JU2 Design Document was finalised with AusAID and PNG partners in April 2013. This will guide the program implementation until the end of the JU2 in December 2015.
- Early in 2013 a comprehensive framework was developed to inform the monitoring and evaluation of the Kokoda Initiative; a report was provided to the PNG taskforce in March 2013. The Australian Department of the Environment and the PNG Department of Environment and Conservation are currently working to assess the recommendations and implement standardised monitoring and reporting across the Kokoda Initiative. The framework is due for implementation in 2013–14.
- An updated record of understanding was signed, with AusAID providing agreement on the Australian Government contribution to Kokoda Initiative activities between AusAID and the DE through to the end of the JU2.

### Strategic planning

A number of strategic and program design processes were undertaken over 2012–13 to ensure that the Kokoda Initiative continues to deliver with a strategic focus to address policy priorities of both the PNG and Australian governments.

Senior Adviser Mr Howard Bamsey

- In 2012–13 the Kokoda Initiative engaged Mr Howard Bamsey, a former diplomat and senior public servant, to provide advice to both governments on the strategic advancement of the initiative. Mr Bamsey, who left the position in early 2013, was a valuable asset in the complex program implementation environment in PNG. The senior adviser function has also been vital in terms of providing advice on embedding sustainability into the Kokoda Initiative by ensuring that PNG partners can effectively continue activities as the Australian Government's funding profile declines when the JU2 is finalised at the end of 2015.

Mr Bamsey was able to meet with senior officials from both the PNG and Australian governments to ensure that they were aware of, supportive of and focused on the implementation of the agreed priorities of the Kokoda Initiative.

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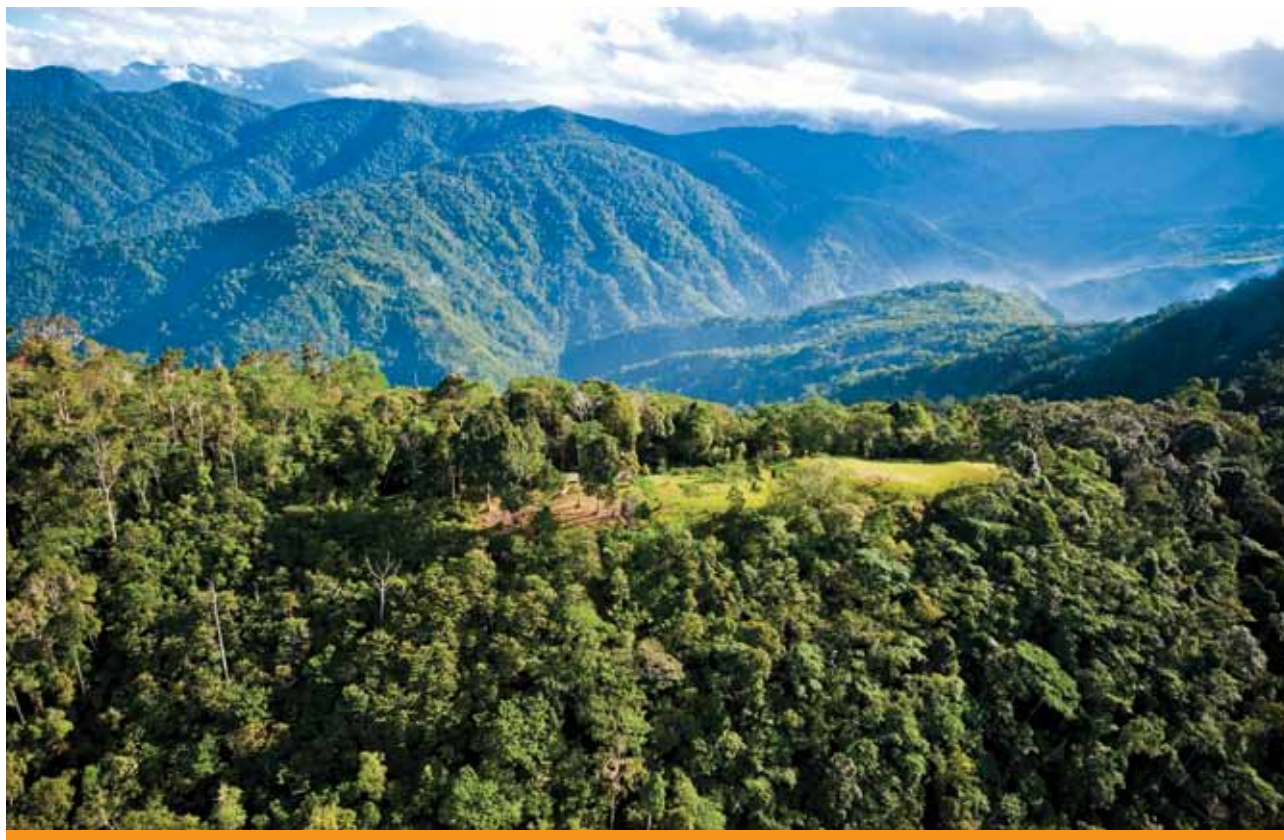
On various visits to PNG over this period Mr Bamsey met with PNG's Environment Minister, Tourism Minister, Chief Secretary and other agency heads to foster effective long-term PNG engagement in and ownership of the Kokoda Initiative at the highest levels. He similarly liaised with Australian Government ministers and senior officials to discuss the higher level strategic outcomes of the bilateral relationship and to engender support for the JU2 and an ongoing relationship with PNG through the Kokoda Initiative.

#### Kokoda Initiative Senior Executive Trek

In September 2012 deputy secretaries from DEC and the Department of the Environment met on the Kokoda Track and spent five days walking together from Isurava up through the Kokoda Gap and down to Naduri. They experienced firsthand the tough conditions of the walk and engaged closely with communities to understand the challenges of delivering the

Kokoda Initiative in such a remote and inaccessible location. The party included DEC Deputy Secretary Kay Kalim, DE Deputy Secretary Kimberley Dripps, KTA CEO James Enage, KTA Board Chair Ruben Maleva, Australian High Commission Second Secretary Patrick Mullins and Kokoda Initiative Adviser Mark Nizette.

The 2012 Kokoda Initiative Senior Executive Trek was designed to provide these executives with an intense exposure to the logistics of working on the track, an opportunity to meet with local landowners and other residents of villages through which the track passes, and a unique experience of the wartime, natural and cultural values of the region. Held during the 70th anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign, the trek reaffirmed both governments' commitment to the JU2 and the resolution to continue the close working relationship between PNG and Australia.



Brigade Hill aerial image



# Kokoda Initiative 2012–13 expenditure



## AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FUNDING

	PGK	AUD
Outcome 1: Stakeholder engagement and communications	99,688	\$39,875
Outcome 2: Tourism support	198,878	\$79,551
Outcome 3: Heritage values identification	85,170	\$34,068
Outcome 4: Kokoda Track Authority business management support	281,558	\$112,623
Outcome 5: Kokoda Track Authority operational support	819,495	\$327,798
Outcome 6: Kokoda Track Authority track management and safety support	1,131,250	\$452,500
Outcome 7: Income generation support	306,250	\$122,500
Outcome 8: Support to the PNG Department of environment and Conservation to Implement the Second joint understanding	1,561,140	\$624,456
Outcome 9: Twinning, training and exchanges	112,392	\$44,957
Operating expenditure	3,580,632	\$1,432,253
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>8,176,453</b>	<b>\$3,270,581</b>

## KOKODA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

	PGK	AUD
– Infrastructure	744,517	297,807
– Capacity building	190,930	76,372
– Procurement (including delivery of materials to remote areas)	713,365	285,346
– Community and public health (including HIV)	415,355	166,142
– Staff office costs and management	1,020,963	408,385
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>3,085,130</b>	<b>1,234,052</b>

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## PNG PARTNER FUNDING KOKODA TRACK AUTHORITY

	PGK	AUD
Trek fee income	1,045,667	418,267
– Local trekkers: 8,040		
– Overseas trekkers: 1,037,627		
Licence fee income	26,800	10,720
First aid training course fees	2,340	936
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,074,807</b>	<b>429,923</b>

## PNG DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION 2012\*

	PGK	AUD
Travel and subsistence expenses	235,000	94,000
Operational materials and supplies	40,000	16,000
Transport and fuel	35,000	14,000
Administrative consultative fees	346,800	138,720
Other operational expenses	238,300	95,320
Routine maintenance expenses	4,900	1,960
Furniture and office equipment	100,000	40,000
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>

\* The PNG Government accounts its funds by calendar year

## PNG TOURISM PROMOTION AUTHORITY 2012\*

	PGK	AUD
Sirinimu and Variarata National Park	5,000	2,000
Travel to Kokoda Initiative biannual meeting	3,000	1,200
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>3,200</b>

\* The PNG Government accounts its funds by calendar year

Note: Exchange rates calculated as per rates at 8/10/2013 (1AUD = 2.50PGK, or 1PGK = 0.40AUD)



# Goals for 2013–14



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 Second Joint Understanding, which is scheduled to finish at the end of 2015. The upcoming 12 months of the Kokoda Initiative will see the delivery of a number of projects that will greatly enhance trekker experiences and improve the livelihoods of local residents in the Owen Stanley Ranges. The implementation of a number of strategic systems and processes will also ensure the success of Kokoda Initiative programs after the JU2 draws to an end in December 2015. Key projects for the 2013–14 year are as follows.

## Stakeholder engagement

- Appointment of a new senior adviser to the Kokoda Initiative.
- Consultation with the Central and Oro provincial governments to ensure long-term sustainability of Kokoda Initiative outcomes through the alignment of initiative implementation plans with the provincial administrations' five-year development plans and associated funding sources.
- Consultation with philanthropic NGOs to better align aid work along the Kokoda Track and within the area of interest with long-term strategic planning processes of the provincial and PNG national governments.
- Consultation with landowners to ensure that Kokoda Initiative programs meet the needs of communities.

## Program governance

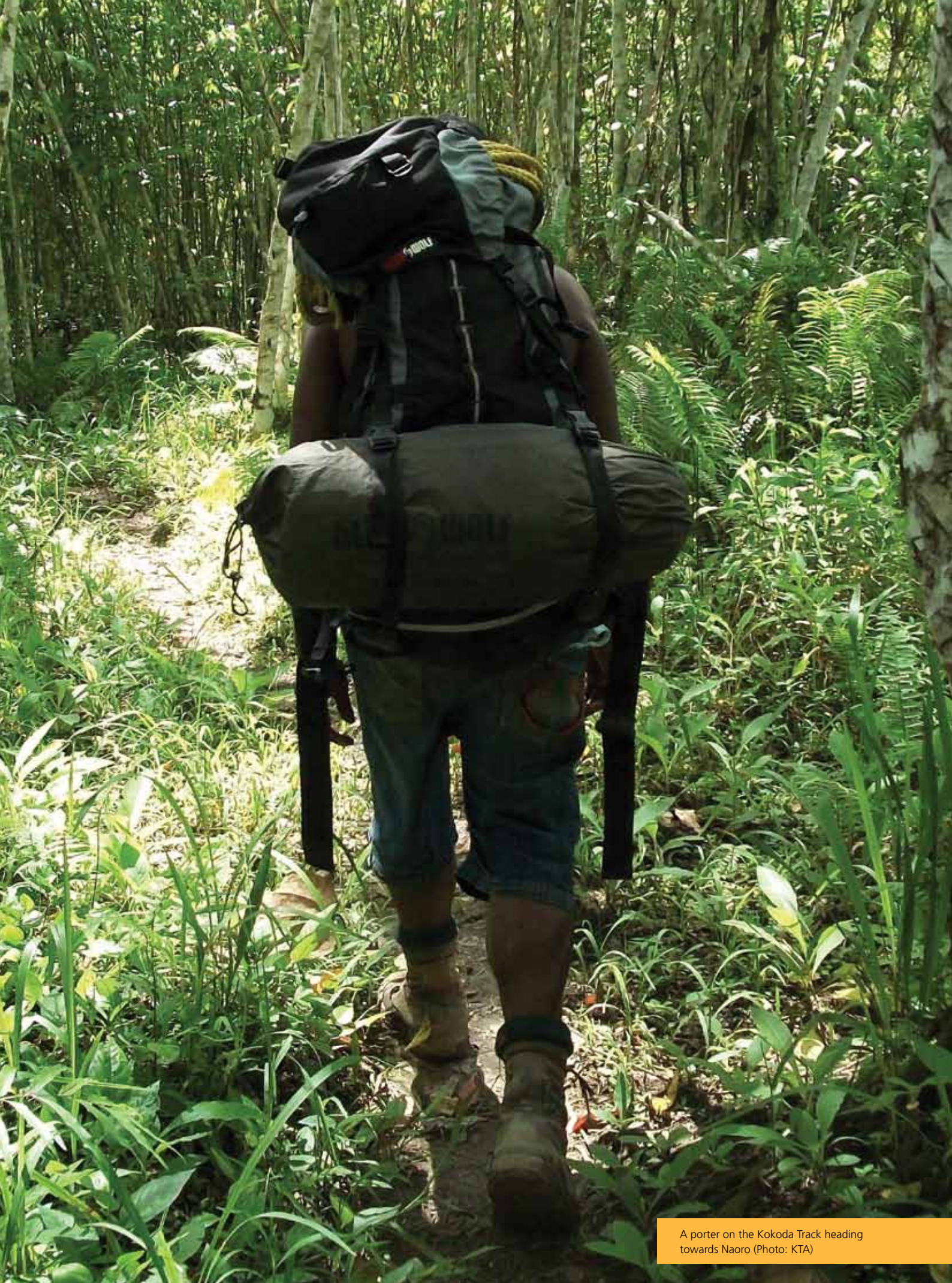
- Completion of the Kokoda Initiative Gender Snapshot and Gender Strategy.
- Implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.
- Commencement and completion of the Kokoda Initiative Mid Term Review.

## Capacity-building strategies

- Support to the KTA to enforce compliance with KTA commercial conditions relating to trekking licences and permits.
- Continued presence of Australian Government advisers working alongside PNG partner agencies.
- Development of a KTA Capacity Development Plan.
- Mentoring and support for Sohe district health management to strengthen district-level supervision of health and education services in the Kokoda region.
- Partnership with relevant local-level governments to strengthen the roles of village health volunteers and identified functions within the local government areas.
- Support to catchment school boards for good governance.

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A porter on the Kokoda Track heading towards Naoro (Photo: KTA)





Cane bridge over Eora Creek  
(Photo: KTA)





### Track safety and improvements

- Refurbishment of two timber bridges along Owers' Corner Road in the last quarter of 2013.
- Construction of additional cane bridges for local community and trekker use.
- Upgrading of landslip defences between Alola and Isurava.

### Land use and catchment protection

Planned further biodiversity assessments and land use planning efforts include the following.

- A biodiversity survey expedition for the Naoro and Brown River catchments – the site of a proposed hydro electricity project.
- An exotic species survey on the Kokoda Track to collect baseline data on species and to develop an ongoing monitoring methodology for the future. The process will include wide-ranging community consultation and contributions by local communities.
- Continued collation of PNG species data, including that from the Owen Stanley Ranges, for input into PNG species information management systems.
- A biodiversity survey in various significant biodiversity regions, including Mount Victoria in the Owen Stanley Ranges, by Bishop Museum, which has secured funding through the National Science Foundation. DEC officers are in communication with Bishop Museum to support/ agree logistics for the expedition, which will also support initiatives in the region with capacity building and biodiversity information.
- Continued social mapping for the Orokaiva people in Northern Province to identify representatives for land management discussions with the PNG Government. Additional social mapping will also be carried out in Central province to elaborate on previous findings. These findings will enable work to commence on developing equitable benefit-sharing agreements and payment for ecosystems management models, feeding into the final catchment land use management plan.
- Commencement of a pilot oral history program to capture the story of World War II and the Kokoda campaign from the perspective of the local communities and villagers who were forced to live through a conflict between two foreign armies. This project is vital in balancing the narrative of the Kokoda campaign, which until now has largely only been told from the Australian perspective.
- Further work required to more clearly identify the military and archaeological values of the region to enable a draft of a sustainable development management plan to be developed for consultation.

### Health and education

- Construction of a health worker's house and related buildings, along with completion of major renovations at the Kepara aid post in 2013.
- Continued provision of community public health and HIV strategies, in addition to integrated outreach at village level along with aid post supervision.
- Integrated planning with health and education representatives from district and provincial-level governments. Progress will be monitored through linkages with provincial authorities.
- Ongoing support for improvements in maternal and child health.
- Delivery of an infrastructure package for Kebara village health services.
- New elementary schools for identified communities within the Kokoda 'new' footprint which includes Wards outside of the track, but identified by the Special Purpose Authority.

### Tourism and livelihoods

- Tourism industry training and capacity building.
- Training needs assessment for local operators and tour guides.
- Brown River bird watching tourism product development, including community awareness-raising sessions.



Guesthouse training at Menari. The tall poles have been marked with standard measurements for construction of guest houses (Photo: KTA)

- Expansion of TPA involvement in the northern beaches through community tourism awareness at key battle site communities. This will include tour guide training and design and the installation of signage at key battle sites, which is also being considered for the Kokoda Track.
- Implementation by the TPA of guesthouse certification (a PNG-wide accommodation classification) along the Kokoda Track. In addition to accrediting guesthouses this process would also include a campaign to increase awareness of the classification system.

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# KOKODA INITIATIVE

Cover photos: Kokoda Track Authority

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