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Kokoda Initiative Nius

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Mar 27	"One Journey, Many Stories" Launch	Sydney
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Apr 25	ANZAC Day	
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Jun 23	PNG General Elections	
Jul 23	PNG National Remembrance Day	
Jul 29	Beginning of KTA Kokoda Campaign 70th Anniversary Commemorations	Sogeri

The Kokoda Initiative is a Papua New Guinean and Australian Government partnership for the sustainable development of the Owen Stanley Ranges, Brown River Catchment and Kokoda Track region, working together to protect its natural, cultural and historic values.

Cover: Porters along Kokoda Track. Photo: Volker Scholz
Inside: Near Kokoda Airstrip. Photo: Volker Scholz

Kokoda Initiative Stakeholder Forum “The Kokoda Experience”

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The Kokoda Track experience means different things to different people. Similarly, the Kokoda Initiative is a diverse and complex program with different values and various end points.

Tour operators, NGOs, academics, authors, entrepreneurs, and PNG and Australian government agencies discussed some of these questions and issues at the Kokoda Initiative stakeholder forum in Sydney (27 March 2012).

A strong contingent of Papua New Guinea representatives presented on behalf of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Kokoda Track Authority, Tourism Promotion Authority and National Museum with perspectives on the value of the Kokoda Track and the region to PNG.

Linda Young from Deakin University introduced the focus of the forum by providing background on the concept and process of developing an Interpretation Plan for the Track.

More than just a key information sharing and networking event, the forum was an opportunity to engage in open discussions and appreciate the different values from Australian, Papua New Guinean perspectives, and to acknowledge Japanese perspectives.

The forum agreed on key issues including, the need to:

- “ Identify and agree on the boundary of the region to be addressed
- “ Identify and acknowledge all relevant stakeholders
- “ Acknowledge community needs
- “ Identify and agree on what the values of the region are, and their relative significance
- “ Identify and disseminate the management arrangements and guiding principles for the region
- “ Identify the potential interpretation of diverse tourism opportunities, but also other opportunities for the region

- “ Ensure the sustainability of the program.

The forum was hosted by the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC) in partnership with the PNG Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). Many thanks to the chairperson, Mark Nizette who is Advisor to the Kokoda Initiative; guest facilitators Howard Bamsey, Bill James and James Enage; and presenters Linda Young, Joan Beaumont, Leith Isaac, Rod Hillman, Phil McNamara, Ruben Maleva, James Sabi, Elton Kaitokai, Andrew Moutu and David Moffat.



Top: DEC participants at the Sydney Stakeholder Forum (L-R): James Sabi, Kay Kalim, Elton Kaitokai, Mark Nizette & Barry Lewis (KTA contractor).

Bottom: Elton Kaitokai presenting on Social Mapping.

Photos: Rawena Russell

The Kokoda Campaign 70th Anniversary

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70 years on, the Kokoda Track Authority aims to remember the Battle of Kokoda and the many lives that were affected by sharing stories through key events and activities for 2012.

This year's commemoration will highlight the lasting bond of friendship between Papua New Guinea and Australia.

The ANZAC Day 2012 Memorial Service at Isurava on April 25th was among the first Australian WWII commemorations to announce the 70th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign.

The ANZAC Day service was a stirring reminder of the deep and heartfelt connection Australia has for Papua New Guinea through Kokoda. Five veterans accompanied closely by their family members were flown into Isurava to attend the ANZAC service. The gathering at the service included locals, Australian Defence Force personnel, government officials, trekkers, tour operators, guides and porters, who looked on with pride and reverence as the veterans laid wreaths at the Isurava war memorial. It was a moving and beautiful moment when the ceremonial bugle played 'The Last Post' and everyone observed a moment of silence to remember the Australian soldiers who fought in this epic battle, which is said to be 'the battle that saved Australia'.

The Kokoda Track Authority will work with communities and landowners along the Track to host two main events and village-based activities throughout the year on significant dates to commemorate the Kokoda Campaign 70th Anniversary.

The Track communities of Isurava, Brigade Hill, Iorabaiwa and Alola are eager to host the commemoration ceremonies in their areas, as the Kokoda Campaign was as much a part of the history as it was for Australia. Many of the carriers and stretcher bearers that were recruited to assist the Australian soldiers came from the communities along the Kokoda Track. Their 'tumbunas' (forefathers) are the native men who captured the imagination and hearts of the Australian public through Bert Beros' poem "Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels".

Left: WWII Kokoda Campaign war veteran Mr. Allan "Kanga" Moore with family members beside him, Isurava. Photo: Brian Boon

WWII KOKODA CAMPAIGN 70th ANNIVERSARY

COMMEMORATION TIMELINE, 2012

"Journey Along the Track: Village Events"

The Kokoda Track Authority are working with communities and landowners along the track to organise village-based activities to commemorate key 70th anniversary dates.

Two main events will be on July 29 in Sogeri and November 2 in Kokoda. Village commemorations will be held at Isurava, Brigade Hill, Iorabaiwa and Eora Creek (Alola). These activities are for the villagers to remember the impact of the Kokoda Campaign on their communities and trekkers are welcome to attend.

29 JULY: START OF THE KOKODA CAMPAIGN COMMEMORATION

The Kokoda Track Authority will host a celebration at the Sogeri National High School on July 29 to commemorate the beginning of the Kokoda Campaign 70 years ago. 29th July 1942 marked the opening of the Battle for Kokoda. Several hundred inexperienced and outnumbered Australian and Papuan militiamen defended the Government Station not far from the strategically vital Kokoda airfield, but they were no match for the numerically superior Japanese.

26 AUGUST: BATTLE OF ISURAVA COMMEMORATION

Isurava is a small village, some 12 kilometres south of Kokoda. Isurava villagers will honour their tumbunas who endured a four day battle raging on their land. This celebration commemorates 26th of August 1942, where men from the AIF, veterans of the Middle East, first joined the campaign, and the Australians held their perimeter for four days against concerted Japanese attacks until, once again, they were threatened with encirclement and forced to withdraw.

7 SEPTEMBER: BATTLE OF BRIGADE HILL COMMEMORATION

The Battle of Brigade Hill actually took place on the 8th of September. As this date falls on a Sabbath, celebrations will be the day before. Efogi villagers will commemorate how the Australian 21st Brigade under the command of Brigadier Arnold Potts harassed and delayed the Japanese as best they could. Brigadier Potts chose the steep Efogi Ridge, which became known as Brigade Hill, as his next major delaying action. Throughout September 8 the Japanese launched a series of frontal assaults while another force outflanked the Australians, cutting off their line of withdrawal. The Australians were forced into the jungle, carrying their wounded, whom they would never leave behind.

13TH SEPTEMBER: BATTLE OF IORABAIWA COMMEMORATION

Villagers from Iorabaiwa will commemorate the battle that reached their village on the fateful date of 13th September 1942. Celebrations will be in honour of the Iorabaiwans who survived the war, and the Australians and Japanese soldiers who did battle. On this day, the Japanese had advanced far but a combination of critical lack of supplies, battle attrition, and a deterioration on other fronts led to their advance being called to a halt. With secure lines of supply and a build-up of Allied forces in Port Moresby, the Australians were now able to begin their own advance with the aim of pushing the invaders back to their landing beaches on the north coast.

22ND OCTOBER: BATTLE OF EORA CREEK COMMEMORATION

The village of Alola will celebrate the Battle of Eora Creek, in which their forebears witnessed the Australians and Japanese do battle, from the 22nd to the 28th of October 1942. The Japanese had chosen a dominant ridge to the north of Eora Creek village as the site of two major defensive perimeters. For a week, the Australians attacked the concealed locations in what was described as a deadly game of blind-man's bluff. Finally, on 28th October, a small Australian force worked its way around the enemy flank and attacked from the high ground. It was a stunning victory for the Australians.

2ND NOVEMBER: END OF THE KOKODA CAMPAIGN: FUZZY WUZZY ANGELS' DAY

November 3rd is the Nationally Gazetted Day to celebrate the Papua New Guineans who served in the World War II effort. However, as the day falls on the Sabbath this year, the Kokoda community will be celebrating a day earlier on Friday, 2nd November. Celebrations for Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels Day will be a huge event. On this day in history, the Australian flag was once again raised over the Kokoda Government Station. On the nearby airfield, the Australian commander, General Vasey, was able to express his thanks directly to the Papuan carriers, and to the local community, for the vital contribution they had made to the campaign.

Kokoda Track Management Guidelines

Graeme Beech returned to the KTA office in April to develop an Implementation Schedule for the Kokoda Track Management Guidelines

This follows his work last year when he developed the Kokoda Track Management Guidelines with KTA, DEC and other Kokoda Initiative partners.

The work involved talking with communities, tour operators and other government agencies about a suite of track management actions to be implemented over the next few years to help meet the first Goal of the Joint Understanding between the PNG and Australian Governments: "A safe and well managed-track, that honours its wartime historical significance and protects and promotes its special values".

On his most recent visit, Graeme revisited the Track to look first hand at track management issues in the Kokoda to Isurava and Efogi to Manari areas.

He said one of the most important aspects of his work is hearing what communities along the track have to say.

"Talking with communities and trekkers on the Track is always a highlight," he said.

Graeme was posted to PNG's Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) as an advisor to the Kokoda Initiative in 2008 and developed an ongoing interest in what he considers one of the most interesting and challenging programs in which he has been involved.

"This experience mixed with a career in the environmental field which has included Aboriginal Protected Areas in Australia has allowed me to assist DEC staff with the consideration of much broader areas associated with the Track, including the Sustainable Development Master Plan for the Interim Protected Zone of the Owen Stanley Ranges, Brown River Catchment and Kokoda Track," he said.

Graeme completed this most recent input in late May.



Top: Graeme Beech at the KTA office.
Photo: Lorraine Follett.

Bottom (L-R): James Enage, Mark Nizette and Graeme Beech, Efogi. Photo: John Jablonka

Leadership Management Training Trek

Trekking from Efogi to Manari along the stunning Kokoda Track was an engaging and rewarding experience for several managers and their Australian counterparts working for the Kokoda Initiative partner agencies.

The trekking fellowship of Kokoda Initiative management heads were from the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC), the PNG Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), the Kokoda Track Authority (KTA) and the Tourism Promotion Authority (TPA).

The four day trek from May 8th to 11th was a culmination to the Leadership Management Training program begun mid-October last year and run by John Jablonka of Cross Cultural Consultants International Development. The training program was an overall capacity building support funded by the Australian Government under the Kokoda Initiative.

James Sabi (DEC), James Enage (KTA), Graeme Beech (DSEWPaC), Brian Boon (KTA), Mark Nizette (DSEWPaC), Maggie Turnbull (DSEWPaC), Leith Isaac (TPA) and the training consultant John Jablonka experienced the scope of the Kokoda Initiative program and its projects being implemented along the track by KTA and the Kokoda Development Program (KDP) through the Kokoda Initiative.

"Trekking and meeting the people was an opportunity for everyone to appreciate what Kokoda Initiative is all about. We also discussed focus areas of our organisations and how these can be harnessed to work as a more coordinated team.

"It was interesting listening to James Sabi talk about DEC's work concerning the Brown River Catchment and the Interim Protection Zone (IPZ), and to have Brian Boon show and explain the KTA Safety Projects, and Graeme Beech rounded the experience off beautifully with his ideas on the Track Management Guidelines," said KTA CEO James Enage.

For James Sabi, whose first time it was to trek and camp along the Track, the light showers, mud and mosquitoes did nothing to dampen his spirits, especially during the rewarding parts of his journey that included experiencing the Track's natural environment, visiting the interesting WWII sites and meeting the interesting people from the communities along the way.

"When seeing first-hand the progress of projects that come under the Kokoda Initiative, I feel a deeper sense of appreciation and inspiration for what KTA and KDP does.

"I am glad to see the relationships KDP and KTA have

established with the communities and I feel confident this will make it easier for DEC to engage local communities along the Track to carry out its own activities in relation to its role in the Kokoda Initiative, which is the wise use and conservation of the catchment protection area and the Kokoda Track," said James Sabi, DEC Terrestrial Ecosystems Management Branch Manager.

The Kokoda Initiative management team gained plenty of insight from their journey and now have a greater commitment towards ensuring the region is sustainably developed and its natural, cultural and historical values are protected.



Leadership Management Training trekking team (L-R): James Sabi, Maggie Turnbull, Graeme Beech, John Jablonka, Brian Boon, James Enage, Mark Nizette and Leith Isaac in Efogi. Photo: John Jablonka.

Pacific Asia Indigenous Tourism Conference

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On the 28th of March 2012, 150 participants gathered in Darwin for the first day of the Pacific Asia Indigenous Tourism Conference (PAITC). The inaugural conference hosted by the Australian Tourism Export Council and the Pacific Asia Travel Association brought together indigenous operators from throughout the Asia Pacific Region, to share and discuss the challenges, successes and triumphs for indigenous tourism within the region.

Through the support of Kokoda Initiative and AusAID's Pacific Public Sector Linkages Program, tourism operators from Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu were able to attend the conference and participate in the field trip program, which included visiting the Kakadu World Heritage Area and the Tiwi Islands to experience outstanding examples of indigenous tourism products.

Tour operators including Muriel Gerari, Eileen Salewagen and Philip Batia, joined Alice Kuaningi from Tourism Promotion Authority and James Enage CEO of Kokoda Track Authority as the representatives from Papua New Guinea.

"This is the first time for us local tour operators from along the Kokoda corridor to participate in such a conference," said Ms. Gerari. It was a fitting time too for tour operators like Ms. Gerari to discuss issues and ideas they had. The most engaging idea discussed, especially by those who had a vested interest in the Kokoda Track,

were the cultural values of the Kokoda Track, which many in the forum were in agreement is an area that needs promotion in enhancing the tourism appeal of the place.

The opportunity to join other operators in the region from World Heritage Sites and Tourism Authorities provided a forum for everyone to share knowledge, experiences and innovative ideas as well as build strong professional networks and discuss creative visions in the tourism industry.

For many, one of the key highlights of the conference was a one day trip to the Tiwi Islands which lie 80 kilometres north of Darwin. Conference participants had the pleasure of experiencing the rich Tiwi culture, understanding the indigenous islander's kinship and learning their rich history. To complement the experience they were served tasty billy tea boiled over an open fire and delicious scones.

There was such a wealth of experience and knowledge gained at the Pacific Asia Indigenous Tourism Conference. It provided an avenue for experienced Papua New Guinean tour operators to network with tour operators from the Asia-Pacific region and witness expert practitioners in their field provide valuable insight into running indigenous cultural tourism products and hear about the benefits these products created for their regions.



PNG attendees of the 2012 Pacific Asia Tourism Conference, Kakadu National Park.
Photo: DSEWPaC

Kokoda Initiative Farewells

Since 2008 there has been a steady stream of unforgettable men and women who have worked with the agencies and projects under the Kokoda Initiative. They are people whose charisma, energy, work ethic and commitment have contributed to the many achievements of the program.

Kokoda Initiative recently farewelled these two people who have brought so much into the agencies they have worked with, and they are Rod Hillman and Rawena Russell.

Rod Hillman joined the Kokoda Track Authority as CEO in 2009. Rod's formidable management skills have made the KTA a force to be reckoned with and his shine has rubbed off onto James Enage, who took over the role as KTA CEO in 2011. Rod has a wealth of experience in the tourism, wildlife and parks management sector. The Kokoda Track Authority will be losing an exceptional manager and a good mate.

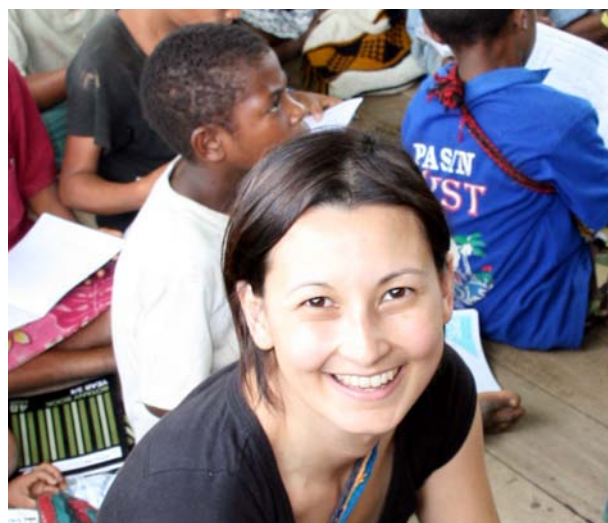
Another Kokoda Initiative member who has recently left is Rawena Russell, who initially joined the initiative in 2009 with AusAID KDP and later moved to a broader KI role in 2010. She provided advice and support across the agencies to improve communications and stakeholder engagement in PNG and Australia. In particular, she worked closely with DEC and KTA to create communication roles and drive key media and communication projects. She enjoyed finalising the video documentary which was her last contribution to the Initiative.

Earlier this year Kokoda Initiative said goodbye to John Umbe Michael, Executive Manager of DEC's Sustainable Environment Protection Wing, in which the Kokoda Initiative program comes under.

In the coming weeks and months Kokoda Initiative's partner agency KTA will also bid farewell to Sylvia Pascoe, Communications officer.

To the men and women who have contributed to the successes and achievements of the program – the advisors, consultants and program officers – Kokoda Initiative wishes to say:

'Tenkyu tru long olgeta hat wok bilong yu na lukim yu gen'.



Top: Charles Abel and Rod Hillman, Kokoda. Photo: KTA

Bottom: Rawena Russell at a school in Kovel. Photo: Rawena Russell

Kokoda Track Guest House Certification Program

Accommodations along the Kokoda Track are havens for trekkers who need a place to rest their weary heads and tired limbs. Hauswins, trekker huts, camp sites and toilets are vital in accommodating trekkers and have immense livelihood values for the locals that own them and the communities they're located in.

The Kokoda Track Authority (KTA) has set up a Guest House Certification Program to raise the standards of Guest House Accommodations and Toilets along the Track.

From May 17th to 24th KTA ran the Guest House Certification Program in Efogi, Manari and Kokoda. A total of 57 guest house accommodation owners from along the track took part in the program. Program participants were excited about the guest house certification system and participated eagerly in activities such as standard toilet measurement demonstrations.

The facilitators were Guy Chester, whom KTA consulted from the company Eco-sustainability to run the program, Hollen Mado the KTA Livelihoods Project Officer and his Australian government counterpart Luke James from DSEWPac including KTA Rangers' Lendy Noel, Donald Siga and Elijah Peter.

The program will be an annual activity that invites local guest house owners to improve and maintain the conditions of their Guest Houses to meet the required standards set out in the certification system. The first certification assessment will be conducted in September, 2012, and the next in March 2013.

To ensure the integrity of the Guest House Certification program, each site will be assessed by an independent assessor and approved by the Certification Panel separate from the Kokoda Track Authority Board.

The Guest House Certification program came about as a result of a 2010 trekker survey administered by the Kokoda Track Authority (KTA) and the Tourism Promotion Authority that showed urgent areas identified by trekkers that were in need of improvement were guest houses, camp sites and especially toilets.

Benefits will, in the long-run, be huge for locals as raising the standards of their guest houses will eventually result in increased revenue. Currently, the rate for all types of accommodation along the track is K20 a night.

"One of the very nice things I found was that there are a lot of people on the track that are interested in doing some small-scale livelihood projects like laundry and providing hot water and cooking banana cakes and selling fruits like mandarin. This can be harnessed to increase revenue directly to the villages," said Guy Chester, KTA consultant.

Guy was thrilled to meet and talk with people along the track as he trekked with the rest of the KTA Guest House Certification program team from Efogi to Manari, then to Kokoda. Trekking, as a result, provides income for locals, other than guest house owners, who sell fruits, baskets, souvenirs and a whole range of other goods and services to trekkers.

Hollen Mado, was equally happy to see the effect of the program on the people.

"The enthusiasm the owners showed in the program is a positive step towards implementing the Guest House Certification system. KTA will be working closely with local Guest House operators in this program to ensure they improve their standards of accommodation, which will most likely maximise their income earning opportunities, and just as importantly enhance the experience of the trekkers," said Hollen.

Through the KTA with the support of the Kokoda Initiative, sustainable livelihoods programs and projects such as the Guest House Certification program will continue into the future for the benefit of the people of the Kokoda Track.

Top: Guy Chester at the Guest House Certification Program, Kokoda Station.

Middle: Ranger Lundy Noel demonstrating standard toilet measurements to participants, Efogi.

Bottom: Efogi Guest House Certification Program Participants. Photos: Guy Chester.



A National Protected Area Policy for Papua New Guinea

The Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC) release of a discussion paper for a policy to develop a National Protected Areas System (NPAS) in Papua New Guinea is a vital step towards ensuring better sustainable protection of areas in the country of high natural and cultural value.

The NPAS Policy discussion paper was officially launched January 18th 2012 by Minister for Environment and Conservation Hon. Thompson Harokaq'veh and DEC Secretary Dr. Wari Lea Iamo. A series of workshops followed in Goroka, Kokopo, Madang and Port Moresby to provide a platform for DEC to engage in in-depth discussions with interested individuals and organisations.

The discussions, comments and public submissions for the discussion paper will assist with the design of an NPAS Policy. The policy is expected to be presented by the Minister to the national parliament for its deliberation towards the end of the year.

An NPAS Policy is also a step in the right direction for the Kokoda Initiative, especially in reaching Goal three of the Second Joint Understanding, which is the wise use and conservation of the Catchment Protection Area, including the Kokoda Track and its natural and cultural resources and values.

The Kokoda Initiative currently has in place a mechanism called the Interim Protection Zone (IPZ) which outlines areas for possible legal protection that comprises of the Brown River Catchment and most of the Kokoda Track. The IPZ incorporates the Brown, Naoro and Goldie Rivers,

which are priority areas in the Central Province for future development of hydro-power and water supply for Port Moresby. It also extends into Oro Province to provide a buffer zone to protect the historic values of the Kokoda Track and maintains its potential as PNG's premier tourist destination.

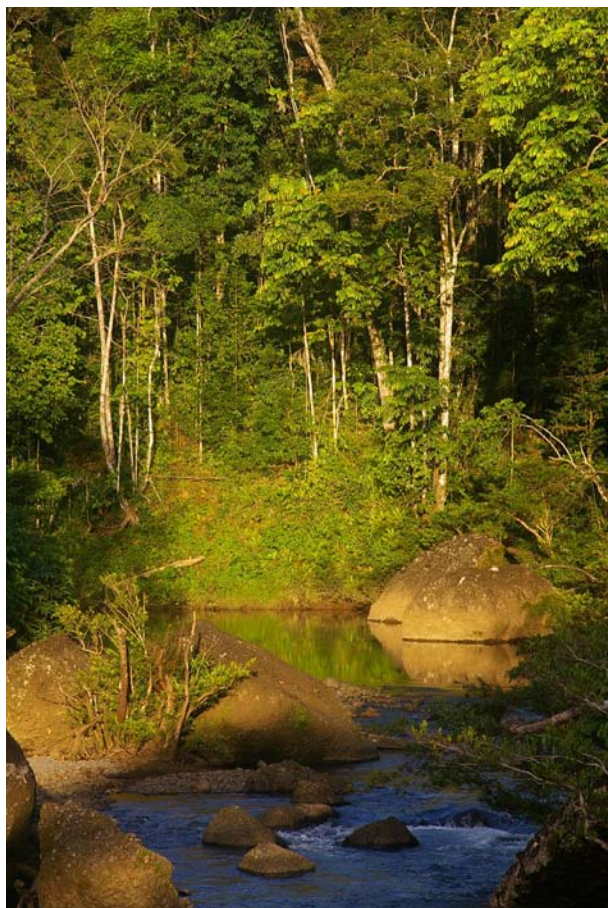
A key approach highlighted in the policy discussion paper that is paramount to the Kokoda Initiative is gaining support from landowners through financial incentives, either through service delivery or support for economic development.

In an opening statement in the NPAS Policy discussion paper, Minister Harokaq'veh 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," said Minister Harokaq'veh.

The Kokoda Track, Brown River Catchment and Owen Stanley Ranges are but an example of the vast and compellingly beautiful and unique areas

in PNG that need to be protected and sustained for generations to enjoy and benefit from, and it is only through the support of the landowners that this can be achieved.



Eora Creek, Kokoda Track. Photo: Volker Scholz.

A Kokoda Initiative Social Mapping Workshop was held on the 23rd to the 24th of May in Canberra, Australia.

Workshop participants included staff from the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPac), the PNG Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), Forest Research Institute (FRI) and the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), and the Australian National University (ANU).

The Kokoda Initiative Social Mapping project, led by DEC officer Elton Kaitokai, was one of several discussion themes in the workshop.

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 (AoI) and identified an archaeological scoping project.



Elton Kaitokai doing social mapping work, Bodiri.
Photo: John Burton

KOKODA TRACK CONSERVATION UNDERWAY

The Kokoda Track Authority (KTA) has embarked on track conservation projects to preserve and improve deteriorated sections of the Kokoda Track for the upcoming trekking season.

KTA Rangers will lead teams of skilled local communities to refill pitfalls, clear drainage and fallen trees along the way.

Conservation work was completed from Mt. Bellamy (Kokoda Gap) to Owers' Corner, work is now progressing between Camp 1900 and Kokoda Station.

KTA Chief Executive, James Enage said, "It will be a busy trekking season this year as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Kokoda, so this conservation work is important to ensure the Track is in great condition for trekkers and communities".

KOKODA LICENCE CONDITIONS REVIEW

Kokoda Track Authority (KTA) has released a publication of the reviewed licensing operations conditions for Tour Operators along the Kokoda Track.

With the tourism industry growing, KTA ensure industry standards are regularly reviewed and improved upon to ensure track communities and tour operators meet requirements to maintain a sustainable trekking industry to provide operating guidelines to ensure both a world class trekking experience, and that tour operator staff working conditions meet health and safety standards.

Key changes include stronger safety measures, improved working conditions for trekking staff and robust conditions for environmental protection.

These amendments came about as a result of extensive consultations with stakeholders over the past months, in time for the busy season ahead.



Health Worker at the Kokoda Memorial Hospital.

Photo: Rawena Russell

Supporting Healthy Village Life

Health is a major development goal in Papua New Guinea and it is also a universal human right. The Kokoda Development Program (KDP), as part of the Kokoda Initiative, is working towards achieving this by improving and maintaining good health and well being among communities along and near the Kokoda Track.

KDP has in place a health strategy comprising of community engagement, capacity building, health infrastructure, distribution of essential materials and equipment and working through 'hubs' like the Kokoda Memorial Hospital and Efogi Health Centre. This has produced successful health outcomes for example increased number of supervised deliveries at a health facility, improved immunisations and outreach patrols which have been carried out along the track.

Regular health patrols every two months provide immunisation to children, examination of ante-natal mothers as well as follow up on patients with past illnesses, at the same time the team carries out health promotion activities. Within five years KDP has given 6000 immunisations to children and health workers have supervised over 200 deliveries. Since 2007, over 40 outreach health patrols have been carried out along the track.

"Our main goal is to see that people along the track have access to health facilities, aid posts and health centres and that they have a healthy life - free of diseases like AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and other communicable diseases," said Duon Koi, KDP Community and Public Health Project Officer.

When asked what it is that inspires Health Project Officers like Duon to endure walking difficult terrain and enduring the elements he stresses, "It's fulfilling seeing track communities enjoy good health through access to health care. The health patrols are a major activity in equipping people with information on how to remain free from disease through better hygiene practices and a healthy lifestyle."

Duon is emphatic in his belief that healthy individuals create healthy families which in turn create healthy communities.

Through the commitment of health workers like nurses, community health workers, health extension officers, village health volunteers (VHV's) - most of whom KDP has been instrumental in training - there has been a dramatic improvement in health along the track in the last few years.

KDP has supported programs like disease control which includes screening TB patients and conducting Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT).

Sister Margaret Konehe, Senior midwife of the Kokoda Memorial Hospital acknowledges the assistance of KDP, which has supported nurses and health workers employed at the hospital to carry out their vocation in the service of communities along the track.

The KDP is implemented through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), which is a vital partner delivery agency of the Kokoda Initiative. KDP's main focus is identifying needs of communities and assisting improvement of basic service delivery such as health and education.

Watch the health film clip from the Kokoda Initiative 'One Journey, Many Stories' video on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dh9WB92yyk8>



Kokoda mothers waiting to receive maternal health care at the Kokoda Memorial Hospital. Photo: Yumi Piksa.

Meet James Sabi - Department of Environment and Conservation, Terrestrial Ecosystems Management Branch Manager

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PROFILE



Born

Bogia District, Madang Province

Kokoda Initiative program work

I manage the Kokoda Initiative program, and all other programs within the Terrestrial Ecosystems Management (TEM) Branch. The branch is part of the Sustainable Environment Programs Wing of the PNG Government's Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

I lead a hardworking team to deliver on projects that include Social Mapping, Land and Spatial Information, Biodiversity and Communication. We work to maintain DEC's interest to ensure the PNG Government's commitment meets the objectives of the Second Joint Understanding, especially the wise use and conservation of the catchment protection area, including the Kokoda Track and its natural and cultural resources and values.

Impression of the Kokoda Initiative Program

I have been working with DEC for over 20 years and I have never before come across the hard work and level of commitment that goes into the combined effort that DEC and the delivery agencies i.e. KTA, AusAID KDP and DSEWPac put into seeing that Kokoda Initiative services are delivered and projects are up and running.

The training my staff have received through the program has benefited DEC immensely and added to the success and achievements of the program.

Vision for the Kokoda Initiative Program

I see the Kokoda Initiative as a pilot project for other areas in PNG of natural, cultural and historical significance that are in need of development. The Kokoda Track exemplifies how sustainable development is working for the people, while at the same time preserving the natural, cultural and historical values and resources of this beautiful part of PNG.

Howard Bamsey Joins Kokoda Initiative

One Journey, Many Stories

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Howard Bamsey joins Kokoda Initiative as Senior Advisor to the program. Howard has been engaged to work closely with our stakeholders to talk about program delivery and work together to develop a way to ensure sustainability of the Kokoda Initiative beyond 2015.

Howard has a long association with PNG, dating from his student days when he spent time at the then almost brand-new University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG).

Early in his foreign service career he returned to Port Moresby on secondment to PNG's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He had the unusual, perhaps unique, privilege of negotiating at different times for both countries on the Torres Strait Agreement.

In intervening years he kept in close touch with friends and changes in PNG, visiting most recently on climate change business. He is delighted now to have the opportunity to return in a role aimed at promoting PNG's development and strengthening an important connection with Australia.

To date, Howard's work with Kokoda Initiative includes attending a Kokoda Sustainability Workshop on November 23rd 2011 in Port Moresby, a week-long stakeholder engagement in PNG from February 20th to 25th, 2012, and the Stakeholder Forum in Australia on March 27th 2012.



Howard Bamsey, Kate Feros and performers, Kokoda.
Photo: Mark Nizette.

The Kokoda Initiative video project "One Journey, Many Stories" was released in Papua New Guinea and Australia at the end of March together with the stakeholder forum, and 70th anniversary trekking season launch.

"One Journey, Many Stories" is about the many people involved in the Kokoda Initiative working together to achieve the vision of sustainable development in the region.

The film aims to inform and engage stakeholders as well as encourage an appreciation of the region, its people and work achieved through the Kokoda Initiative.

While recording, the filmmakers Yumi Piksa (University of Goroka) involved the Track communities in a way that inspires storytelling, providing an insight into their way of life and how they have been involved or influenced by the Kokoda Initiative.

Health workers, school teachers, rangers and community leaders are interviewed in the different film clips and share their stories about the work being delivered in the region.

The film clips have been uploaded to YouTube, to watch the videos online link your webpage to this site:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/DeptEnvironment>

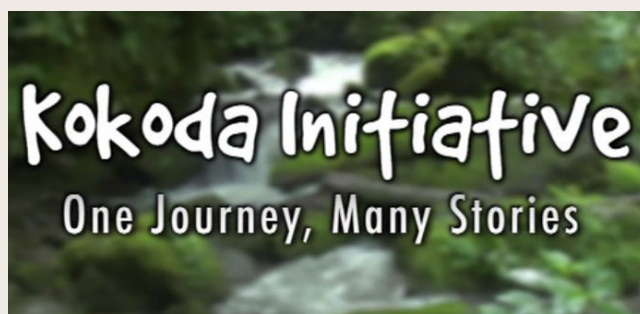


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- “ Volker Scholz: Cover; Inside cover; A National Protected Area Policy for Papua New Guinea; Track News
- “ Rawena Russell: Kokoda Initiative Stakeholder Forum; Supporting Healthy Village Life; Pacific Asia Indigenous Tourism Conference; Kokoda Initiative Farewells
- “ Brian Boone: The Kokoda Campaign 70th Anniversary
- “ Lorraine Follett: Kokoda Track Management Guidelines
- “ John Jablonka: Kokoda Track Management Guidelines; Leadership Management Trek
- “ Guy Chester: Kokoda Track Guest House Certification Program
- “ John Burton: Social Mapping Workshop
- “ Yumi Piksa: Supporting Healthy Village Life
- “ Pauline Riman: Meet James Sabi Profile

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- “ Rawena Russell: Kokoda Initiative Stakeholder Forum; One Journey, Many Stories
- “ Bill James: The Kokoda Campaign 70th Anniversary
- “ Lorraine Follett: Kokoda Track Management Guidelines
- “ Alison Fleming: Pacific Asia Indigenous Tourism Conference
- “ Sylvia Pascoe: Track News
- “ Pauline Riman: The Kokoda Campaign 70th Anniversary; Leadership Management Trek; Kokoda Initiative Farewells, Kokoda Track Guest House Certification Program; A National Protected Area Policy for Papua New Guinea; Supporting Healthy Village Life

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