

# Community-based Coastal and Marine Conservation in Milne Bay Province



## Background

Milne Bay Province is located on the eastern extremity of the island of New Guinea, at the edge of the biologically rich "Coral Triangle". The area is a globally important storehouse of coastal and marine biodiversity, harbouring a range of tropical marine ecosystems. The species richness of these ecosystems is extraordinarily high and, besides displaying high levels of endemism, the area supports large populations of threatened species. While Milne Bay's coastal and marine ecosystems remain in relatively pristine condition compared to other parts of the Pacific Rim, pressures on the environment are escalating and precautionary conservation interventions are needed to prevent the loss of global conservation values.

## Purpose of project

The purpose of the project is to conserve Milne Bay's marine biodiversity by integrating conservation objectives into marine fisheries, eco-tourism and human security development strategies and programmes. The project will support community-based conservation management demonstrations, working in three designated zones that are representative of Milne Bay's habitat diversity and the many different social settings in the province. Interventions will seek to establish community-managed marine protected areas (MPAs) geared to securing conservation and sustainable use objectives. The project proposes to develop a community-based conservation management framework that is operationalised in partnership with national and provincial government authorities, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and local resources owners to conserve a representative sample of the globally significant biodiversity in Milne Bay.

## Key results

1. Enabling environment for marine conservation and near-shore resource management at the provincial and local level governments as well as at the wards level;
2. Representative networks of community-based marine conservation and sustainable near-shore resource management areas;
3. Environmental education programme and conservation awareness activities to impart marine conservation values and resources management skills to students in formal and informal settings;
4. Land use strategies on densely populated small islands overlaid with conservation objectives

## Main activities

1. Build capacity and awareness on marine conservation and near-shore resource management;
2. Establish community-based management structures adapted to local social landscape;
3. Develop environmental resource materials for use in primary and vocational schools;
4. Provide agricultural research, training and extension to targeted small island communities;

## Contributing donor(s)

UNDP; Global Environment Facility; Conservation International; Japanese Human Development Trust Fund; Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research; Australian National University.

## Duration

November 2002 to November 2006

## Total budget

USD 6,443,022

## **Executing Agency**

Conservation International

## **Cooperating agency(ies)**

Department of National Planning and Monitoring; Department of Environment & Conservation; Milne Bay Provincial Government

## **Location**

Milne Bay Province

## **Sector(s)**

Environment, Education, Governance

## **Millennium Development Goal**

Goal 7

## **Date of this summary**

January 2007

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