

CCDA News



Quarterly Newsletter of Climate Change and Development Authority

Volume 3 Issue No.2

I

April - June 2024



PNG LAUNCHED SECOND FOREST REFERENCE LEVEL

A key step towards climate transparency and forest conservation

Papua New Guinea (PNG) takes a significant step forward in environmental transparency and sustainable forestry with the launch of its Second Forest Reference Level (FRL) on the 17th of April this year.

This milestone signifies PNG's commitment to fulfilling its obligations under the Paris Agreement and marks a significant moment in the

nation's journey towards climate action and forest conservation.

Acting Managing Director of CCDA, Debra Sungi said "PNG's launch of the Second FRL symbolises our country's unwavering commitment to combatting climate change and preserving our natural heritage.

"Through transparent

reporting and accountability, we aim to set a global example in environmental stewardship", said Ms. Sungi.

The Second Forest Reference Level is a testament to PNG's resolve in sustainable forest management.

CCDA's General Manager, MRV & National Communication Division,

[CON'D TO P3] 

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the second-quarter edition of the CCDA newsletter for 2024. This newsletter serves as a vital communication medium for CCDA, disseminating key updates from CCDA as the lead coordinating agency on climate-related policies, plans, and actions for Papua New Guinea.

We are now in the second half of the year. The past three months have been productive in terms of progress in implementing our organizational priorities.

Since I assumed the role of Acting Managing Director four months ago, I have set three key priorities to be achieved within three months: the establishment of a climate change board, organizational restructuring, and the commencement of CCDA's revenue generation exercise, now provided for under the Climate Change Management Amendment Act 2023. These priorities were set to better position CCDA to deliver its mandate.

So far, the progress has been promising. We have expedited the process of establishing the National Climate Change Board and advanced well with consultations on the revenue generation exercise. This is crucial for supporting the government in addressing critical climate challenges through the imposition of green fees (non-tax revenue).

Additionally, the organizational staff structure is a work in progress and is linked to the

implementation of the revenue exercise. Our collaboration with development partners and key sector agencies continues to be strong. Climate change affects all sectors, requiring every sector to work together on climate change adaptation and mitigation within their operations. Our collaborative efforts with sectors such as transport, road infrastructure, energy, forestry, environment, and lands are particularly vital.

Some of these interventions poised to be implemented under relevant sectors are highlighted in this edition. I am pleased to see sectors taking the lead, though much more work remains to meet our country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) targets in our climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.

On the international front, we are also working to fulfill our commitments by reporting on how we are addressing climate change as a country. Our front-page story highlights the launch of the country's Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) in April. This establishes a benchmark for PNG's historical emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, which will be used to measure and report on future performance in reducing these emissions under international mechanisms such as REDD+.

Back home, I commend the Minister for Environment, Conservation, and Climate Change, Honorable Simo Kilepa, and his Government for their steadfast leadership in supporting key climate change priorities, notably the passage of the amended CCMA and the carbon market regulation. This ongoing leadership support will continue to be essential as we navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

In conclusion, I extend my gratitude to our loyal readers for staying informed and contributing to the discourse on climate change. I trust you will find the contents of this edition of CCDA's newsletter both engaging and informative. We look forward to bringing you more updates in our next edition.

Cheers and happy reading!

.....
Ms. Debra Sungi
Acting Managing Director
Climate Change and Development Authority



Picture above: Representatives from Government Agencies, Research and Academia, Private Sectors, NGOs and Development Partners attending the launch at Holiday Inn, Port Moresby

...[FROM P1]

William Lakain said forests play a crucial role in carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation.

"PNG's dedication to REDD+ underlines our determination to protect our forests and mitigate deforestation and forest degradation", said Mr. Lakain.

PNG's efforts are bolstered by strategic partnerships, including support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Head of FAO Office in PNG, Bir Mandal, expressed FAO's commitment, stating, "FAO is honoured to assist Papua New Guinea in enhancing transparency and sustainability in the forestry sector. Through collaborative endeavours like the CBIT initiatives, we can empower nations to address climate change challenges effectively".

Additionally, PNG receives support from the European Union through the European Union-funded Forestry-Climate Change-Biodiversity (EU-FCCB) Programme.

His Excellency Mr. Jacques Fradin, Ambassador of the European Union to Papua New Guinea, commended PNG's dedication, highlighting the importance of collaboration in addressing climate change and preserving biodiversity.

As PNG advances its efforts in climate transparency and forest conservation, it emerges as a symbol of resilience and sustainability. By fostering global collaboration and maintaining steadfast determination, PNG leads the way toward a greener and more sustainable future for all.

[Photo below L-R] Mr. Bir Mandal, Head of PNG Office, FAO, Ms. Debra Sungi, Acting Managing Director, CCDA and H.E Jacques Fradin, EU Ambassador to PNG addressing the media during the launch of the FRL.



Photo above: Media interview with Mr. Bir Mandal, Head of PNG Office, FAO, Ms. Debra Sungi, Acting Managing Director, CCDA and H.E Jacques Fradin, EU Ambassador to PNG during the launch of the FRL.

CCDA ADVANCES KEY ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

Climate Change and Development Authority's (CCDA) Acting Managing Director Ms. Debra Sungi announced that three key priorities set for CCDA to progress since she assumed the role of the Acting Managing Director four months ago have progressed well.

These three priorities include; the establishment of the National Climate Change Board, the Revenue Generation Exercise, and the Organizational Restructure.

"In a short time, we have made significant progress", said Ms. Sungi during a staff gathering.

"The process to establish the National Climate Change Board is nearly complete, with only one nominee yet to be finalized. The board will oversee and guide the CCDA, providing needed strategic direction to ensure effective implementation of its functions," said Ms. Sungi.

"The second priority we've set focuses on generating revenue through non-tax revenues and fees under the Climate Change Management (Amendment) Act (CCMA) 2023.

"Key initiatives include the imposition of fees to fund climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts, as a step to enhancing communities' resilience to climate impacts.

"Our revenue team has done a tremendous job in carrying out consultations with agencies such as the National Airports Corporation, Immigration and Citizenship Authority, and PNG Ports Corporation," said Ms. Sungi.

These consultations aim to explore collaboration opportunities between CCDA and regulators, facilitate fee collection, address specific requirements, and identify necessary infrastructure and technological solutions to streamline the process.

A standout initiative within this priority is the green fee, charged to non-PNG citizens arriving or departing. This fee aims to offset individual carbon footprints and support environmental initiatives.

"Implementation of this initiative is on track, with a scheduled start date of July 19, 2024, as stipulated by the Act," Ms. Sungi stated.

The third priority, the organizational restructure of the CCDA, is also progressing well. This restructure aims to enhance the capacity and efficiency of the CCDA, ensuring it is well-

equipped to meet future challenges.

"We are also looking at advancing the organizational restructure to establish the capacity that CCDA needs going forward," said Ms. Sungi.

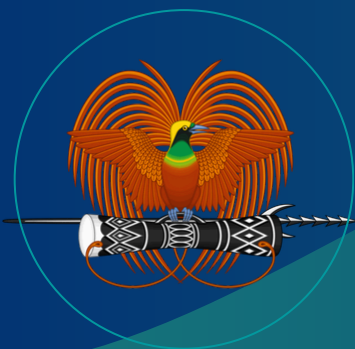
Ms. Sungi expressed commendation to the revenue committee, the board committee and the restructure committee for the progresses made so far and encouraged them to continue to ensure these key priorities are fully delivered soon.



Ms. Debra Sungi

Pictures: CCDA Revenue team, in consultation with relevant agencies and stakeholders on the implementation of the green fees and charges.





MINISTRY FOR ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

07 June, 2024

PRESS STATEMENT



IMPLEMENTATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE STATUTORY FEES AND CHARGES.

It is evident that climate challenges facing our nation demand urgent and concerted action, both domestically and with support from the international community. Despite Papua New Guinea's relatively low contribution to global emissions, we are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change as a small island nation.

As a government and as the Ministry responsible for addressing these challenges, we recognize the urgent need for proactive measures. Sitting idly by is not an option. We must take decisive steps to reduce our carbon footprint, mitigate the effects of climate change on our communities, and build resilience to withstand future challenges.

Achieving this goal necessitates substantial financial backing. Yet, it must be noted that the annual climate change budget is very minimal at K3million. With such a budget, the Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA) faces significant challenges in implementing impactful projects at the provincial and local governments level as coordinating agency.

To this end, the authority is implementing important measures under the Climate Change Management (Amendment) Act (CCMA) 2023, aimed at curbing emissions and ensuring environmental sustainability whilst also making room for revenue generation to respond to climate challenges we face as a country. One such measure involves the imposition of fees to generate revenue, which will be crucial in funding climate change adaptation and mitigation and build our local communities' resilience to climate impacts.

This is part of the Government's ongoing commitment to effectively respond to climate change of which the implementation of Gazetted statutory fees and charges, detailed in Gazette number G328 will be administered by CCDA as empowered by the Act.

The gazetted fees were determined under Section 38A of the Climate Change Management Act 2015, specifying

activities and services to which fees apply. The implementation is scheduled for **July 19, 2024**, ensuring compliance with the law. The gazetted fees include: **1)** green fee, **2)** 7% Fee: Imposed on proceeds from carbon credit sales related to mitigation activities and **3)** climate change administration fee.

The green fee is charged on non-PNG citizens arriving or departing, aimed at offsetting individual carbon footprints and supporting environmental initiatives. The 7% fee is a fee imposed on proceeds from carbon credit sales related to mitigation activities, further incentivizing sustainable practices. The Climate Change Administration Fee is a fee on accredited entities and development partners receiving climate finance, enhancing administrative capacity for climate projects in PNG.

As part of the process to implement the gazetted fees, regional stakeholder consultations will be conducted by CCDA to establish collection points in the coming weeks and ensure compliance with the gazetted notice. Additionally, this consultation is to explore collaboration opportunities between CCDA and regulators, focusing on facilitating fee collection and addressing any specific requirements or agreements necessary.

Furthermore, this is also to identify required infrastructure, resources, and potential technological solutions to streamline the fee collection process going forward.

As Minister responsible, I encourage key stakeholders in this consultation process for your utmost cooperation in the implementation of this crucial exercise as this is for the greater cause of our climate-affected communities and for the country at large.

Thank you.

HON. SIMO KILEPA, MP
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION
AND CLIMATE CHANGE





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PORT MORESBY, FRIDAY, 3rd MAY

[2024

Climate Change & Development Authority

CLIMATE CHANGE (MANAGEMENT) (AMENDMENT) ACT 2023 DETERMINATION OF STATUTORY FEES AND CHARGES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

I, Honourable Simo Kilepa, the Minister for Environment, Conservation and Climate Change make the following determination pursuant to Section 38A of the *Climate Change (Management) Act* 2015 (as amended) in respect of the statutory fees and charges imposed by the CCMA 2015, referred to herein —

- (a) determine the activities and services for which fees and charges shall apply to be those that are specified in the Schedule; and
- (b) determine the amount of those fees and charges to be those that are specified in the Schedule.

This determination shall take effect from 19th July 2024 in the *National Gazette*.

SCHEDULE 1

ACT	FEE TYPE	FEES PAYABLE IN KINA
<i>Climate Change (Management) (Amendment) Act</i> 2023	7 percent be imposed on all proceeds from the net sales of carbon credits by person carrying out all mitigation activities.	7% apply to proceeds from the net sales of carbon credits
	A climate change administration fee totalling 1/5 of what accredited entities and development partners get as administration fee shall impose on all accredited entities and development partners who receive climate finance on behalf of the independent state of Papua New Guinea.	1/5 apply to total administration fee received by accredited entity and development partners

No. G328—3rd May, 2024

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Climate Change (Management) (Amendment) Act 2023 Determination of Statutory Fees and Charges for Climate Change and Development Authority—continued

SCHEDULE 2

ACT	FEE TYPE	DESCRIPTION OF FEE	FEES PAYABLE IN KINA
<i>Climate Change (Management) (Amendment) Act</i> 2023	Green Fee	International arrival only for all foreign passport holders.	50

Dated this Friday, 22nd day of April, 2024.

Hon. S. KILEPA,
Minister for Environment, Conservation and Climate Change.

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Port Moresby.—328.

Above: Pursuant to the *Climate Change Management Amendment Act* 2023, new statutory fees have officially been gazetted and scheduled to be implemented by July 2024.



DAVID WEREH
SECRETARY - DOWH

CLIMATE RESILIENT ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE IS KEY

An inception workshop held in Port Moresby on the 11th of June marked a significant step towards addressing climate change adaptation in the country's roads and infrastructure sector.

This initiative is part of the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States PNG (IRIS PNG) Project, led by the Department of Works and Highways (DoWH) with support from the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

David Wereh, Secretary for DoWH, highlighted the urgent need for action: "This year has

been the worst year. It could be the beginning of the worst still to come. We've experienced damages worth millions of kina in road infrastructure due to continuous heavy rains and extreme weather events. This is a growing trend and a massive challenge to address as a country."

Despite progress, Wereh emphasized the need for further advancement: "Relevant agencies must share information and data and ensure coordination is strengthened to build climate-resilient infrastructures."

PNG, an island state, faces

increasing climate change impacts, necessitating urgent action. The DoWH has demonstrated its commitment to climate-proofing roads and infrastructure under the National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

The 24-month IRIS PNG project, funded at US\$499,998, aims to strengthen institutional and technical capacity for developing climate-resilient transport infrastructure.

The project focuses on two key areas: enhancing the adaptive capacity of DoWH by strengthening knowledge and partnerships ...**[CONT'D TO P8]**

...[FROM P7]

for resilient infrastructure by 2030 and improving infrastructure resilience through better policies, plans, and standards.

Acting Managing Director for Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA), Ms. Debra Sungi, commended the DoWH for spearheading this project, emphasizing its role in supporting PNG's transition from traditional development practices to climate-resilient planning.

GGGI Country Representative Sakiusa Tuisolia said, "GGGI is committed to supporting PNG in its journey towards building climate-resilient infrastructure. Our collaboration aims to ensure sustainable development and enhanced resilience against climate change impacts."

CDRI Director General Amit Prothi added, "CDRI is delighted to support the development of climate-resilient transport



Photo from L-R: Representative from GGGI, Acting Managing Director of CCDA Ms. Debra Sungi, and Secretary for DoWH Mr. David Wereh with the Signed MoU.

infrastructure in PNG with this grant of US\$499,998. We are committed to enhancing infrastructure resilience by strengthening institutional and technical capacities."

Over the next 24 months, the IRIS PNG Project will engage with stakeholders to develop climate-resilient transport infrastructure, contributing to PNG's Nationally Determined

Contributions (NDCs) and NAP priorities.

A Memorandum of Understanding was established between GGGI and the Government of PNG through the DoWH to strengthen institutional capacity for climate-resilient transport infrastructure in PNG through the IRIS Project.



Above photo: Participants from different agencies who attended the inception workshop posing for a group photo.



Picture: Stakeholder participants posing for a group photo during the workshop at Lamana Hotel, Port Moresby

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS IN PNG DISCUSSED

Key stakeholders from various sectors gathered on the 1st of May in Port Moresby to discuss advancing sustainable transportation solutions in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

The workshop focused on developing a national e-mobility policy and strategies to overcome barriers to adopting electric vehicles (EVs) as a sustainable transportation solution in PNG.

This initiative, led by the Government of PNG in collaboration with the Department of Transport (DoT), Climate Change Development Authority (CCDA), and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), aims to combat greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation and energy sectors. In 2017, PNG's energy

sector accounted for 80.5% of the nation's net emissions, with the transport sub-sector contributing approximately 23%. Vehicle numbers are projected to increase from 155,000 in 2005 to 600,000 by 2030, potentially doubling emissions under a business-as-usual approach.

"PNG has made a solemn commitment to achieving carbon neutrality in the energy industries sub-sector by 2050, signaling a paradigm shift towards renewable energy sources and sustainable transportation solutions," stated Roy Mumu, Secretary for the Department of Transport.

"Embracing electric vehicles represents a cornerstone of this transition, offering a clean and efficient alternative to conventional ...[CONT'D TO P10]



Mr. Roy Mumu
Secretary - DOT

NATIONAL ENERGY AUTHORITY AND EXPERTISE FRANCE SIGN MOU

The National Energy Authority (NEA) and Expertise France have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement green energy initiatives in Papua New Guinea (PNG) from 2024 to 2027. This collaboration is part of the European Union-funded Forestry-Climate Change-Biodiversity (EU-FCCB) Programme.

The signing ceremony, witnessed by representatives from the European Union Delegation to PNG, the Department of National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM), and various stakeholders, marks a significant step in PNG's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable energy.

Mr. Ronald Meketa, Managing Director of NEA, expressed his gratitude, saying, "This partnership will kickstart our joint efforts to strengthen NEA's capacity as a regulatory authority and advance renewable energy in PNG through policy revisions and establishing an energy repository hub."

Mr. Alaric Vandenberghe, EU-FCCB National Component Project Manager from Expertise France, highlighted the collaboration's importance, stating, "We are privileged to partner with NEA and other government agencies to support PNG's climate actions and green economy development."

Mr. Floyd Lala from DNPM emphasized aligning the project with PNG's Medium-Term Development Plan 4 (MTDP-4) Strategic Priority Areas.

Ms. Monica Vazquez Pablo from the EU Delegation to PNG congratulated NEA and Expertise France on their partnership, saying, "This MoU is a significant milestone for green energy development in PNG. I encourage all stakeholders to maximize the benefits of this collaboration. The European Union remains committed to supporting PNG's efforts in combating climate change and promoting sustainable energy solutions."

This MoU represents a critical milestone in PNG's journey towards sustainable energy and underscores the power of international cooperation in addressing global environmental challenges.



Picture above seated (L-R): Ms. Monica Vazquez Pablo from the EU Delegation to PNG, Mr. Alaric Vandenberghe, EU-FCCB National Component Project Manager from Expertise France, Mr. Ronald Meketa, Managing Director of NEA and Mr. Floyd Lala from DNPM with the signed MoU.

[FROM P9]

...fossil fuel-powered vehicles." said Mr. Mumu.

Acting Managing Director of CCDA Ms. Debra Sungi said the transport sector is one of the country's key energy targets, and the government is committed to ensuring that the country achieves carbon neutrality by 50% by 2030 under the Vision 2050.

"Therefore, the transport sector will implement policy measures on how best we can mitigate

emissions from the sector. This is to demonstrate that our country is also taking action to limit global temperature rise." said Ms. Sungi.

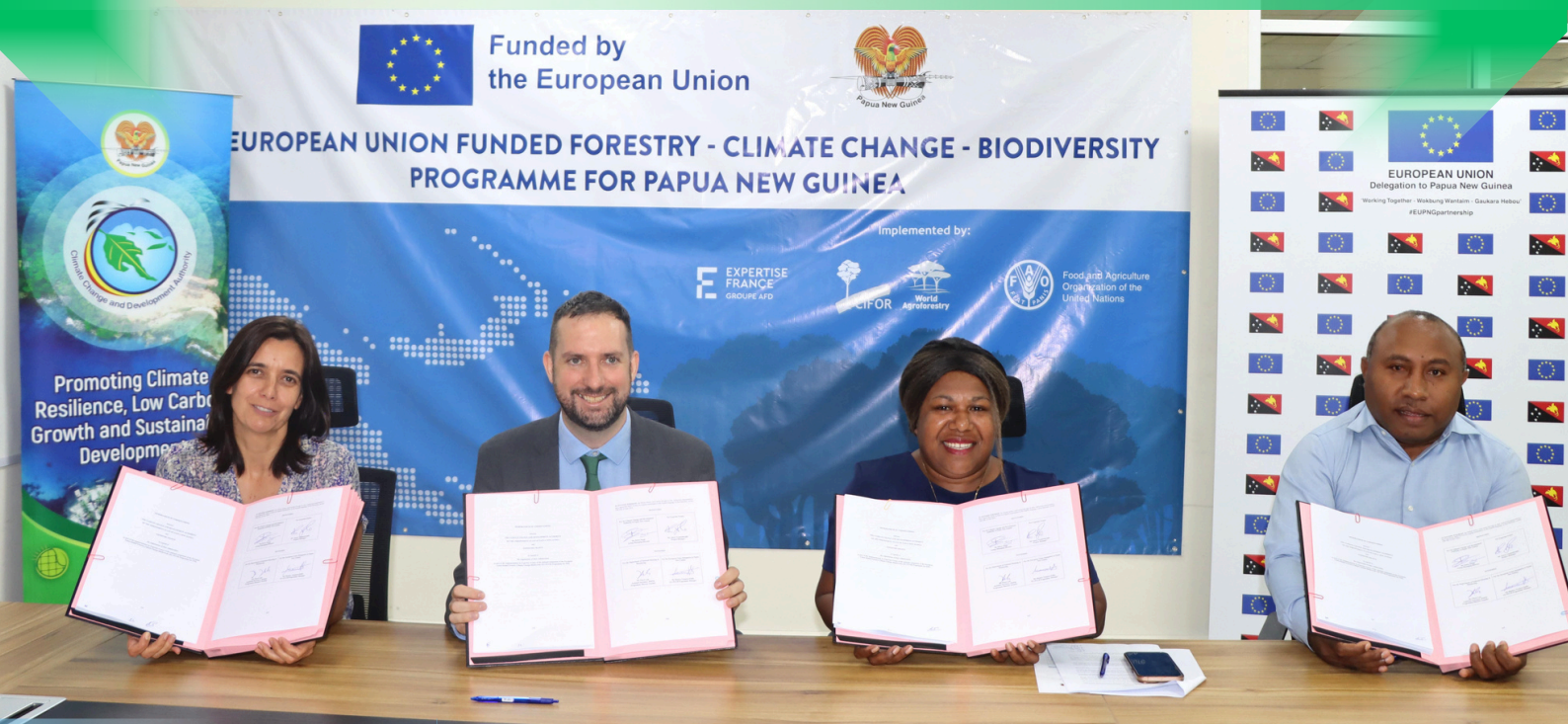
The workshop, part of the "Promoting Electric Mobility in Papua New Guinea" Readiness project, involved 50 representatives from government, the private sector, development partners, and NGOs.

The project aims to address barriers to EV adoption, with funding support of USD 449,598

from the Green Climate Fund for an 18-month implementation period starting this year.

"GGGI is proud to partner with PNG in initiatives that promote electric mobility and contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions," said Mr. Sakiusa Tuisolia, Country Representative of GGGI.

"By supporting projects like this, we aim to demonstrate the feasibility and benefits of electric vehicle adoption", said Mr. Tuisolia.



Picture above (L-R): Ms. Monica Vazquez Pablo from the EU Delegation to PNG, Mr. Alaric Vandenberghe, EU-FCCB National Component Project Manager from Expertise France, Ms. Debra Sungi, Acting Managing Director of CCDA and Mr. Floyd Lala from DNPM with the signed MoU.

CCDA AND EXPERTISE FRANCE SIGN MOU TO DRIVE CLIMATE ACTION

The Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA) and Expertise France have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the 20th of June 2024 to implement climate change-related activities within the framework of the national component of the European Union-funded Forestry-Climate Change-Biodiversity (EU-FCCB) Programme in Papua New Guinea (PNG) over the period 2024-2027.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by representatives from the European Union Delegation to PNG, the Department of National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM), as well as divisional managers and focal points from CCDA and other stakeholder agencies.

This MoU marks a significant milestone for CCDA in its efforts to advance the implementation of PNG's Enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and preserve the country's pristine environment in collaboration with the European Union. NDCs are climate action plans that outline PNG's efforts to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

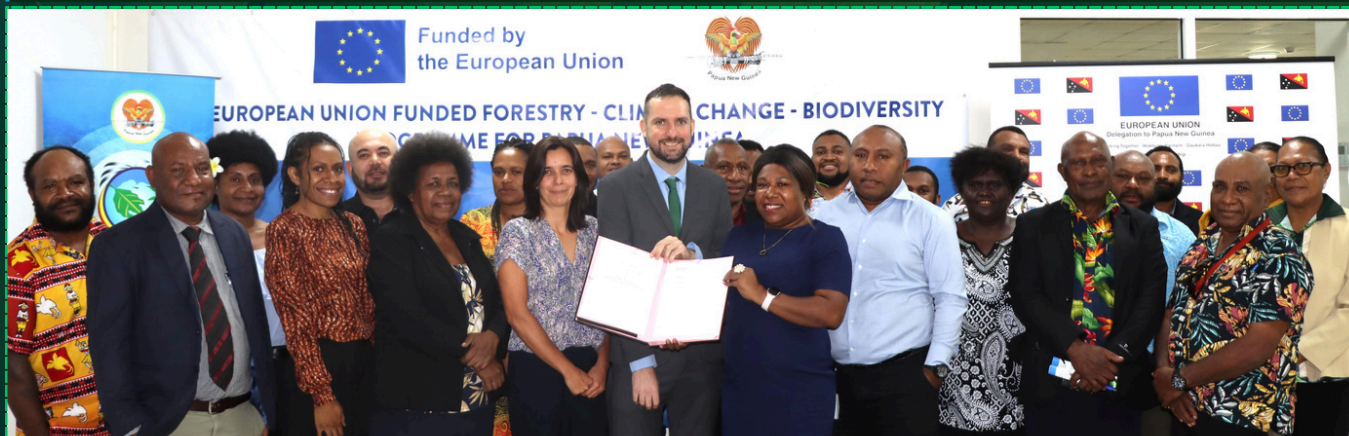
During the signing ceremony, Ms. Debra Sungi, Acting Managing Director of CCDA, expressed her appreciation for the partnership, stating, "I commend the support from

Expertise France and the team from CCDA in finalizing the action plan. Now that we have the MoU signed, we can kickstart the implementation. This action plan has been developed through discussions and collaboration from both sides."

Mr. Alaric Vandenberghe, EU-FCCB National Component Project Manager from Expertise France, acknowledged the leadership of CCDA and the presence of stakeholders at the signing ceremony. He remarked, "We are privileged to partner with CCDA and other government agencies to support the efforts of the Government and People of Papua New Guinea in driving climate actions and environmental protection while advancing the development of a green economy."

Mr. Floyd Lala from DNPM emphasized the importance of aligning this project with the national sustainable development agenda, particularly with the Medium-Term Development Plan 4 (MTDP-4) Strategic Priority Areas.

Ms. Monica Vazquez Pablo from the EU Delegation to PNG congratulated CCDA and Expertise France on establishing this partnership agreement and encouraged stakeholders to maximize the benefits of this collaboration.





BLUE CARBON: A LIFELINE FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

As the world's attention turns to the critical role of blue carbon ecosystems in combating climate change, Papua New Guinea (PNG) stands at the forefront of conservation efforts.

The inaugural Management and Conservation of Blue Carbon Ecosystems or MACBLUE Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting held in the Central Province on the 23rd of April focused on policy roadmap for PNG and to nominate a Chair of the PSC.

Blue carbon refers to ecosystems, including mangrove forests, seagrass meadows, and tidal salt marshes, are invaluable in the fight against greenhouse gas

emissions. These coastal treasures not only capture organic carbon dioxide but also serve as vital buffers against severe storms and flooding, aiding communities in adapting to climate-related threats.

The government of PNG through the Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA) as the main partner of the MACBLUE project has successfully formed the project steering committee to guide the implementation process of this project.

This project will be implemented close collaboration with implementing partners; SPREP and the SPC.

The project utilizes innovative

remote sensing approaches to map the extent of seagrass and mangrove ecosystems in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and assess and models related carbon storage capacity, emission potential and ecosystem services.

The resulting data will allow inventories of associated natural capital and support the government partners in their efforts to strategically develop and implement conservation, management and rehabilitation efforts.

Based on effective mapping and analysis of carbon sequestration and storage of sea grass and mangrove...[CONT'D TO PG13]





...FROM P12

ecosystems, governments are assisted to establish a nationally appropriate incentives for sustainable management and rehabilitation efforts as part of NDCs and other national and regional strategies and policies.

At the PSC meeting, CCDA was nominated to chair the PSC and the Department of National Planning and Monitoring as Deputy Chair.

During the opening of the meeting, Acting Managing Director of CCDA Ms. Debra Sungi, said "establishing a

steering committee is a big step forward for us as a government because having that institutional framework and arrangement is very important to govern the work and implementation of what we want to see as an outcome of blue carbon in the country".

"We have very ambitious targets as outlined in our enhanced NDCs for the country. As a government, it is our commitment to ensure that we reach those targets", said Ms. Sungi."

The MACBLUE Project Steering Committee is comprised of

representatives from CCDA, Conservation and Environment Protection Authority, Oceans Office, The Nature Conservancy, Department of National Planning and Monitoring, University of Papua New Guinea, National Fisheries Authority, and PNG Forest Authority.

"I Thank the German Government through the GIZ and the implementing partners, SPC and SPREP for coming onboard to support PNG in ensuring that this blue carbon project goes ahead", concluded Ms. Sungi.

BRIEF: 30TH PAPUA NEW GUINEA-AUSTRALIA MINISTERIAL FORUM

Under the 30th Papua New Guinea-Australia Ministerial Forum Joint Communiqué, PNG welcomed Australia's update on the bid to host the 31st UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP31) in 2026 in partnership with Pacific countries. Ministers reiterated the commitment to work together to advocate for the bid. Ministers welcomed the

launch of Climate FIRST, a new climate change investment aimed at increasing PNG's access to global climate-financing and Australia's foundational contribution to the Pacific Resilience Facility, which is expected to lay the foundation to attract investment by other countries.



CCDA Nears Completion of ART and TREES Registration and Drafting of SOI2



Picture above: CCDA's REDD+ and Mitigation Divisional staff with General Manager Ms. Gwen Sissiou in the middle.

The Climate Change Development Authority (CCDA) is in the final stages of drafting the ART and TREES Registration Document, a critical step towards enhancing climate mitigation efforts in Papua New Guinea.

Additionally, CCDA is finalizing the drafting of Safeguards Summary of Information two (SOI2), furthering its commitment to comprehensive climate governance.

The ART (Architecture for REDD+ Transactions) program is an international initiative designed to promote transparency, environmental integrity, and social inclusion in REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) activities. It provides a framework for the measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) of emission reductions from REDD+ projects, ensuring they meet rigorous environmental and social standards.

TREES (The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard) is a standard under the ART program that sets the criteria for high-quality REDD+ credits. It includes detailed guidelines for quantifying and verifying emission reductions, ensuring that credits generated are real, measurable, and permanent.

TREES focuses on maintaining the integrity of carbon credits by addressing issues such as deforestation, forest degradation, and biodiversity conservation.

The ART and TREES registration will enhance the credibility and transparency of REDD+ projects in PNG. By adhering to these standards, CCDA can ensure that emission reductions are accurately measured and verified, gaining international recognition and trust.

Secondly, high-quality REDD+ credits that meet ART and TREES standards are more attractive to investors and international carbon

markets. This can lead to increased funding and support for sustainable forest management and conservation projects in PNG.

Third, it Ensures that REDD+ activities meet stringent environmental standards, helps protect biodiversity and ecosystems.

The ART and TREES standards also promotes the inclusion of local people communities in REDD+ projects. This ensures that the benefits of these projects are shared equitably and supporting livelihoods.

Furthermore, this is to align with Global Standards. By finalizing the ART and TREES Registration Document, and the SOI2, PNG aligns itself with global best practices in climate action and enhances the country's ability to participate in international climate initiatives and access global climate finance mechanisms.



World Environment Day marked with solemn reminder

The Nature's Park in Port Moresby celebrated World Environment Day (WED) 2024 with a strong emphasis on forest and land restoration, under the theme "Plant native trees to revive and restore degraded forests."

Organized by the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA), the event attracted a diverse group of participants, including students, development partners, government and private sector representatives, and civil society organizations.

CEPA's Director for the Sustainable Environment Program, Ms. Kay Kalim, addressed the audience, questioning, "We speak highly of our 7-8% of biodiversity that exists on less than 1% of land space, but do we really promote that?" She stressed, "The theme: 'Plant native trees to revive and restore degraded forests' signals that we must do more to restore our forests and the natural environment." Ms. Kalim urged schools to integrate environmental education into their curriculum to foster responsible citizenship.

Ms. Debra Sungi, Acting Managing Director of the Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA), highlighted the vital role of forests in combating climate change, noting that significant emissions in PNG stem from agriculture, forestry, and land-use sectors. She stated, "Forests are the lungs of our planet and play an important role as carbon sinks, which we must be mindful of especially in the face of climate change."

The event featured a ceremonial planting of native trees, symbolizing ecological restoration

efforts. Participants, including CEPA, CCDA, UNDP, FAO PNG Office, USAID, the European Union Delegation to PNG, the University of Papua New Guinea, private sectors, civil society organizations, and selected schools, eagerly participated, recognizing the importance of each tree planted.

Ms. Kalim, on behalf of CEPA, expressed gratitude to all participants, including schools, development partners, government agencies, corporate representatives, and civil society, for their support in commemorating WED 2024.



World Environment Day

key messages



"We must go into restoration mode by planting trees, revegetating barren and degraded land to replace and restore what we have destroyed and what was destroyed by generations before us.

Mr. Maino Virobo
Director of Policy - CEPA



Our actions must demonstrate that we care for our environment. We must do more to restore our forests and the natural environment

Ms. Kay Kalim
Director for the Sustainable Environment Program - CEPA



We must advance our actions; big or small that contribute to safeguarding our natural forest, land and environment as government, corporates or individuals.

Ms. Debra Sungi
A/Managing Director - CCDA



This year's (WED) theme of land restoration reminds us of the link between climate change and the environment, at a time when we face increasing droughts, floods and landslides. We must continue to work together.

Mr. Nicholas Booth
Resident Representative - UNDP
Papua New Guinea



"Let us reaffirm our commitment to protecting our environment, nurturing our land and sea and embrace sustainable practices".

Mr. Bir Chandra Mandal, Head of Office, FAO PNG Country Office



"PNG's biodiversity is unmatched in the world. We need to remember this and be proud of".

Ms. Nino Nadiradze,
Country Representative for USAID
Papua New Guinea



"World Environment Day is an important time to reaffirm our commitments to safeguard the health of our ecosystems for us and the future generations".

Dr. Hans Lambrecht, Head of Cooperation from the EU Delegation to Papua New Guinea



BUILDING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT EXTENDED

The Building Resilience to Climate Change (BRCC) Project, a vital initiative aimed at fortifying vulnerable communities against climate change, has been extended by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for 24 months beyond its original April 2024 conclusion.

BRCC operates in four pilot provinces—East New Britain (ENB), Manus, Milne Bay, Morobe—and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB). The project aims to mitigate climate threats and enhance resilience among vulnerable island and atoll communities, enabling them to better handle climate variability challenges.

Since its launch, BRCC has significantly bolstered the capacities of communities, government agencies, and civil society to plan and respond to climate-induced hazards.

Managed by the Climate Change Development Authority's (CCDA) Adaptation and Projects Division,

BRCC has formed strong partnerships with provincial governments and regional administrations.

BRCC, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), conducted climate change vulnerability assessments for 24 islands and atolls from 2020 to 2021. These assessments led to the identification of prioritized adaptation projects funded by the Small Grants Facility (SGF).

Essential resources like community boats and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure have been provided to enhance community resilience.

The project pilots sustainable practices in nine island sites across Manus, Milne Bay, and ENB. Efforts include rehabilitating coral reefs and mangrove forests, piloting income-generating activities, and stabilizing watershed areas through tree planting. Baseline resource

assessments have been completed, setting the stage for further interventions.

BRCC has developed policy documents, upgraded engineering design standards, and incorporated climate considerations into coastal infrastructure projects. The extension of radio networks has improved communication and early warning systems for natural disasters.

The upgraded Alotau Provincial Government Wharf in Milne Bay Province exemplifies climate-proof infrastructure.

With this extension, BRCC is poised to continue its impactful work, supported by governmental agencies and international partners, ensuring the protection and resilience of Papua New Guinea's vulnerable communities.





KEEPING THE PUBLIC INFORMED ON GOVERNMENT-LED CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES.

The Climate Change Development Authority (CCDA) has been actively engaging key stakeholders and the public through various media platforms to discuss significant developments in climate change policy and initiatives.

In recent months, CCDA management has taken opportunities to inform the public about critical topics. These include the development of PNG's carbon market regulations, amendments to the Climate Change Management Act of 2023, and strategic priorities for climate adaptation and mitigation.

Discussions on the establishment of carbon

market regulations have been central aiming to create a framework that facilitates carbon markets. This initiative is seen as a crucial step towards incentivizing emissions reductions and aligning national efforts with global climate goals.

Amendments to the Climate Change Management Act were highlighted to strengthen legal mechanisms supporting climate action. These amendments are expected to enhance policy effectiveness and resilience in addressing the country's climate challenges.

Additionally, CCDA emphasized strategic priorities in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. These priorities are designed to bolster community

resilience to climate impacts and promote sustainable practices to reduce emissions.

CCDA has utilized various media platforms, including radio broadcasts, television interviews, and online publications, to disseminate these updates widely. These engagements reflect CCDA's commitment to transparency and ensuring public awareness and support for climate initiatives.

By engaging stakeholders and the public, CCDA aims to foster a collaborative approach to climate resilience and mitigation. These efforts are crucial in advancing government policies that safeguard PNG's environment for future generations.

JIMMY COMMITTED TO SERVE CCDA FOLLOWING ADVANCED STUDIES

Jimmy a dedicated staff member of the Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA), has recently completed his Masters in Executive Management Business Administration (EMBA) program.

This achievement marks a significant milestone in his career, equipping him with enhanced skills and insights that are set to benefit CCDA's mission, the organization he proudly serves.

Mr. Frank pursued the EMBA program to enhance his strategic leadership abilities, business acumen, and decision-making prowess. "The program provided a comprehensive understanding of corporate governance, financial management, and organizational behavior", says Mr. Frank.

"I gained key insights into effective communication, strategic planning, and ethical decision-making in a dynamic business environment," he stated.

Motivated by the desire to advance his career prospects, expand his professional network, and stay abreast of current business trends, Mr. Frank saw the EMBA as a vital step in his professional development.

"I was driven to pursue further education in executive management to not only advance my career but also to contribute more effectively to CCDA," he explained.

The knowledge and skills acquired through the EMBA program are set to shape Mr. Frank's approach to his role at CCDA. "My education will enable me to lead strategic initiatives, align corporate objectives and drive organizational growth at CCDA," he said.



Among the many valuable lessons from his studies, insights into stakeholder management, sustainable business practices, and strategic leadership are particularly relevant to his work at CCDA.

"These insights are crucial in advancing our mission of sustainable development and climate resilience," he emphasized.

Mr. Frank is eager to apply his newly acquired skills in decision-making, financial management, and strategic planning to enhance CCDA's operational efficiency, implement sustainable initiatives, and foster collaborations.

"I plan to use what I've learned to drive efficiency and sustainability within the organization," he said.

Expressing his gratitude, Mr. Frank acknowledged the support he received throughout his academic journey.

"I would like to thank the CCDA Management for their commitment to upskilling staff, my professors and lecturers at UPNG School of Public Policy and Business Management, my mentor Justin Otto, and my family. "Their insights and encouragement have been invaluable," he shared.

Jimmy currently serves as the Accounts Manager at CCDA.

"Reaching this milestone has solidified my dedication to contributing meaningfully to CCDA's goals and to the broader field of sustainable development," he concluded.



Acknowledgement

The Climate Change and Development Authority expresses gratitude for the invaluable support extended by its key development partners, line government agencies, and stakeholders. Recognizing their crucial role, the Authority regards them as essential collaborators in driving climate change interventions for the Government and the people of Papua New Guinea.



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About Climate Change and Development Authority



Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA) is the official Government entity in coordinating climate change efforts of Papua New Guinea.

CCDA coordinates all climate related policies, strategies and actions with the vision of being the leader in promoting climate resilience, low carbon growth and sustainable development in Papua New Guinea. Find out more at:
www.cdda.gov.pg

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