

UNDP in Papua New Guinea UPDATE



June 2020

UNDP and UNICEF give PNG health system a boost



UNDP Resident Representative Mr Dirk Wagener, Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS, Hon. Jelta Wong and UNICEF Representative, Mr David Mcloughlin receiving the shipment.

The first batch of six much needed ventilators were handed over to the Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS, Hon. Jelta Wong, at Jacksons International Airport on Saturday, 7 June.

The ventilators will assist the country's COVID-19 preparedness efforts and as importantly contribute to strengthening the nation's health system more generally to support those requiring intensive care treatment for acute respiratory and other life-threatening illnesses.

Delivered in partnership with UNICEF, these ventilators will bolster

the nation's investment in building frontline health systems' capacity. An additional 24 ventilators will be delivered over coming months.

In receiving the ventilators, UNDP's Resident Representative Mr. Dirk Wagener said, "Effective health systems are critical. These ventilators are lifesaving and they will strengthen the capacity of the national health system for all Papua New Guineans. UNDP and UNICEF have proudly partnered to secure this equipment in support of the Government of Papua New Guinea."

World Environment Day launched in Goroka



Hon. Minister Mori and NCD Governor, Powes Parkop at the launching in Goroka..

UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Dirk Wagener, travelled to Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province on May 28 - 29 in the lead up to World Environment Day.

He was joined by the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Conservation the Hon. Wera Mori, the National Capital District Governor, the Hon. Powes Parkop and other senior Government officials.

Among the highlights was the ongoing rollout of efforts under the million tree programme. Launched by Minister Mori and Governor Parkop, this initiative aims to see one million trees planted every year over the next decade across Papua New Guinea. In addition, Minister Mori announced Government's intention to launch the SDG 13 Road Map. This initiative presents 30 actions by 2030 that Papua New Guinea can pursue to ensure it meets the targets set to address the impacts of climate change under SDG 13. UNDP has been a proud partner to Government in delivering this latter initiative.

Survey on impact of COVID-19 conducted



Survey would look at the impacts of COVID-19 on households.



Survey would look at the impact of COVID-19 on small business owners.

UNDP has assumed the role of technical lead under the United Nations global efforts to determine the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.

In Papua New Guinea, this assessment commenced in May and is expected to conclude in early July. With the support of the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, UNDP has delivered national surveys to measure the impacts of COVID-19 on both business and households. Preliminary results suggest that COVID's impacts vary across the country, by sector and within the broad spectrum of households.

Following the conclusion of the assessment, UNDP and other United Nations agencies will work with development partners and Government to develop short and longer-term policy and programme responses to mitigate these impacts. These will consider the best ways to support the most vulnerable, stimulate job creation and improve social protections.

"This assessment is nation-wide. It will provide much needed data that we can analyze. Once we have been able to do this, we will then all be in a much better position to help in response and recovery efforts," said UNDP Resident Representative, Mr Dirk Wagener

Working together in COVID-19 response is vital



Mr Higgins (first from right), United Nations Resident Coordinator, Mr Gianluca Rampolla, having a briefing with Dr Kevin Pondikou, Runginae Hospital, Kiunga, Western Province. Pic by RDonovan UNRCO



Mr Higgins and Mr Rampolla in a briefing with Vanimo forward Operating Base Commanding Officer, Major Pakii. Pic. by MAKANE UNRCO

The global COVID-19 pandemic is expected to have wider socio-economic impacts that will affect both businesses and households in Papua New Guinea.

As of 26 June 2020, Papua New Guinea has ten confirmed COVID-19 cases and the work towards a coordinated COVID-19 response from all sectors is now more important than ever. UNDP's Humanitarian Coordination Specialist, Mr. Richard Higgins, his team and the United Nations more generally have been working to support the national Government in preparedness efforts. Mr. Higgins, who has been working in humanitarian response

and emergency management for over nine years said, "My job is to make sure we are all coordinating what we do to ensure that the assistance and expertise that each of us brings is fully utilised. This is more than just a health response. We need to support communities to prepare for, respond to and mitigate, impacts on all aspects of people's lives."

The UNDP, with other United Nations agencies is supporting the Government and its partners to consider a range of longer-term measures that aim to address the broader impacts on people and their livelihoods COVID-19 has raised. This includes measures to address the economic and social impacts of COVID-19.

Support to Family and Sexual Violence Unit



First meeting between UNDP and FSVU Director Delillah Sadeka and Kerrie Ruffles from the Australian Federal Police.

UNDP will provide much needed support to the Royal PNG Constabulary's Family and Sexual Violence Unit (FSVU) in their efforts to stop gender-based violence in the community. A meeting held recently with FSVU Director, Delillah Sadeka

and UNDP's Governance team, saw discussion on ways that UNDP would assist FSVU to continue their work on preventing gender-based violence, provide operational support to maintain safe accommodation for victims and their families, and drive community outreach on gender-based violence prevention within the COVID-19 response.

Looking forward, UNDP will provide further support by purchasing and setting up two offices, establishing a police information management system which will capture data used in case management and operational support.

Online training for CEPA staff



CEPA staff during the online training.

COVID-19 is restricting people from attending meetings and gatherings. Social distancing makes it challenging to conduct 'business as usual.' One way to address this is by using online tools and applications.

Twenty-five Conservation and Environment Protection Agency (CEPA) officers, participated in a virtual workshop on developing Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES).

The workshop assisted these officers in identifying appropriate measures to manage environmental risks and to better engage with indigenous communities.

The online training will boost staff capacity and is part of UNDP's support to strengthening Government's conservation efforts. The project is implemented by CEPA with the support of UNDP.

It is an initiative being delivered with Global Environment Fund (GEF) assistance.

Partners embrace virtual workspace

The COVID-19 pandemic and the strict measures put in place to stop the spread of the disease such as travel restrictions, physical distancing and working from home has encouraged organisations to go 'digital.'

UNDP is embracing this change and supporting its partners to do the same.

UNDP has provided Zoom® licenses and training to 50 partners, mainly Government departments. These include the: Registrar of Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission (IPPC); Department of Community Development and Religion; National Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee; the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary's Family and Sexual Violence Unit; the Department of National Planning and Monitoring; and the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority.

Such initiatives has helped colleagues stay connected and continue to deliver services.

In recognition of this support, Dr. Alphonse Gelu, Registrar of Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission (IPPC) said, "The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged us to be innovative in our engagements with partners. This is the first time for us to use this



UNDPs, Michaelyn Wembi (right), explaining to an IPPCC employee how Zoom® works.



IPPCC employee during a Zoom® meeting.

application and I am thankful for the support provided by UNDP."

A challenge in this 'new normal' is to bridge the digital divide with partners who may not have the resources or the technologies to go digital.

UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Dirk Wagener, said UNDP understands these challenges and is therefore supporting partners with video conferencing licenses and training.

Centre to provide ICT skills development

The new Centre for Excellence in Information and Technology (CEIT) at the University of Papua New Guinea will play an important role in bridging the digital divide.

The CEIT is a joint initiative led by the Government of Papua New Guinea and supported by the Government of India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). CEIT was established to improve ICT literacy.

It provides opportunities for those that are currently working, school leavers and students to take both short and longer term courses.

Lenora Kombeng from New Ireland Province, is one of 30 students currently enrolled at the centre. She is doing a 14-week Certificate in computer programming. "It's very interesting and also challenging. They teach us updated content on technology and web automation including basic computing. I am eager to try out new things in the field of information and technology," Lenora said. CEIT is funded by the Government of India through the India Human Development Trust Fund.



Ms Kombeng showing one of the courses she's taking at the centre.

Energy efficiency audits conducted in East Sepik



Clean energy such as solar and solar powered appliances are alternative energy efficient.

The transition to greater energy efficiency will help limit Papua New Guinea's greenhouse gas emissions. UNDP recently led an Energy Efficiency Audit of seven entities in Maprik and 11 entities in Wewak, East Sepik Province. The audit aimed to identify how the use of lighting and cooling appliances such as fridges and air conditioners, could be made more energy efficient. Results showed that if current light bulbs and fridges used were replaced with ones that used less electricity, a potential yearly savings on energy usage would be at 1.7 million Kilowatts per hour, which equated to a savings of approximately K1.32 million used to pay for electricity annually. This would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide, by 1,220 tonnes per year.

Stakeholders hold meeting to discuss ways to address corruption



Participants take a group photo after the meeting

Twenty-five representatives from Government and Civil Society Organisations gathered to discuss national action to address corruption in Papua New Guinea. Held at the Lamana Hotel on June 24, the event brought together partners involved in the fight against corruption to discuss taking forward efforts to implement the Government's National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) 2010 – 2030. The meeting was facilitated by Transparency International (TI-PNG) in collaboration with the Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council (CIMC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

In reaffirming support for anti-corruption efforts, UNDP's Resident Representative Mr. Dirk Wagener said, "Corruption is corrosive. We know that if left unchecked, it undermines effective governance. It erodes service delivery and negatively impacts on the lives of everyday citizens. The fight against corruption is everyone's business." Mr. Wagener said this event represented an important first-step to increasing coordination among such partners towards supporting the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Plan which will be presented to Government shortly. This initiative, co-led by UNDP, TI-PNG and CIMC encourages civic participation in promoting anti-corruption activities.

Meetings with Locally Managed Marine Areas held in WNB



Mr Mamu, talking to participants at Liamo Beach Resort.

A series of engagements and consultations to inform stakeholders on the importance of Social and Environmental Safeguard assessments was held at West New Britain by the Sustainable Financing Project team (GEF6) from June 17 – 25.

The trip included various engagements with the West New Britain Provincial Government (WNBPG) and local communities within project sites including the Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) of Kimbe Bay.

One such meeting was held at the Liamo Reef Resort and was attended by 21 participants from the WNBPG, not-for profit organisations, the private sector and local communities along Kimbe Bay to discuss social and environment safeguards and sustainable financing of LMMAs.

The Project's Manager, Ted Mamu and representatives from CEPA, gave an overview of what is required

by local communities and various stakeholders, when to be involved, how they can participate and benefit from the Project.

The Project will extend the Government of Papua New Guinea's ability to fulfil its protected area mandate and further the implementation of the national protected area policy.

This will provide more stable and long-term financial resources and contribute to improving management effectiveness in protected areas in PNG.

UNDP supports Nature Park



Ms McGeorge taking guests around the Nature Park

On June 2, UNDP, together with the National Government, strengthened their partnership with the Port Moresby Nature Park with a PGK175,00 grant.

The grant will support the Park to extend a range of conservation and education initiatives. It follows similar support provided under previous Global Environment Fund conservation projects aimed to protect critically endangered species such as the Weimang and Tenkile Tree Kangaroos.

UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Dirk Wagener said, “The Port Moresby Nature Park is a critical partner for UNDP and more importantly for the people of Papua New Guinea. Both UNDP and Government are proud and major partners of the Park.”

The Nature Park is Papua New Guinea’s only internationally recognised wildlife park. It sets the benchmark for tourism, rehabilitation of endangered animals, conservation, research and community nature-based education.

It's time for Nature

Celebrating WED at the Nature Park

On June 5 UNDP, Government, civil society and the private sector celebrated World Environment Day with a tree planting ceremony at the Port Moresby Nature Park.

UNDP has been actively supporting the country’s environmental aspirations for the last four decades and is Government’s most important partner supporting efforts to improve conservation, natural resource management and climate action.

“Climate change is the defining issue of our time. Fossil fuels are

destroying our planet. At the same time, the business potential for renewable energy is immense. Papua New Guinea can lead the global charge towards a greener and more circular economy,” said Mr. Wagener.

The event also coincided with the launch of the Nature Park’s Rainforest Expansion Precinct which is contributing to the One Million Trees campaign. This initiative highlights the importance of native habitats for native species and offers a valuable learning experience for students.



NCD Governor, Hon. Powes Parkop, Minister for Environment Conservation and Climate Change, Hon. Wera Mori and Mr Wagener after the tree planting ceremony.



Hon. Mr. Wera Mori, talking to guests during the launch.

World Environment Day has been celebrated on 5th June every year since 1975 and is the United Nations’ flagship day for promoting worldwide awareness and action for the environment. It is the largest global platform for environmental public outreach and is celebrated by millions of people in more than 100 countries.



Volunteer Park Ranger, Ms Betsy Thomas giving a talk during the opening ceremony.

New office space for national park

Efforts to continue the much need upgrade of infrastructure at Varirata National Park were boasted with the recent opening of entrance facilities by UNDP and CEPA officials.

This latest building will now provide a main office and entry point for visitors.

UNDP handed over the keys of the new building to CEPA’s Director of Sustainable Energy Programme, Ms. Kay Kalim, who is part of the Park’s Management Committee.

Mr. Wagener said, “This example here shows how we can jointly make

sure that a park like the Varirata National Park can provide a whole set of opportunities for people to appreciate Papua New Guinea’s unique biodiversity. Together, we have been able to lift the Park’s standard of management to a level where it can proudly cater to more visitors offering a unique and informative experience .”

This work is being delivered under the “Strengthening the Management Effectiveness of the Natural System of Protected Areas Project.



Mr Gideon Warite.



The 10 UN Volunteers at the park.



Mr Warite showing visitors around the VNP Resource Centre



Koiari traditional dancers entertaining visitors at the park with a traditional dance.

Living in harmony with nature

Gideon Warite is from the Koiari Tribe of the Sogeri Plateau. He is one of 10 National United Nations Volunteer (UNV) Community Rangers at the Varirata National Park, situated about 48km east of Port Moresby. He sees himself as a custodian of the environment and has a deep connection with his land. "I grew up in this area. My parents told me of the many tales of the land and how our ancestors lived in harmony with nature," Mr. Warite recalled vividly. In 2019, Gideon joined the UNV programme.

Varirata National Park is managed by the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) and was acquired from the Koiari people. Officially opened in 1973, it is one of the first national parks in Papua New Guinea.

Gideon encourages younger Rangers to learn about traditional systems to manage the land. When explaining the Koiari Tree House, Mr Warite speaks with great enthusiasm and pride.

The Koiari Tree House is a main attraction for visitors, signifying the traditional knowledge and culture of the local community. Other activities at the Park include research, hiking, bird watching, camping and site seeing.

"My knowledge of the environment and the Koiari culture was taught to me by my parents. I have to pass it down to younger generations. I am always eager to share my knowledge of the history of this place," Gideon said.

The community rangers were recently introduced to an innovative smart phone app, called 'Lukim Gather.' It was developed by UNDP to allow Gideon, other rangers and communities to quickly record and report harmful activities, such as illegal logging, bush fires and other harmful human activities in protected areas. For Gideon, this is a novel approach to conservation. "The smart phone application is new to me and I am now using it to collect data that can be used by CEPA and others for research purposes." The application was piloted in the Park and will soon also be rolled out at Tenkile Conservation Area in Lumi, West Sepik Province, with plans to upscale it nationally.

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