

PNG COMMUNITIES BEST REDD

TAVOLO PROJECT SUMMARY

Verified Carbon Standard and

Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standard



Document Prepared by FORCERT, Kimbe, Papua New Guinea,
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Project Title	PNG Communities BEST REDD - Tavolo Project
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Summary Description of the Project

The Tavolo Community is located in East New Britain Province, on the South Coast of the island of New Britain, Papua New Guinea (PNG). The clans of the Tavolo Community hold customary land rights to a total area of 21,164 ha (hereafter referred to as the 'Tavolo Project Area'). This area has been under consistent threat from large scale logging and conversion to oil palm plantations.

In order to protect their forests and forest resources, whilst still obtain a revenue source, the community first approached FORCERT in 2007 to enquire into the possibility of carrying out community based small scale logging operations under the FSC Group Certification Service Network that FORCERT then managed.

When it became clear that these benefits alone would not be sufficient to guarantee this protection, the community started work with FORCERT to trial Payments for Environmental Services as additional income generation under the PNG Communities Benefits from Environmental Services Trust (PNG Communities BEST). The community then decided to organize themselves under the Tavolo Community Conservation Association (hereafter referred to as the 'Tavolo Community') and committed itself to sustainably manage their land, carrying out FSC certified small scale reduced impact logging on a dedicated part of their forest, while the remainder of their forest is put under conservation.

Also, the community has put the combined land area of all clans that make up the community under a sustainable land use plan, aimed at zoning of other land uses and avoiding their encroachment on forest land, and for some areas even relocating agricultural land converted in the past back to forest.

Currently the remaining natural forest in the Tavolo Project Area is under threat of being deforested by a Land Owner Company (LOC) called Kakuna-Lote Resource Development Ltd (Kakuna-Lote LOC) in cooperation with the contractor and investor Mekar (PNG) Ltd.¹ In 2019 Kakuna-Lote LOC gained access to the community land and the forest resources in the Tavolo Project Area through a Special Agriculture Business Lease (SABL) called the Mukus-Melkoi SABL. With this Mukus-Melkoi SABL, which is granted over a total area of 68,300 ha, Kakuna-Lote LOC and Mekar Ltd are now planning a large scale forest conversion to agriculture and other land use under the name of Kakuna-Lote Agro Forestry & Reforestation Plantation Development Project (hereafter referred to as the 'Kakuna-Lote Project').

In order to establish the Kakuna-Lote Project, the Kakuna-Lote LOC has requested for a Forest Clearing Authority (FCA) from the Papua New Guinea Forest Authority (PNGFA) in 2019 to clear fell 45,980 ha of forest in the Mukus-Melkoi SABL area, starting in 2019/2020.² After clear-felling,

¹ Mekar PNG Ltd is a subsidiary of Vanimo Jaya Ltd (see ENB FM Committee minutes of a meeting in November 2019 handling the Kakuna-Lote FCA application)

² Kakuna-Lote FCA Project proposal, June 2019, section 4.2.4 and attached map with Kakuna-Lote harvesting plan in Appendix 4

Kakuna-Lote LOC plans to convert 32% (16,800 ha) of the deforested area into a Eucalyptus plantation, and another 4% (1,800 ha) of the area into Cocoa/Coffee plantation.¹

The Kakuna-Lote project however is planned by the Kakuna-Lote LOC and Mekar Ltd. without the free, prior and informed consent of the local communities who hold customary land rights over the area zoned under the Mukus-Melkoi SABL.

The aim of this PNG Communities BEST REDD – Tavolo Project (hereafter referred to as the ‘Tavolo REDD Project’) is to assist the Tavolo Community to conserve and protect the natural rainforest in the Tavolo Project Area from being cleared and converted under the Mukus-Melkoi SABL as part of the Kakuna-Lote Agro Forestry & Reforestation Plantation Development Project. In order to protect the forest from the planned deforestation the Tavolo REDD Project implements the following activities in the Tavolo Project Area.

1. A Court’s or official Government administrative decision will be obtained to declare the Mukus-Melkoi SABL and any accompanying or underlying logging permits and project plans null and void;
2. The communities within the Tavolo Project Area who organized themselves into the Tavolo Community Conservation Association will develop and implement Community Conservation Laws, in which rules are set by the communities regarding the land use and the conservation of the forest in the project area. A system will be set up by the communities to enforce and monitor compliance with the rules set out in the Community Conservation Laws;
3. The communities will manage and conserve their forests under a sustainable land use plan which is designed by the communities in cooperation with FORCERT. These land use plans will focus on forest conservation, small scale eco-forestry and sustainable small scale agriculture;
4. The communities will participate in the PNG Communities Benefits from Environmental Services Trust (BEST). Through this Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) fund the communities will receive financial benefits from preserving the forest in the project area, additional to the direct ecosystem service benefits their forest provides, and this will enable the communities to carry out the activities necessary for the sustainable use of their land and natural resources, also in the future. Resources for the PNG Communities BEST will be attracted by obtaining FSC certification, Fairtrade certification and VCS & CCB validation and verification, carbon credit issuance, and finally selling these carbon credits on the voluntary market

¹ Kakuna-Lote FCA Project proposal, June 2019, section 4.4

5. A formal protection status will be obtained for the forests under the REDD project. The Tavolo Community has now put the forest areas area under a Conservation Deed, which was signed in November 2019.

Through the above-mentioned project activities the forests under the Tavolo REDD Project will be protected from clearance, and net GHG emission reductions or removals will be achieved. The lifetime of the project activities will be 30 years, starting from the Project Start Date of 23 January 2019. The estimated annual GHG emission reductions or removals for the first project instances is estimated at 4,544,004 tCO₂e over the project crediting period of 30 years.

Project Proponent

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Other Entities Involved in the Project

Organization name	Tavolo Community Conservation Association
Role in the project	project beneficiary
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Organization name	Face the Future
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Role in the project	Technical assistance in VCS&CCB project development
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Ownership

Land ownership across PNG, and therefore also in the Tavolo Project Area, is organized at the clan level. There is no traditional individual ownership. Customary ownership of land in PNG is recognized in the Constitution of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea (1975). This also includes full ownership of all natural and forest resources on the land. Customary landownership can be claimed and proven through oral history and traditional knowledge of the land and its specific features. There is no need for written land titles or other paper documented proof of traditional landownership in PNG.

Project Start Date

Project start date of the Tavolo REDD Project is **23 January 2019**. This is the signing date of the Cooperation Agreement between FORCERT, Face the Future and Greenchoice (the project pre-financer). With this agreement the three parties have agreed to aid the Tavolo Community in a court case aiming to nullify the Mukus-Melkoi SABL and the Lote-Kakuna Project, and to develop a Payment for Ecosystem Service (PES) fund for the communities in the Tavolo Project Area, in order for them to benefit from preserving the forest, also in the future.

Project Crediting Period

Project Crediting Period is **30 years**.

The projection of baseline emissions is presented in this Project Document (PD) for the first 10-year period after the project start date. After every 10 years the baseline will be reassessed and revised. Emission reductions/removals will be claimed for the 10-year periods for which the baseline is fixed and a monitoring plan has been implemented.

Description of the Project Activity

Three communities in the Tavolo Project Area, Mukus, Tavolo and Lausus, have organized themselves into the Tavolo Community Conservation Association, with the objective to conserve and protect the natural forests on their community lands. The Tavolo Project Area covers a total of 21,782 ha, out of which 15,102 ha (69%) is currently planned to be deforested and converted into agriculture and other land uses under the Mukus-Melkoi SABL and the Kakuna-Lote Project. The Tavolo Community is working together with FORCERT to prevent the deforestation of their forest lands by implementing the following project activities:

Nullification of the Mukus-Melkoi SABL

The whole of the Tavolo Project Area falls under the Mukus-Melkoi SABL area, which was initially granted in 2008 to a landowner company called RERA Holdings Ltd (RHL) for a period of 99 years. The Tavolo Community never gave their consent for their land to be included in the Mukus-Melkoi SABL. Besides the SABL the Tavolo Community also never gave their consent for a large-scale deforestation and land use conversion under the Kakuna-Lote project on their land. Therefore, the Tavolo Community is taking administrative and legal actions to stop the Kakuna-Lote Project and its underlying FCA, and to get the Mukus-Melkoi SABL nullified to prevent the development of any other deforestation plans in the area in the future.

The challenges for customary landowning communities to take on administrative actions and legal battles with large multinational companies and the state are very big, in particular to finance costs involved such as lawyers' fees, meeting logistical costs for movement of plaintiffs and witnesses to and from the provincial capital Kokopo (where a National Court resides), and lastly costs involved for gathering of documents and other evidence required for the case. Through individual family contributions, the Tavolo Community has fundraised the required PGK10,000 deposit for their selected lawyer to accept to be the legal representative for the Tavolo Community and the pre-financing support from Greenchoice to the Tavolo Community will allow them to undertake the initial administrative and legal actions.

Tavolo Community Sustainable Land Use Plan and Conservation Laws

A High Conservation Value (HCV) assessment was completed by the Tavolo Community, facilitated by FORCERT. Upon the completion of the assessment, community conservation laws were drawn up with also laws being added that include development of enforcement strategies. The laws are endorsed by all the clans involved in the Tavolo Project Area. The Tavolo Community will seek official recognition for the community conservation laws from the Melkoi Local Level Government and through annexing the laws to their Conservation Deed. The implementation and enforcement of the Community conservation laws is governed by the Tavolo Community Conservation Law Committee, consisting of representatives of all clans involved.

The existing Tavolo Community Sustainable Land Use Plan (SLUP) was revised following completion of the HCV assessment and Community Conservation Laws. There are few changes

to the land use zones following from discussions based on satellite images and ground truthing, done with assistance from FORCERT officers. The SLUP and the Community conservation laws will guide the community to themselves promote and strengthen conservation and sustainable management of their natural resources. They will be evaluated and if found necessary revised by the Tavolo community every 10 years, in line with the VCS baseline revision process.

Benefits from Environmental Service Trust (BEST) for PNG communities

FORCERT will establish the PNG Communities Benefits from Environmental Services Trust (PNG Communities BEST) as a general Service Trust for the local communities (their partners), and for which sufficient finance is available in the Trust to guarantee a minimum of 10 years of annual benefit payments to the communities.

The PNG Communities BEST will be managed by a reputable independent financial management entity, and will hold all funds received for specific environmental services provided and any other financial support for the conservation efforts of the member communities. This independent management will be established once the PNG Communities BEST has sufficiently grown in size, i.e., community membership and annual income, to warrant the expenses of engaging these management services, or if and when the planned PNG Biodiversity and Climate Fund would prove to be available and suitable to take on this task. At the start of PNG Communities BEST, with for now only the Tavolo Community Conservation Association as its first community member, and the Tavolo VCS REDD project VCU sales as its sole income source, funds will be managed by FORCERT in accordance with their strict financial procedures, overseen by the FORCERT Board of Directors, and kept strictly separated from other FORCERT funds. This financial management arrangement has been agreed to by the Tavolo Community.

General benefit sharing under the Trust has already been agreed to and results from various round of community discussions with the Tavolo Community and two other trial communities.

This general break-up is as follows:

- 15% to Government (4% Local Level, 3% District, 1% Provincial & 7% National)
- 20% to supporting organizations (FORCERT and Face the Future)
- 65% to the landowning community

NB: The proposed Government tax division is preliminary, as the final version of National REDD+ Benefit Sharing Distribution System Policy has not been released yet, and no Regulations governing benefit sharing under the Climate Change Management Act (CCMA, 2021 Amended) have yet been established. If the Government tax percentage would be lower than 15%, that the percentage going to the landowning community will be increased with the difference.

The 65% community benefits can be allocated to seven possible funds:

- Community service projects
- School fee/education

- Health care costs
- Support for family income earning options
- Community organization (legal entity) management costs
- Emergencies
- Investment

Please note that this benefit sharing system does not include direct cash payment to families or individuals, while still catering for financial support to families and individuals for important areas such as school fees and health care. Also, it includes financial support to families to develop and support income earning options/small business.

The reason for not including direct cash payment to families or individuals in our benefit sharing system is that this will only create dependency, division, discrimination and exclusion, increase the danger of domestic violence, and even stimulate population growth (if also children are included in the cash distribution). Also, it may lead to outside people trying to trace themselves back to the clan/ILG involved, to claim clan/ILG membership. The PNG Communities BEST benefit sharing system does allow for genuine existing clan members living elsewhere to still be considered in the benefit sharing, e.g., through the Education, Health, or family business support funds, something which can be decided upon by all clans involved.

There will be annual benefit disbursements in equal amounts for the 30-year duration of the PNG Communities BEST agreement signed with the community, based on secured income into the PNG Communities BEST. The decision on the actual breakup of the annual amount received by the participating community over the various "baskets" for each year, is with the community. Also, the management of the use of the funds for each basket is organized and implemented by the community itself, except for the Investment basket, which will be managed at the PNG Communities BEST level. Considering the large annual amounts available for the Tavolo Community, disbursements will be made on a quarterly basis, allowing for both interim progress reporting on activity implementation and expenditure, and any necessary adjustments for the following quarter.

There will be annual public community meetings at which FORCERT will report back to the community on the management of the PNG Communities BEST, including its finances, and the community management committee will give their management and finances report back to FORCERT.

FORCERT will comply with the monitoring and reporting requirements of VCS, and with the annual reporting requirements of CCDA under the relevant CCMA (2021 Amended) clauses, and the yet to be finalized REDD+ project guidelines and regulations.

Formal Protection Status

The Tavolo Community is looking at extending their current Wildlife Management Area (WMA) of only 2,400 ha to cover the whole of the Tavolo Project Area, however their application for this

extension with the Conservation & Environmental Protection Authority (CEPA) has not been processed. Therefore the Tavolo Community has now put their whole SLUP area under a Conservation Deed, which was signed in November 2019..

Project Location

The Tavolo Project Area is located in East New Britain Province, on the South Coast of the island of New Britain, Papua New Guinea (PNG). It is formed by the customary lands of three different communities, namely Mukus, Tavolo and Lausus. The customary land under the Sustainable Land Use Plan of these three communities covers a total area of 21,164 ha, out of which 17,178 ha of these lands are forest. The boundaries of the Tavolo Project Area and the forest zones are given in Figure 1.

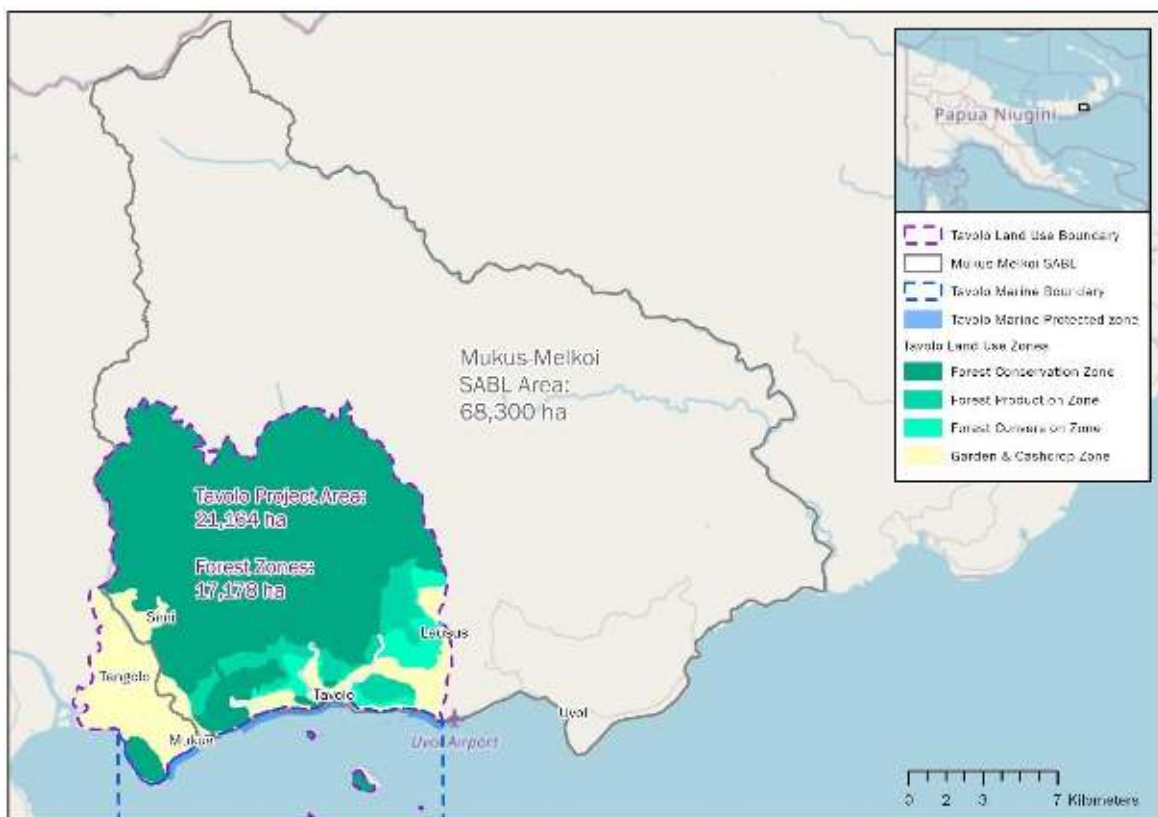


Figure 1 - Map with the geographical boundary of the Tavolo Land Use Area (in purple)

Within the Tavolo Land Use Boundaries, the baseline forest cover in 2019 (the start of the REDD project) have been classified using Landsat 8 imagery (see Figure 2).

Since only forest cover should be included as REDD project area, the Tavolo REDD Project Area exists out of the baseline forest cover inside the zoned forest areas. The total Tavolo REDD Project Area is 16,493 ha.

Out of the 16,493 ha of forest cover inside the Tavolo REDD Project Area, 14,690 ha is zoned by the community as forest conservation zone, 1,387 ha as forest production zone and 694 ha as forest conversion zone (see Table 1 and **Error! Reference source not found.**).

Table 1 – Land Use Zones inside Tavolo REDD Project Area

LU Zone	Area (ha)
Forest Conservation	14,412
Forest Production	1,387
Forest Conversion	694
Total area of Forest Cover inside Tavolo REDD Project	16,493

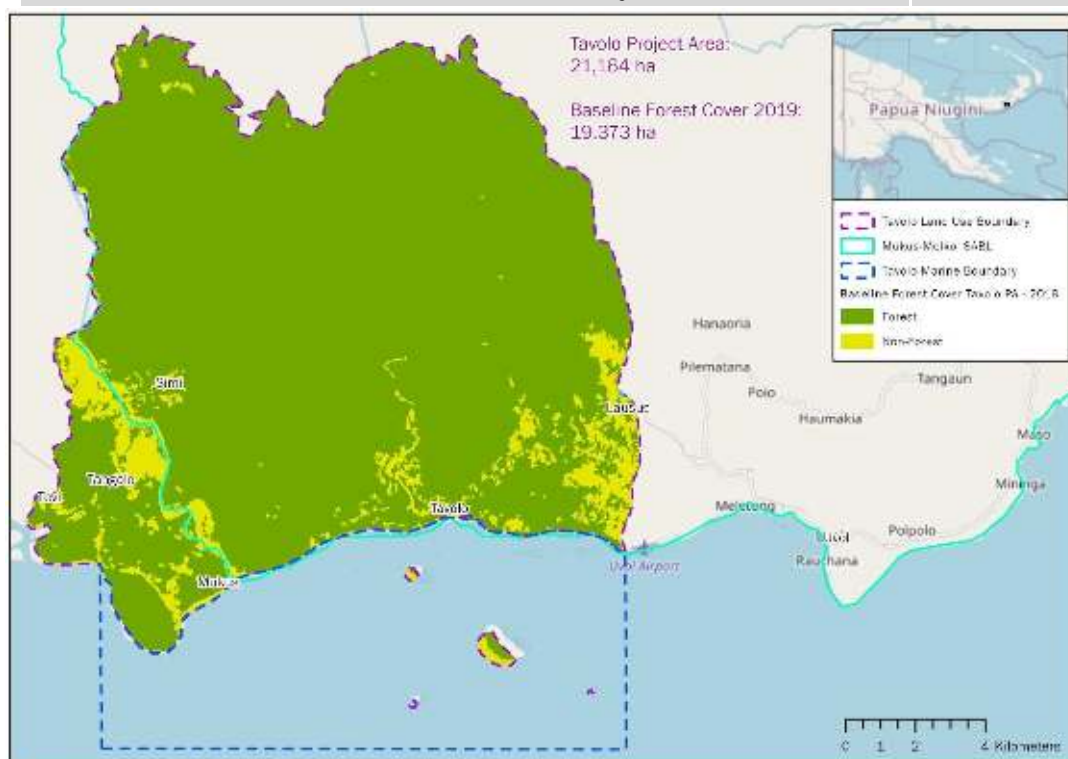


Figure 2 – Forest / Non-Forest Classification 2019 based on Landsat 8 Images Present condition of the forests in the project area

Most of forest in the project area is allocated under conservation. Apart from the gathering of non-timber forest products, fishing and hunting for domestic and cultural uses, these forests have experienced little human intervention and can be considered as untouched natural forest. Forest areas allocated as production forest and conversion zone are predominantly secondary forest which are generally lower stocked.

While surrounding communities with lands under a comparable SABL scheme have experienced vast deforestation, Tavolo has to date managed to conserve their forest and has managed it sustainably, without any significant degradation or loss of forest over the past 20+ years. While the project area shows no significant degradation or loss of forest, the communities in the

adjacent West Pomio area have lost a huge part of their forest in recent years (2011-2020) due to clearcutting operations under an SABL scheme (see Figure 3). The community plans to strengthen their conservation efforts for the long term through the project activities as detailed in section 0. Below the threats to the forests in the projects area are described in detail

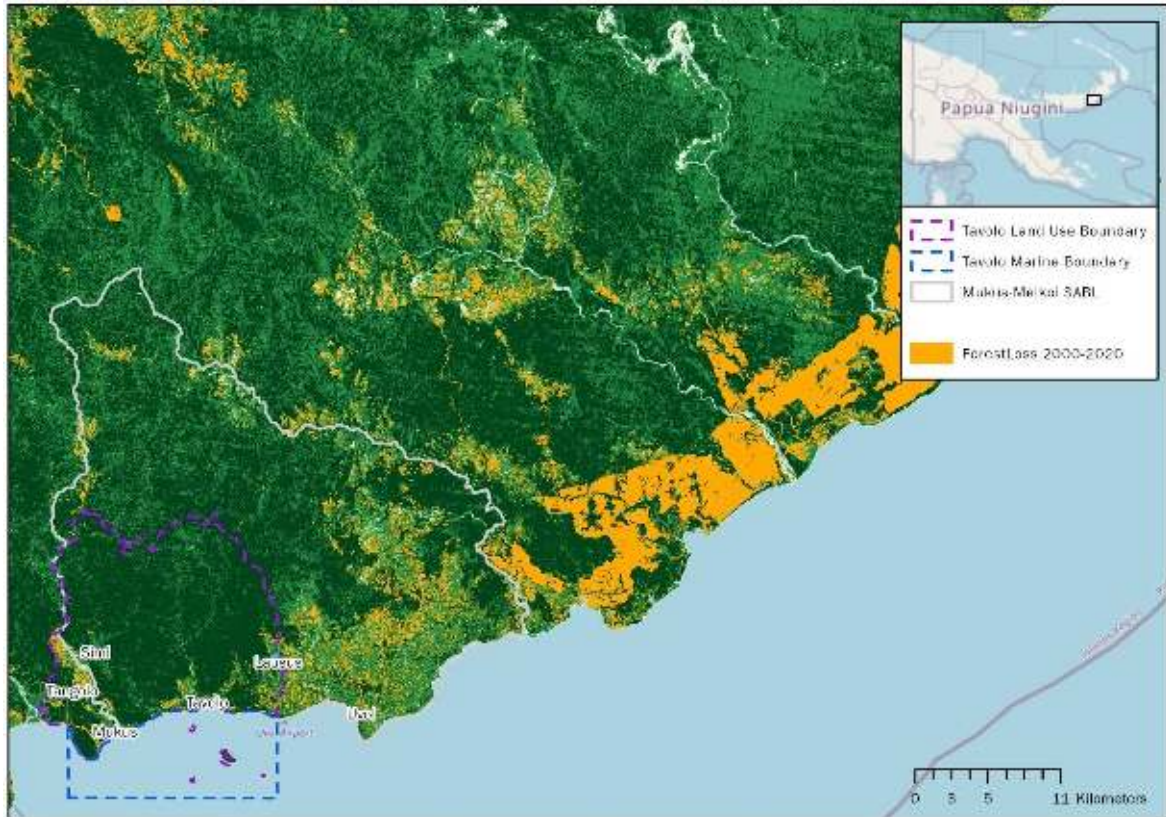


Figure 3 - Map of tree cover loss between 2000 and 2020, extract from Global Forest Watch

Compliance with Laws, Statutes and Other Regulatory Frameworks

All project activities described in this PD are in compliance with all and any relevant local, regional and national laws, statutes and regulatory frameworks. Below the most important laws and regulations are mentioned. It should be noted that some of these are still in (final) draft form and at this moment in time not yet legally binding or enforceable, but all of their main requirements and intents will still be met as much as possible

National Climate Compatible Development Management Policy

1. Partnership Policies:

a. Equitable, Effective Participation: Networking, coordination, and equitable engagement with and between multiple stakeholders through active participation, consultation and engagement at national and subnational levels in all climate change programs, incentives and activities.

2. Partnership Strategies:

a. Community Partnerships: Promote recognition and respect of community rights, support for improved community climate change outcomes, and information sharing and collaborative partnerships for community climate risk management.

2.1 Gender-Balanced Decision-Making: Ensure gender balance in all community, national and sub-national decision-making processes.

2.4 Civil Society, Churches and Private Sector Partnerships: Encourage collaboration between government, civil society, churches and private sector through innovative approaches (e.g, MoUs and public private partnerships).

Climate Change Management Act (2021, Amended)

- Clause 60: use UNFCCC processes or procedures for verification.
- Clause 87: Landholder consent to be obtained through FPIC.
- Clause 88: Rights of customary landholders shall be fully recognised and respected in all transactions affecting the customary land.
- Clause 89: Obtaining consent of customary landholders; (1) land groups to be incorporated as ILG's for any climate change project agreement, or (2) without ILG if 85% of the adult members of each land group gave FPIC.
- Clause 90:
 - 1) A climate change related project agreement shall
 - a) be in writing; in both English and Tok Pisin, and in the local language if requested by the customary landholder; and
 - b) explain and define landholder rights and benefits, including the monetary and other benefits, if any, to be received by the landholders, as prescribed under Part IX, in consideration for the rights granted; and
 - c) specify the nature of project in the area covered by the agreement; and
 - d) specify a term of sufficient duration in order to allow for proper project management measures to be carried out to completion to be determined based on the best available science and shall include provisions for review of the agreement appropriate for the length of the project; and
 - e) be accompanied by a map showing clearly the boundaries of the area covered by the agreement; and
 - f) specify any other climate compatible or green growth related land use options, if any; and

- g) be accompanied by a stakeholder engagement and awareness plan specific to the project area landholders and landholder representatives
- 2) An agreement under Subsection (1) in the prescribed format, shall be lodged with the Office of State Solicitor for necessary legal clearance before execution.
 - 3) A copy of a duly executed agreement together with a copy of the legal clearance issued under Subsection (2) shall be lodged with the Authority.
 - 4) The Board may, from time to time, determine appropriate lodgement fees in relation to the lodgement of a copy of an agreement.
 - 5) An agreement under Subsection (1) shall comply with the requirements under Subsections (2), (3) and (4) and failure to comply with any one or more of those requirements shall render the agreement under Subsection (1) in valid and unenforceable for all intents and purposes.
 - 6) Climate change related projects shall use the updated versions of relevant regulations and/or guidelines if none are available.
- Clause 93:
 - 1) This Part applies to the participation and benefit sharing or allocation of incentives for climate change related projects or activities.
 - 2) All affected landholders shall participate and benefit from the incentives of a climate change related project implemented on land or at sea.
 - 3) Unless a law provides to the contrary, a Regulation shall provide for the participation and benefit sharing or incentive allocation mechanism under this Part.
 - Clause 94:
 - 1) The Authority or any person or entity who undertakes a climate change related project shall use every reasonable means to quantify the net income or net benefits (as the case may be) and present a project report at the completion of the project to the concerned landholders and the Authority and relevant provincial governments.
 - 2) An abstract or summary of the report under Subsection (1) shall be published at least twice in a daily newspaper circulated nationwide.
 - 3) A project report produced under Subsection (1) is a public document for all intent and purposes.

Papua New Guinea's National REDD+ Strategy (2017)

The development of the PNG Communities BEST REDD Project targeting the voluntary carbon market is in line with the national approach to REDD+ as set out by the Government of Papua New Guinea in their National REDD+ Strategy 2017-2027, as it states:

“The Government will not seek to develop or promote the development of REDD+ Projects targeting the voluntary carbon market. The government will, however, consider project proposals from landholders, private sector actors and NGOs who are able to demonstrate clear competencies within the areas of project development, secure long term financial investment and a strong commitment to the ongoing support and development of communities within the project location.”⁴

Furthermore, the PNG Communities BEST REDD Project is developed in close cooperation with the Climate Change and Develop Authority (CCDA) of the Government of Papua New Guinea as can be seen in the MoU between FORCERT and the CCDA in Appendix 1 of this PD.

The development of this project is also in accordance with the other conditions set out in the National REDD+ Strategy for the development of projects targeting the voluntary market.

Papua New Guinea’s National REDD+ Safeguard Documents: FPIC Guidelines, BSDS Policy, GRM Guidelines (Draft March 2022), REDD+ Development Guidelines (Various draft versions, being finalised)

FORCERT has been closely involved in the development of these REDD+ Safeguards documents for PNG, which are currently being finalised and will then be translated into Regulations under the CCMA (2021, Amended), as part of our MOU’s with CCDA (Clause 7.4 The CCDA and FORCERT will cooperate and collaborate to incorporate the concepts and ideas of the Proposed PES System for PNG into all relevant Government policy, legislation and regulation).

The trial and further preparation work for the development of the PNG Communities BEST Program and the REDD Tavolo Project have very much informed the national level REDD+ Safeguards development and discussions, and FORCERT has been by far the main contributor of input and comments in all stakeholder consultation rounds.

Therefore, although at present we do not have any final draft or final versions of the four REDD+ Safeguard documents, we feel confident in stating that the PNG Communities BEST Program and REDD Tavolo Project will be able to meet or exceed all relevant requirements under these documents and the to be developed related regulations.

Papua New Guinea’s National REDD+ Forest Reference Level (2017)

The quantification of GHG emissions and removals and the monitoring plan presented in this PD follows the guidelines given in Papua New Guinea’s REDD+ Forest Reference Level Document, submitted to the UNFCCC in 2017.

PNG Constitution (1975)

National Goal No.4 National Resources and Environment;

We, the people of Papua New Guinea declare our fourth goal to be for Papua New Guinea's natural resources and environment to be conserved and used for the collective benefit of all, and be replenished for the benefit of future generations.

Stakeholder Identification

The Stakeholder Identification is based on the target audience identification done by the Tavolo, Mukus and Lausus community as part of the development process of their Tavolo Community Conservation Association Management Plan 2022-2031. Through this process the community members identified all main stakeholder groups in relation to the work of their Association. At the end of 2020, a new SWOT analysis was facilitated by FORCERT, and then compared with the one from their previous Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Management Plan (2009,). With this information, in 2021 the draft new TCCA Management Plan's objectives were updated and finalized by the Management Committee and the TCCA administration staff, and indicators to go with these updated objectives were developed. From these the Theory of Change for TCCA was developed. The TCCA Management Plan 2022-2031 was officially approved by the members at their December 2021 Annual General Meeting, and an activity implementation and monitoring plan was developed in March 2022.

Information from the new TCCA Management Plan has been used to further include relevant stakeholders specific to the VCS-CCBS project, and to further detail their rights, interest and relevance to the project, and these additions have been confirmed with the TCCA Management Committee.

Stakeholder Descriptions

Stakeholder	Rights, Interest and Overall Relevance to the Project
Tavolo Community	The communities and its clans that form part of the Tavolo Community Conservation Association and who are the direct Project beneficiaries.
Surrounding communities and clans	<p>Manseng Tribe (West), Sale Mantuna, Nakise, Ewesovur and Elim clans, Tevi, Burowe, Murlevi villages. Kakuna Tribe (North side), Litipupuna, Kinkana, Tamonlona, Keituna clans, and Popolokai, Urupuna and Kualopole villages / Kakuna Tribe (East Inland), Uka, Ulo, Uno, Sale, Kibolo, Keituna, Chamoso clans, Litipupuna, Warale, Pilematana and Anaoria villages / Lote Tribe (East Coastal), Menem, Avila, Aluka, Amaia, Kibolo, Simsim clans, Meletong village</p> <p>These clans will have various user rights e.g. gardening, hunting & gathering over the Tavolo sustainable land use plan area, which are known and defined under custom. Therefore, they need to be well-informed on the Tavolo Sustainable Land Use Plan zones and their Community conservation laws, and also need to be informed on Tavolo's membership of the PNG Communities BEST.</p>

	They also have an interest in the project through the Government tax percentage paid to the Melkoi Local Level Government from the gross annual benefits going to the Tavolo community from the PNG Communities BEST.
Melkoi Local Level Government (LLG)	<p>The Tavolo and Lausus Wards of the Melkoi LLG fall within the Tavolo Sustainable Land Use Plan area. The Tavolo community's Action Plan and TCCA's Management Plan link to the Ward Development Plans and the overall LLG Development Plan.</p> <p>Will be receiving part of the Government tax resulting from benefits distributions to Tavolo from the PNG Communities BEST.</p>
Pomio District Development Authority (DDA)	Melkoi LLG forms part of the Pomio DDA. Will be receiving part of the Government tax resulting from benefits distributions to Tavolo from the PNG Communities BEST
Member of Parliament for Pomio Electorate	Honourable Elias Kapavore is the current member for Pomio in the PNG National Parliament (2017-2022), who is likely to be re-elected, due to his numerous achievements delivering various services in his first full term.
East New Britain Provincial Administration	Pomio District forms part of the East New Britain Province. Will be receiving part of the Government tax resulting from benefits distributions to Tavolo from the PNG Communities BEST.
FORCERT	Project proponent. Will be managing and marketing the PNG Communities BEST carbon credits on behalf of the project beneficiaries
Climate Change & Development Authority (CCDA)	<p>National Designated Authority for REDD+ projects.</p> <p>Has MOU with FORCERT a/o on the development of the PNG Communities BEST as a practical trial for development of a national REDD+ system for PNG.</p> <p>Will be receiving part of the Government tax resulting from benefits distributions to Tavolo from the PNG Communities BEST.</p>
Conservation & Environment Protection Authority (CEPA)	<p>Manages PNG's conservation areas network; Tavolo has a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) over 2,400ha of their Sustainable Land Use Plan area, and has applied for extension of the WMA to cover their full SLUP area.</p> <p>The work of Tavolo Community and FORCERT is in line with the requirements of the new Protected Area Act (pending approval by parliament).</p> <p>Is working with UNDP to establish a Biodiversity Fund to provide long-term finance for the PNG conservation areas network.</p>
PNG Forest Authority	<p>Issues Forest Clearing Authorities (FCA's).</p> <p>FORCERT has a MOA with PNGFA confirming them as a partner in their Community Forest Management PES/REDD project, with Tavolo as one of the communities involved in this project.</p>

United National Development Program (UNDP)– PNG	<p>Is managing the current UNDP GEF6 Project on Sustainable Financing of PNG's Protected Areas Network together with CEPA, and will be managing the planned GEF7 Project on Sustainable Land Use Planning Systems for New Britain Island (together with the Departments of Lands & Physical Planning and Agriculture & Lifestock, and CEPA), scheduled to start in 2022.</p> <p>PNG Communities BEST provides relevant on the ground experiences that can inform, and to a certain extend already has informed, both projects.</p>
NGO's	<p>Specifically, PNG based NGO's working on community sustainable land use and conservation, e.g. Tenkile Conservation Association (TCA), Partners with Melanesians (PwM), Willdlife Conservation Society (WCS-PNG), The Nature Conservancy (TNC-PNG), Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program (TKCP), Organisation for Industrial, Spiritual & Cultural Advancement (OISCA-PNG), World Wildlife Fund (WWF-PNG).</p> <p>PNG Communities BEST provides relevant on the ground experiences that can inform, and to a certain extend already has informed, similar work of other NGO's. Also, previous and current similar work of these NGO's has informed the development of PNG Communities BEST.</p>
Research Educational Institutions &	<p>Specificly PNG based research & higher educational institutions such as Binatang Research Centre (BRC), National Research Institute (NRI), Institute of National Affairs (INA), University of Natural Resources and the Environment (UNRE), University of Technology (Unitech), University of PNG (UPNG), University Of Goroka (UOG), Pacific Adventist University (PAU), Divine Word University (DWU).</p> <p>PNG Communities BEST provides on the ground experiences that can inform, and to a certain extend already has informed, researches, students and lecturers, and can provide input for curriculum development and case studies.</p> <p>FORCERT has engaged BRC to work together with Tavolo Community to develop their Community conservation monitoring system.</p>

Project Activities and Theory of Change

The table below shows the PNG Communities BEST REDD – Tavolo Project's Theory of Change, which closely links to the TCCA Management Plan Objectives and activity implementation plan, and incorporates most of the TCCA overall Objectives.

Next pages: PNG Communities BEST REDD – Tavolo Project Theory of Change

TCCA Vision	Community members are improving their livelihoods sustainably in accordance with their environment and natural resources while they are safeguarding their land and are maintaining their cultural practices.	
TCCA Mission	<p>The association is formed (or is being formed) for the purpose of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To provide stewardship in safeguarding, protecting and upholding the inherited traditional customary birth rights to the land and natural resources owned by the sixteen clans living at Tavolo, Lausus and Mukus villages (ii) To receive all benefits derived from conservation initiatives, either in cash or material and to use and distribute this benefit in a fair, equitable and transparent manner. (iii) To work with government agencies in delivering essential services and also with NGO's, Donors and other development partners to address the issue of climate change through sustainable livelihood mitigation and adaptation initiatives. 	
CCBS Project Goal	The environment and biodiversity of the Tavolo, Lausus and Mukus communities is protected and conserved, preventing industrial companies from destroying the community's HCV's and natural resources, with regained community ownership and control of the land and management of the resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acquired benefits allow the Tavolo Community to conserve and sustainably manage its forests - Improved livelihoods of the Tavolo Community through sustainable land use and environmentally sound community development options - Resilient and self-reliant communities, organising & controlling their own development

CCBS Project Objectives	To obtain a formal conservation status for the whole of Tavolo Community's sustainable land use plan area by 2020	To manage 1,309 ha of forest following FSC sustainable logging practices during and beyond the project lifetime	To conserve 14,981 ha natural forest resources during and beyond the project lifetime, for the future generations .	To manage and protect the identified HCV's and biodiversity present in the Tavolo LUP during and beyond the project lifetime, for the future generations	To distribute 14.4 M Euro of PES benefits to community livelihood improvement activities by 2030	To promote and develop sustainable and ethical income generating activities that sustain the livelihoods of the people of Tavolo, Lausus and Mukus during and beyond the project lifetime	To establish and develop infrastructure in Tavolo, Lausus and Mukus, including transportation , education and health facilities during and beyond the project lifetime	To empower the communities of Tavolo Lausus and Mukus with emphasis placed on religion and basic health, hygiene and waste management during and beyond the project lifetime		To address the effects of climate change and develop adaptation measures to improve food security and resiliency to natural disasters in Tavolo, Lausus and Mukus communities during and beyond the project lifetime
	Impact	Protection for the whole of Tavolo's sustainable land use plan area under a formal conservation status	16,289 ha of natural forest resources conserved and sustainably managed for the future generations by the Tavolo Community	Management and protection for the identified HCV species and biodiversity in the Tavolo sustainable land use plan area	Improved livelihoods through realisation of the TCCA Management Plan Objectives	Sustained improved livelihoods of the Tavolo community through sustainable and ethical income generating activities	Developed and maintained housing, transportation , education and health infrastructure for the Tavolo Community	Empowered, healthy and self-reliant Tavolo Community	Empowered marginalised community groups participating in all aspects of community life	Climate change adapted and natural disasters resilient Tavolo Community

Outcomes	Tavolo LUP area becomes recognised Conservation area	1,309 ha of forest under FSC certification	Forests are effectively managed and protected by the Tavolo community	Community Conservation Laws implemented and enforced	Communities and families benefiting from Ecosystem payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increased number and variety of income earning activities- Increased family income	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Improved housing- Improved transport infrastructure- improved health services- improved education services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Social development activities successfully completed- Customary practices and knowledge maintained	Holistic and inclusive community programs are active in Tavolo, Lausus and Mukus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stable availability of food sources- Buffer zones restored- Restoration of other degraded areas- Safeguards, Mitigation & Adaptation plan actioned if applicable
Outputs	CC Deed signed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- FSC certification system in place- FSC main audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Community Conservation Laws developed- Community Conservation Monitoring System developed- Sustainable land use plan maintained	PNG Communities BEST Program established	Income generating activities executed	Infrastructure and development activities executed	Social development activities implemented	Marginalised community groups empowerment programs & activities implemented	Climate change adaptation activities implemented	

Activities	Discuss, draft and sign Community Conservation Deed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop FSC certification system - Apply for FSC certification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop Community Conservation Laws - Develop Community Conservation Monitoring System - Maintain sustainable land use plan 	Establish and share benefits through PNG Communities BEST Program	Income generating activities are developed and implemented following TCCA management plan	Infrastructure and development activities related to housing, transportation, education and health are carried out following TCCA management plan	Social development activities are carried out following TCCA management plan	Marginalised community groups' empowerment programs and activities are carried following TCCA management plan	Climate change adaptation activities are carried out following TCCA management plan
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Climate, Biodiversity and Community Benefits Assessment Period

Changes in the GHG emissions will be assessed on an annual basis through checks on the general compliance with the Sustainable Land Use Plan zones, which will be reported on by the TCCA to FORCERT at their annual monitoring and reporting meetings, which will take place at a general community meeting in the project area. There will be a re-measurement of the PSP's every 5 years, till the end of the 30-year project period

Changes in the Biodiversity Benefits will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the Community Conservation Law Committee. One of the project activities is to develop and maintain a Community Conservation Monitoring System, and this work was started in July 2021, annual update reports to be prepared and presented during the PNG Communities BEST annual community meetings.

Changes in the Community Benefits allocations will be assessed on an annual basis, through the annual report by the TCCA Management Committee to FORCERT on the results of their benefit sharing, during the general community meeting in the project area.

Implementation Schedule

Date	Milestone(s) in the project's development and implementation
2007	Tavolo becomes a producer member of the FORCERT FSC-Fairtrade Group Certification Service Network: start partnership relation between Tavolo community and FORCERT
2008	Start of the FORCERT PES trial project with Tavolo community: development and trial of community forest carbon inventories
2012	Start PES Benefit Sharing & Distribution System discussions with Tavolo community
2015	First PGK100,000 trial benefit sharing with funds from Climate Change Development Authority (CCDA) and FORCERT to trial draft national REDD+ FPIC and Benefit Sharing & Distribution System: start permanent family housing scheme for Tavolo, Lausus and Mukus.
2018	Pre-financing agreement with Greenchoice, and technical assistance secured from Face the Future. Allows for establishment of the PNG Communities BEST Program and first REDD Tavolo Project, including continuation of trial benefit sharing for Tavolo community
Dec 2018	Second trial benefit sharing: PGK150,000 for continuation of permanent family housing scheme
23 Jan 2019	Start date of GHG accounting period
Oct 2019	Signing of the Mukus-Tavolo-Lausus Conservation Deed
25 Jan 2021	Official registration of the Tavolo Community Conservation Association with PNG Investment Promotion Authority
Jan-Feb 2020	Third trial benefit sharing: School fee support, with school fees contributed for all registered secondary school students from the Tavolo community

Jan-Feb 2021	Fourth trial benefit sharing: School fee support, with school fees contributed for all registered secondary school students from the Tavolo community
Nov 2021	Legal clearance of BEST membership agreement by State Solicitor's Office
Nov 2021	Signing of PNG Communities BEST membership agreement between FORCERT and Tavolo community
Aug 2021	Start of the Community conservation monitoring system development
Jan-Feb 2022	Fifth trial benefit sharing: School fee support, with 50% of school fees contributed for all registered secondary school students from the Tavolo community
May-Jun 2022	Validation & verification audit VCS+CCBS
Aug 2022	Issuance first VCU's under the PNG Communities BEST REDD Tavolo Project
Sep 2022	First official benefit sharing under PNG Communities BEST Program to the Tavolo Community
Dec 2022	First Tavolo Community annual PNG Communities BEST reporting meeting
2023	Incorporation of Tavolo Community Conservation Association Management Plan into Tavolo & Lausus Ward Development Plans
Jan-Feb 2023 onwards	Annual official benefit sharing under the PNG Communities BEST Program to the Tavolo Community, with quarterly disbursements
2030	Evaluation of the implementation of the TTCA Management Plan 2021-230, including review of the sustainable land use plan and community conservation laws
2031	Development of the new TCCA Management Plan 2031-2040
2040	Evaluation of the implementation of the TTCA Management Plan 2031-2040, including review of the sustainable land use plan and community conservation laws
2041	Development of the new TCCA Management Plan 2041-2050
2049	Evaluation of the implementation of the TTCA Management Plan 2041-2050, including review of the sustainable land use plan and community conservation laws
22 Jan 2049	End date of the GHG accounting period

Benefit Permanence

The Tavolo community will take the following measures to maintain and enhance the climate, community, and biodiversity benefits beyond the project lifetime:

1. Develop and implement Community Conservation Laws, in which rules are set by the community regarding the land use and the conservation of the forest in the project area. A

Community Conservation Law Committee will be set up by the community to enforce the rules set out in the Community Conservation Laws;

2. Manage and conserve its forest under a Sustainable Land Use Plan (see map in **Error! Reference source not found.**) which is designed by the communities in cooperation with FORCERT. These land use plans will focus on forest conservation and small-scale eco-forestry;

3. A Community conservation management & monitoring system will be developed, to allow the community itself to monitor the impact of the adherence to their sustainable land use plan and community conservation laws and to evaluate these results and feed them back into their land use and conservation management.

4. The community has decided to use part of the annual financial benefits they will receive from their membership of the PNG Communities Benefits from Environmental Service Trust (BEST) for support to families to develop income earning options, which will lead to long-term financial security and social benefits.

5. The community has decided to invest a part of their annual financial benefits for the benefit of future generations, after the project ends.