

# ITTO Project PD 552/09-F |

Encouraging customary landowners in the lowlands of Papua New Guinea's Central Province to reforest their grasslands with high value trees.



PNG Forest Authority

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Working closely with 5 landowner groups, project partners have developed a MRF that addresses the key constraints to community reforestation through the provision of tailor-made services.

## **4. Setting-up Model Reforestation Enterprises (MREs)**

Four MREs have been established to date, and 10.6 hectares of teak trees have been planted at roadside locations.

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# 1. Design:

## Objectives and approach

### The ITTO Project planned to:

- **Create a model reforestation framework (MRF)** that addressed the key constraints to community reforestation.
- **Build productive partnerships** with service providers from the public and private sectors.
- **Focus on high value trees** such as teak and sandalwood.
- **Establish model reforestation enterprises (MREs)** that promote effective land groups, production systems and business arrangements in the wider community.



***HIGH VALUE TREES:** Sandalwood (*Santalum macgregorii*) planted with host trees and food crops.*

## 2. Location:

# Central Province

### The Project was implemented in Central Province, which:

- Lies on Papua New Guinea's southern coast. The topography comprises coastal lowlands and hills that rise up to the rugged Owen Stanley Ranges.
- Has extensive areas of tropical savanna (163 000 hectares) and grasslands (535 000 hectares). This vegetation is strongly influenced by a monsoonal climate, weathered soils and land-use practices (particularly fire).
- Is well-linked to the national capital, Port Moresby. This provides good access to the marketing infrastructure needed to target both domestic and international markets.
- Contains large areas of unoccupied land, a good road network, and four administrative districts. Many areas have access to power and a mobile phone network.



**CENTRAL PROVINCE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Source: Wikimedia.org

# 3. MRF:

# Access to training & resources

The project has added training resources / teaching aids to:

- **The Landowner Awareness Kit (LAK)** which assists the PNG Forest Authority to identify landowners ready to plant trees on their land.
- **The Forest Learners Kit (FLK)** which promotes the benefits of trees and forests to school children through the PNG Curriculum.
- **The Tree Growers Tool Kit (TGTK)** which helps landowners and field workers choose, grow and make money from trees.

Project partners have also delivered hands-on:

- **Agroforestry training services** including land-use planning, site-species selection, site establishment, fire control, site operations through to harvesting, and nursery management.
- **Business training services** including include legality, costing, pricing, marketing, cash-flow and start-up capital.

**TREE SELECTOR CENTRAL PROVINCE LOWLANDS**  
**CHOOSING THE RIGHT TREES:**  
**WHICH TREES SHALL I PLANT?**

**Which trees can help me?**  
Trees provide many useful things (e.g. food, firewood and timber). They can also make your village a better place to live in (e.g. control soil erosion and improve soil fertility). The diagram below presents six trees that grow well in the Central Province lowlands. Look carefully at each tree (a "✓" shows what this tree can provide). Then think about Question 1.  
Select any tree which can help you (your family and community) by putting a "✓" in the appropriate green box.

**Note:** Visit the Tree Growers Tool Kit for more information about choosing, growing and making money from these trees. There are 6 more pamphlets (one for each tree.)

	Provides firewood to cook with	Provides posts and poles to build with	Provides fruit and nuts for healthy eating	Provides long-lasting timber for use outside	Provides high-quality timber for use inside	Provides products for export markets	Protects your soil from erosion	Improves your soil fertility	Grows very quickly	Grows quite quickly	Grows quite slowly	QUESTION 1: Can this tree help you?
Mango	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Mahogany	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓		
Rosewood	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Sandalwood					✓	✓	✓				✓	
Teak	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓			
Terminalia	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			

**ONE STOP INFORMATION:** Front page of the Tree Selector.

## 3. MRF:

# Access to seedlings

The National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) and the National Forest Service (NFS) continue to provide high-quality seeds and seedlings, which are further distributed through local satellite nurseries:

- **The provincial nursery** at the Kuriva Forestry Station (NFS) and Laloki Agricultural Station (NARI) provide high-quality seeds and seedlings to model sites and local nurseries. Teak is the principal species at the Kuriva Forestry Station.
- **Local nurseries** are being managed by 2 target communities to supply quality seedlings of high-value trees and food crops that grow well in the Central Province lowlands. These local distribution centres minimise transport costs and seedling mortality, and encourage farmers to plant trees.



**PLANT DEPOT:** Local nurseries provide a cost-effective means of delivering planting stock and materials to reforestation enterprises.

## 4. MREs:

# Model land groups and production systems

The project has assisted 3 clans to establish their Incorporated Land Groups (ILGs) through:

- Raising community awareness about the ILG mechanism.
- Training landowner representatives in participatory priority setting, land-use planning, and clan-land boundary mapping.
- Supporting the ILG application process. Each ILG is governed by its own constitution, management committee and dispute settlement authority

Project partners have also have assisted 4 land groups to:

- Select the most appropriate production systems for their needs
- Trial selected production systems. Teak seedlings (stumps) were found to grow best in soil ploughed during the wet season.



*LAND USE PLAN: 30 hectares of grassland were made available for reforestation through the ILG process at this location.*

## 4. MREs:

# Model business arrangements

The Small & Medium Enterprise Corporation (SMEC) field workers have assisted 4 land groups to:

- **Identify the most appropriate business arrangement** for their situation. This has led to one land group forming the Girabu Farmers' Cooperative with PGK 10 000 (US\$ 3 000) deposited into their bank as seed capital account by SMEC.
- **Prepare their model business plans** using selected resources from the Tree Growers Tool Kit. This includes the production of a land-use plan and estimates of costs and returns for each reforestation enterprise.



***PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIP:** SMEC Managing Director presenting the Cooperative Passbook account to the Chairman of the Girabu Farmers' Cooperative.*

# 5. Conclusion

**The model reforestation framework (MRF) has led to the establishment of 4 model reforestation enterprises (MREs) in Central Province. The MRF will:**

- Continue to be managed by project partners using the tools and techniques that were tested during the project implementation phase.

**The following lessons have been learned for future projects:**

- Regular meetings should be held with executing agency staff and project partners to maintain momentum and collaborative decision-making.
- Regular meetings and site visits should also be held at the local level with project beneficiaries and stakeholders to ensure project activities remain well-aligned with the local context.
- Differences of opinion within land groups (e.g. land-use priorities) may constrain the identification, establishment and maintenance of model sites. Landowner priorities may change over time, due to external factors.



**THE MODEL REFORESTATION FRAMEWORK** addresses the key constraints to community reforestation.

# Video:



Watch this **6 minute video** about establishing one of the MREs in Central Province:

- [https://youtu.be/k9yzOVnM7PE?list=PL2R\\_WtG4jBmFFJvE2RvZa3zDnsCFN-NSe](https://youtu.be/k9yzOVnM7PE?list=PL2R_WtG4jBmFFJvE2RvZa3zDnsCFN-NSe)

# Credits:

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- **Project PD 552/09-F:** *Encouraging customary landowners in the lowlands of Papua New Guinea's Central Province to reforest their grasslands with high value trees.*



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