

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

A. Project Identification

Title:	<i>Reforestation of Tropical Savannah Grasslands with High Value Teak Species in Papua New Guinea</i>
Serial Number:	<i>PPD-124-06-R2 (F)</i>
Executing Agency:	<i>PNG Forestry Authority</i>
Host Government(s):	<i>Government of Papua New Guinea</i>
Starting Date:	<i>25th April, 2008</i>
Actual Duration (months):	<i>9 Months.</i>
Actual Project Costs (US\$):	<i>ITTO – 79, 920 PNGFA – 10, 000</i>

PART I: Executive Summary

1. Background Information about the Project

In Central Province, a variety of related factors have transformed productive forests and woodlands into infertile grasslands. These factors include extreme climate, soil erosion, uncontrolled fires, unsustainable land-use and population growth. At present, degraded grassland areas are expanding; rural livelihood opportunities are diminishing; and social, economic and environmental stresses are on the rise.

The pre-project enables its partners to carefully work out the best strategies for controlling grasslands and realizing desired objectives at two "demonstration sites" in the Kwikila and Kuriva areas of Central Province. Pre-project findings led to the formulation of a full-project funding proposal for ITTO. The full-project should help establish a complete "reforestation package" that encourages and assists landowners to rehabilitate degraded grasslands, and look after the remaining natural forests in Central Province in partnership with public and private sectors.

The specific objective of the pre-project was to:

1. *Develop baseline information and strategy for plantations on degraded grassland areas under joint venture agreements with customary landowners.*

The five outputs of the pre-project were:

1. *Two demonstration areas selected for a model-project approach.*
2. *Baseline information on the selected areas documented.*
3. *Feasibility study on commercial plantation on degraded grasslands demonstrated.*
4. *Joint venture agreements with customary landowners.*
5. *Formulate full project proposal for model project approach*

The pre-project had a planned duration of 9 months. The pre-project team comprised NFS personal and consultants. The total budget was USD 89,920 of which USD 79,920 was sourced from ITTO funds.

2. Project Achievements

2.1 Output Achievements

Pre-project achievements for each output are briefly described in the table below with reference to their logframe indicators. The Project Technical Reports provide a complete description of activities, outputs and findings.

Output	Indicator	Description
1.	Two project sites are selected with adequate social, environmental & economic resources	<p>Technical Report One provides a complete description of the <u>baseline</u> activities, outputs and findings for Output 1.</p> <p>In brief... participatory appraisal tools & techniques, site selection criteria, followed by rapid resource appraisal, and project team meetings led to the selection of:</p> <p>(a) 1 x approx 605 ha. customary-owned demonstration area at Kwikila comprising 3 x approx 5 ha. grassland pilot sites</p> <p>(b) 1 x approx 8,600 ha. state owned forestry station at Kuriva</p>
2.	The best teak seeds identified and sourced through the Forest Research Institute	<p>Technical Report One provides a complete description of the <u>baseline</u> activities, outputs and findings for Output 2.</p> <p>In brief... rapid resource appraisal, consultations with management & staff on-site at Kuriva, and project team meetings led to the conclusion that:</p> <p>(a) Kuriva Forestry Station and nearby Mount Lawes Clonal Orchard were of strategic importance for the future production of vegetatively propagated planting stock and genetically improved seed.</p> <p>(b) The Kuriva Orchard remains an excellent example of a clonal teak orchard; containing high quality seed trees selected for desirable characteristics</p> <p>(c) Currently the Kuriva seed supplies are barely adequate for the Kwikila project alone and more seed supplies are required to produce new and additional planting stock at Mount Lawes to meet the project's future requirements.</p>
3.	ILGs are formed to represent owners of each project site through Dept. of Lands and Physical Planning	<p>Technical Report One provides a complete description of the <u>baseline</u> activities, outputs and findings for Output 3.</p> <p>In brief... participatory appraisal tools & techniques, clan group discussions, ILG awareness & coaching, and office processing of applications led to the Dept. of Lands & Physical Planning issuing ILG certificates to:</p> <p>(a) Rigo 2 / Gauguma Sub-Clan</p> <p>(b) Gamada / Egaba Sebo Sub-Clan</p> <p>(c) Gamada / Roasi Garoma Sub-Clan</p>
4.	Two joint venture agreements in place to develop baseline information and strategy for plantations on degraded grassland	<p>Technical Report Two provides a complete description of the <u>strategy selection</u> activities, findings & agreements for Output 4.</p> <p>In brief... a Strategy Selection Program comprising awareness tours (2 days) and workshop sessions (3 days) led to:</p> <p>(a) Joint understanding of the present situation</p> <p>(b) Joint analysis of problems affecting concerned parties</p> <p>(c) Joint definition of project objectives</p> <p>(d) Joint selection of strategies for realizing desired objectives</p> <p>(e) Project implementation agreements between NFS Plantation Branch and 3 x ILG representatives.</p>
5.	The proposed project is well-planned, achievable & supported by landowners and key stakeholders	<p>The Strategy Selection Program (Output 4) was carefully planned and facilitated. Activities involved key stakeholders (i.e. landowners, district administration, potential partners, timber buyers, NFS personnel, and consultants). The program findings form the basis of the Full-Project Proposal.</p>

2.2 Specific Objective Achievements

The specific objective of the pre-project was:

- (a) *To develop baseline information and strategy for plantations on degraded grassland areas under joint venture agreements with customary landowners*

Through the pre-project, baseline data has been carefully collected and analysed, leading to the participatory selection of a cost effective, low risk strategy for encouraging customary landowners to plant high value trees on degraded grassland areas in Central Province.

The NFS Plantation Branch has agreed to manage and sustain the proposed Full-Project in collaboration with appropriate partner organizations. Activities will focus on teak, but also promote other appropriate high value, high demand species. Project Implementation Agreements are now in place between the NFS and the 3 x ILGs for Kwikila (i.e. Rigo District). Through the full-project, the NFS will sign Project Implementation Agreements with selected ILGs representing a cross-section of "model" reforestation enterprises across Central Province.

2.3 Development Objective Achievements

The development objective of the pre-project was:

- (a) *Forest plantations are developed on degraded grassland areas to replenish resources for supply of timber and relieve pressure on remaining natural forests*

The pre-project is expected to realise this long-term objective through the full-project, which has the following specific objective:

- (b) *To create a model framework that encourages customary landowners to plant high value trees on grassland areas in Central Province.*

3. Target Beneficiaries Involvement

The table below describes how the target community from Kwikila participated in the pre-project and took ownership of their model reforestation venture through the pre-project implementation process.

Output	Method	Outcome
1.	Five day Planning for Change Workshop Participatory mapping and modeling	(a) <i>The target community was ready to take part in the pre-project, and take ownership of their community venture.</i> (b) <i>The target community selected an appropriate demonstration area (approx 603 ha) for the model approach that satisfies the basic project selection criteria.</i>
2	ILG representatives took part in the field surveys with NFS project personnel & land-use planning consultant	(a) <i>NFS project personnel, land-use planning consultant and ILG representatives have a more complete understanding of the land-use limitations and options for the demonstration area.</i>
3.	Participatory mapping and modeling Clan group discussions ILG awareness & coaching	(a) <i>The target community has carefully formed 3 ILGs for the selected demonstration area (refer Output 1).</i> (b) <i>The 3 ILGs have identified 3 appropriate pilot plots (approx 5 ha each) within the demonstration area.</i>
4.	Participatory Strategy Selection Program comprising awareness tours (2 days) and workshop sessions (3 days)	(a) <i>The target community representatives actively participated in the Strategy Selection Program, and understand the project context, problems, objectives and selected strategies.</i> (b) <i>The NFS Plantation Branch and the 3 ILGs have since signed a project implementation agreement to establish the "model" reforestation project for Rigo District (Kwikila).</i>

4. Lessons Learned

4.1 Development Lessons

- (a) *Target beneficiaries and potential partner agencies should be consulted during the preparation of pre-project proposals. They should also be kept up to date during the lead up to project approval and financing.*
- (b) *Actively involving target beneficiaries throughout the pre-project process strengthens their understanding and support for the full-project, and the likelihood of its sustainability.*

4.2 Operational Lessons

- (a) *A liaison officer with good communication skills helps bridge the gap between lead agency and target beneficiaries.*
- (b) *The Project E-Bulletin was very effective in building partnerships with relevant organizations and interventions.*
- (c) *The Project Brochure was very effective in ensuring all parties understood what to expect from the pre-project.*
- (d) *Regular meetings and e-briefings between NFS management, NFS project personnel, and consultants enabled smooth implementation of the pre-project.*
- (e) *Field trips need to be carefully planned in consultation with beneficiaries, partners and consultants to ensure activities proceed as planned.*
- (f) *ITTO needs to be given ample time to process project reports and payments.*

5. Recommendations

Overall, the pre-project has been implemented effectively and efficiently. This is due to constructive collaboration between project team members (NFS personnel and consultants).

In particular, the NFS Aid Coordination Unit has done an excellent job organizing project activities and logistics. The project team recommends their office resources be upgraded to keep pace with their increasing work-load.

PART II. Main Text

1. Project Results

Implementation of the pre-project has resulted in the realization of the project specific objective, and an agreed, cost-effective strategy is now in place for creating a model framework that will encourage customary landowners to plant high value trees on grassland areas in Central Province. Baseline findings and strategy selection activities have resulted in the formulation of the Full-Project Proposal that has already been submitted to ITTO.

During the transition between pre- and full-projects, the NFS Plantation Branch is:

- (a) *Assisting the 3 ILGs at Kwikila to prepare for the full-project (e.g. managing their trial plots).*
- (b) *Keeping project stakeholders and partners informed on project progress through the quarterly Project E-bulletin.*

2. Synthesis of the Analysis

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (a) Specific Objective(s) Achievement | <i>Realised</i> |
| (b) Outputs | <i>Realised</i> |
| (c) Schedule | <i>On time</i> |
| (d) Actual Expenditures | <i>Slightly below planned</i> |
| (e) Potential for replication | <i>Significant potential</i> |
| (f) Potential for scaling-up | <i>Significant potential</i> |

PART III: Conclusions and Recommendations

The pre-project has enabled the PNG Forest Authority to formulate a full-project proposal for planting trees on degraded grassland areas in Central Province. The Project Specific Objective has therefore been realized, and a cost-effective plan for bringing about the Project Development Objective has been carefully prepared in consultation with target beneficiaries and stakeholder representatives.

1. Development Lessons

- (a) *Target beneficiaries and potential partner agencies should be consulted during the preparation of pre-project proposals. They should also be kept up to date during the lead up to project approval and financing.*
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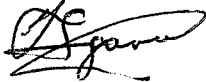
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- (f) *ITTO needs to be given ample time to process project reports and payments.*

3. Recommendations

The pre-project's nine month timeframe was just enough to ensure target beneficiaries and partners were actively involved in the project design process. Similar projects should allow at least nine months to accomplish both baseline and strategy selection activities and outputs.

Responsible for the Report:



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Date: 31st July, 2009.