

Social Safeguard Policy

“Empowering local communities for natural resource management through media development and communications training”

SeaWeb Asia Pacific (PNG Program)

i. Identify indigenous people in the project area

Manus Island is part of Manus Province in northern Papua New Guinea and is the largest island of the Admiralty Islands located in the Bismarck Archipelago. However, it is the smallest province in PNG. It has an area of 2,100 km², measuring around 100 km in length and 30 km wide. Manus Province has a population of 50,321 (2011 National Census).

Mangroves, sea grass and coral reefs are found mainly along the coast. The hinterland rises to a ridged and hilly interior. Heavily forested and well watered, inland areas are drained by numerous short, swift streams and lowland tropical rain forest.

Manus province is divided into 12 Local Level Government (LLG) areas. Each LLG is made up of wards and each wards is made up of 3 to 4 communities depending on the population. The LLG works alongside traditional village chiefs to attend to community issues and welfare. Resource management is all about food security for Manus communities.

All LLGs except Los Negros extend from the coast and into the interior. Each of these LLG has communities located in the hinterland. Manus is the ideal location to trial the ridge to reef concept due to the geographical size and population.

This project utilized media to reach underserved communities, particularly the Wusiai people of inland Central Manus. The indirect benefits were to the coastal people of Manus Island. The 5 LLG areas that this project targeted were:

1. ***Lelemadih-Bupi chupeu***
2. ***Nali Sopat Penabu***
3. ***Tetidu***
4. ***Pomutu-Ndehet-Kurti-Andra***
5. ***Los Negros***

Map of Manus

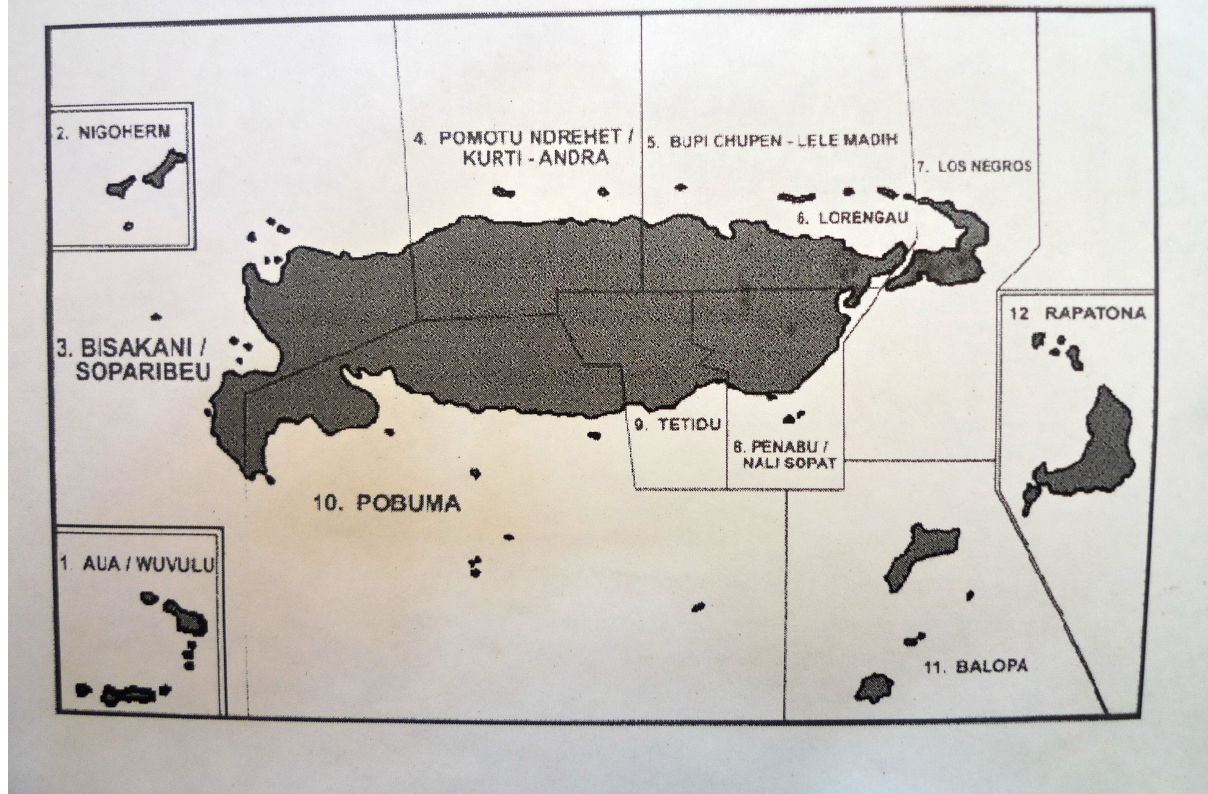


Figure 1: Local Level Government Boundaries

ii. Assess impacts (both positive and negative) on them

The project has the following impacts:

- Increased knowledge and awareness of the coastal and hinterland environments, threats and impacts
- Increased knowledge of best agricultural practises that protect their water source such as rivers and creeks
- Enable communities to share learnings of environment management using the media

iii. Describe how free, prior and informed consultations have been carried out with affected communities during the design of the project (i.e. prior to the submission of the LOI)

Seaweb worked with 20 local champions from Manus, which form the Community Educators Network (CEN), who received training in climate change, food security, marine ecosystems, sustainable farming practises, protection of water resources and fisheries and terrestrial management.

The trainings also included communications training, which helps them to effectively communicate the information they have received.

Threats to food source is evident in many areas in Manus. Communities are prepared to manage their resources sustainably but lack both traditional and conventional resource

management knowledge and methods. As part of that work, SeaWeb engaged the Wusiai people and through that engagement found a basic understanding in the Ridge to Reef concept, that is what they do in the hinterland will have an impact on the coastal environments. During these awareness visitations by members of CEN, the community sought more information on:

- protection of their water sources (rivers),
- food security
- best agricultural practises and
- Setting up of protected areas to protect the Chauka bird and the Green snail endemic to Manus Island. Both are significant in the identity of the local people.
- Reduction in food sources such as cuscus and sago

There are currently 10 members from the Wusiai group of people in the hinterland that are part of the CEN membership, who serve as our conduit to understanding local issues and priorities. It is important to note that Seaweb PNG placed a facilitating role in building the capacity of local champions in Manus and CEN is part of a larger provincial network called the Manus Environmental Conservation Community Network (MECCN), which is directly run by community leadership from throughout Manus.

With access to information repeatedly aired in the media and awareness conducted by CEN members over the last 2 years, many communities have indicated interest. A community leader from the Bunai hinterland in the Nali Sopot Penabu LLG, has agreed to speak with his clan members to set up a management area of sago palms to prevent sago being harvested too early. Powat hinterland in the Lelemadih Bupi Chupeu LLG has an area of sago protected by the clan. Many of these clan based managed areas have no written documents as most of the decisions are verbally agreed and implemented by members.

iv. Outline measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits

There were no adverse impacts reported on the local Wusiai people. People who were in the forefront of this project are local Manus islanders that are familiar with culture of Manus. Protocol was strictly adhered to in the project to involve community leaders and members.

The involvement of the Local Level Government (LLG) was also a positive measure Seaweb PNG took to ensure that benefits are tangible and culturally accepted. Seaweb PNG, through its staff in Manus ensured that the radio programs were culturally sensitive, but still able to drive compelling messages for the communities.

v. Explain how these measures were monitored

This project involved Local Level Governments (LLG). The LLG that the Wusiai people belong to had an advisory role for this project. Likewise, other coastal communities had their respective LLGs overseeing this project in collaboration with Seaweb PNG staff on Manus Island.

Other aspects of coordinating, implementing and monitoring the project were Seaweb PNG's responsibility. This was especially for trainings and the radio program development with assistance of recipients such as National Broadcasting Corporation journalists.

Activities assessment, and random surveying in Lorengau markets were used to assess and monitor the project.

vi. Detail a grievance mechanism

There were a number of people that could have handled any grievances relating to the project.

Firstly, the LLG was able to handle any grievances around communities not receiving the benefits and or champions not complying with community protocol.

Secondly, Seaweb could address any radio programs that are not culturally sensitive in collaboration with LLGs. Any grievances regarding this would have been directed and discussed with the head of the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC)

MECCN could deal with any grievances around local champions or CEN members not delivering project outcomes. Seaweb monitored performances of CEN members.

All members of CEN including the media in Manus were provided with Seaweb's contact. Were there are any grievances by the community or clan against Seaweb PNG, they would have been directed to contact the National Country Coordinator at IUCN/CEPF to deal with their issue regarding the project within 14 days.