



Call for Proposals

Creation and Expansion of Protected Areas in Papua New Guinea

Background

The mission of the Papua New Guinea Biodiversity and Climate Fund (BCF) is “... to catalyze financial and technical resources to enable present and future generations of Papua New Guineans to protect the country’s biodiversity and build resilience in the face of climate change”. The Fund’s purpose is to mobilize and manage funding and channel financial resources and technical assistance to conserve biodiversity and address climate change, by:

- Promoting and supporting effective and sustainable management of existing and future protected areas and other key biodiversity areas through effective conservation measures;
- Fostering climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives, focusing on nature/ecosystem-based solutions;
- Supporting sustainable development activities that deliver conservation outcomes and climate benefits and contribute to the economic well-being of the people of PNG - including customary landowners - while lessening the dependence on activities that degrade the environment;
- Increasing knowledge and understanding of biodiversity and climate issues by raising public awareness, promoting environmental education, and supporting field-based research;
- Building the capacity of local stakeholders to manage and implement biodiversity, climate, and economic development projects carried out in harmony with conservation objectives; and
- Supporting the country’s efforts to meet its national, regional, and global conservation and climate commitments.

The BCF has formed a partnership with the Rainforest Trust, a US-based conservation NGO, to support Papua New Guinea to expand its Protected Area network in line with the Key Biodiversity Areas identified below.

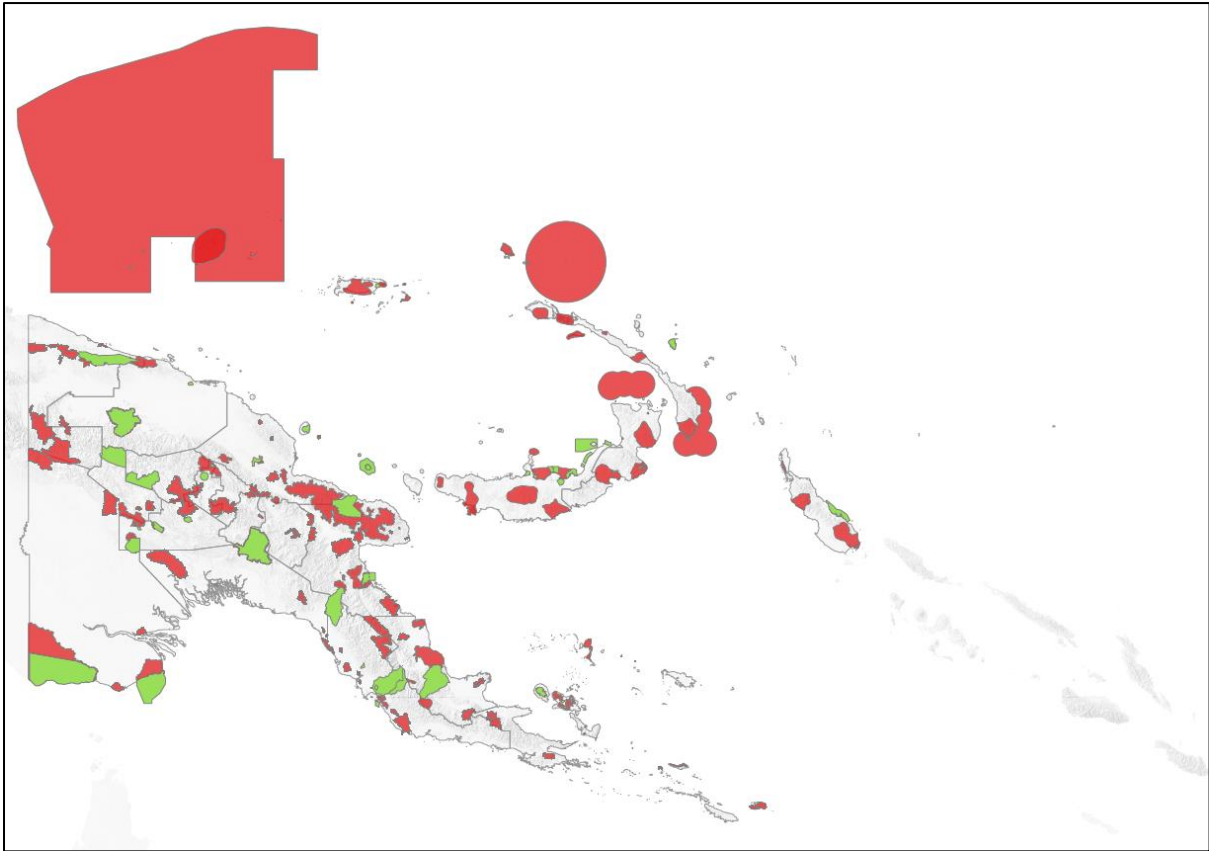


Figure 1: Existing Protected Areas (green) and Key Biodiversity Areas (red) in Papua New Guinea

About the Rainforest Trust

Rainforest Trust is a US-based conservation NGO. Our mission is to save endangered wildlife and protect our planet by creating rainforest reserves through partnerships, community engagement and donor support. We provide grants to non-profit organizations in the tropics and subtropics to protect natural habitats through: (i) Land purchase, (ii) Activities that lead to the legal designation and establishment of protected areas, or (iii) Land-titling for Indigenous communities or other mechanisms delivering local ownership or management.

Strategic approach of the funding call

This funding call specifically aims to support the creation and expansion of Protected Areas (including other effective area-based conservation measures – OECMs) in Papua New Guinea.

Projects may protect any type of habitat, terrestrial or marine, so long as the project meets at least one of the following geographic criteria:

- Protects globally significant populations of Critically Endangered (CR) or Endangered (EN) species on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species often in KBAs or AZE sites.
- Protects a large, intact ecosystem, especially of high integrity forest. Priority geographies for this criterion include but are not limited to: Amazonia broadly defined, the Congo Basin Forests, Southern African Miombo, and the islands of Borneo and New Guinea.

- Protects habitat critical for mitigating global climate change, such as high carbon forests, peat swamps, seagrass meadows and mangroves.

In addition to one the above criteria, proposed sites should comply with all the following requirements:

- Proposed sites should be currently unprotected (or the proposed expanded area should not be within the current gazette area) but the project proponents commit to achieving and maintaining protected area status.
- Projects should have endorsement from project stakeholders, especially local communities.
- All projects are expected to obtain the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of any impacted local communities.
- Projects should seek to develop sustainable financing mechanisms for long-term management of the proposed protected area.

What are other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)?

A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ (in its original place) conservation of biodiversity with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values. (CBD, 2018).

The distinguishing criterion is that a protected area has a primary conservation objective, whereas an “other effective area-based conservation measure” delivers the effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity, regardless of its objectives.

Successful applicants will receive the following support from the Fund during the implementation of the project in addition to the grant:

- Training and mentoring in financial management to ensure applicants are able to manage and account for the grant.
- Capacity building on the collection of geo-located conservation and biodiversity data, using the [Lukim Gather mobile app](#), to improve biodiversity and management effectiveness monitoring in PNG protected areas.
- Support to produce digital maps using the [PNG Biodiversity and Climate geo-portal](#) to support the development and implementation of management plans.
- Inclusion in the 2024 national [Protected Area Forum](#) to share their experiences and learn from other Protected Areas.

Grant amount

Full project grants typically range between \$250,000 and \$3 million over 1-6 years and must lead to legal land or sea protection.

The Fund aims to fund as many initiatives as possible within the funding window and will select applications based on their cost-effectiveness, impact, sustainability and commitments.

Who is eligible to apply?

In line with the BCF's grants manual and UNDP, locally registered non-governmental organisation or community-based organisations are eligible to apply. Public and private entities are not entitled to apply under this funding call. Lead organisations must have legally existed and operated in Papua New Guinea for at least two years. The BCF actively supports partnerships and collaborations. Organisations based outside PNG may be proposal partners but may not be the lead organization.

NOTE: The BCF's due diligence requires us to screen the legal status of applicants. It is recommended to check that your application fully satisfies the screening procedures before submission.

Submission process

There is a two-stage submission process.

Stage 1:

Complete and submit a Concept Note to the BCF Secretariat at zolas@pngbcf.org with the email title: "Concept Note submission". The deadline for submission is **9th June 2023**. The concept note is available [here](#).

Outcome of Stage 1:

Successful applicants will be provided with a Rapid Feasibility Grant of up to PGK 60,000 to complete any of the following activities such as community consultation process, rapid biodiversity assessment, protected/conserved area boundary mapping, government consultations, etc. Such activities will be discussed and agreed with the application upon receiving the grant.

The deadline for the completion of these feasibility assessments is the **31st August 2023**.

Applicants will also be invited to a BCF proposal writing workshop in Port Moresby scheduled October 2023. The proposal writing workshop is intended to support applicants to develop their full proposals and incorporate the results of the feasibility assessments. The exact will be confirmed with participants.

Stage 2:

Complete and submit a Full Application. Based on the successful implementation of the Rapid Feasibility Grant selected applicants will be invited to begin work on a full project Application.

The deadlines for submitting Applications for Protected Area Full Awards are 31st October 2023.

These Applications are then reviewed together by the BCF Secretariat and Rainforest Trust with final approval by Rainforest Trust's Board of Directors.

IMPORTANT: Please note that projects are evaluated based on their technical merit and the cost-effectiveness of their budget. Some of the criteria that will be used in deciding whether proposals are successful are:

- Eligibility: projects, activities and outcomes cannot be ineligible under the terms of the funding call;
- Project Impact: evidence that the project will deliver one or more important biodiversity, conservation or climate mitigation/ adaptation outcomes;
- Viability: evidence that the expected outcomes are likely to be achieved within the budget and timeframe, and that proposed activities are within the competence of the applicant;
- Sustainability: evidence that critical elements of the project are likely to continue after PNG BCF funding support terminates;
- Engagement: evidence of local community or stakeholder ownership, contribution and participation;
- Inclusivity: evidence that the interests of vulnerable or targeted groups (including traditional landowners, women, youth, elderly, etc.) will be safeguarded or advanced;
- Integrity: absence of conflict of interest on the part of project implementers and a determination that they will implement necessary safeguards to avoid these.
- Compliance: evidence that the project will not have any adverse environmental and social impacts, or where they exist, mitigation measures are sufficient to reduce any environmental or social risk.

Ineligible actions

- Actions that take place outside of or do not directly contribute to the creation or expansion of a Protected Area in Papua New Guinea.
- Activities with potentially significant adverse environmental and/or social risks and impacts that, individually or cumulatively, are hard to mitigate or reverse or unlikely to be mitigated or reversed;
- Activities with potentially significant adverse impacts on vulnerable groups, particularly with respect to displacement, loss of livelihoods or cultural resources, which are unlikely to be compensated to the satisfaction of those affected;
- Activities which do not provide potentially impacted stakeholders, in particular vulnerable groups, opportunities to participate in consultation and decision-making during the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the activities;
- Activities with potentially significantly adverse impact on sites of significant archaeological, cultural or religious importance.
- Activities which do not have any measurable conservation or climate benefits, or which will not contribute to improved conservation and climate outcomes.