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NEWSLETTER OF THE RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION OF PNG

## Diploma Course a milestone for RCF

After almost seven years, the certificate course 'Environment and Conservation in Melanesia' has been incorporated into a diploma program at the University of Goroka.

This was the highlight for RCF recently when the MOU was signed between RCF and the Centre for

nessed by the Acting VC Dr. Mel, Acting PVC Dr. Semos, Dean of Humanities Dr. Hane-nou, Director of Centre for Melanesian Studies Dr Kari, staff of UOG, McCarthy Museum, RCF, and visiting members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church from the USA. In his remarks, Dr. Kari com-



*Its all serious business as Con.Ed Manager Tommy Kosi, Director of Centre for Melanesian studies Dr. Kari and Dean of Humanities Dr. Hane-nou sign the MOU, while Acting VC Dr. Mel looks on.*

Melanesian Studies.

As such RCF will now be offering a diploma course in 'Environment and Conservation Studies' as of second semester this year. In 2002, the first MOU was signed between UOG and RCF for the certificate course. The certificate course will still be offered to final year Social science students. While the diploma will be offered to those who want to further pursue studies on Environment and Conservation in Melanesia.

The signing of the MOU was wit-

mended Dr. Semos who initiated the Centre for Melanesian Studies which has now become a part of the Humanities Faculty. The signing of the MOU is a significant development in the reputable partnership between two organisations that value conservation in Melanesia, Dr. Kari said.

The significance of the CMS is that it aims to promote, and conserve indigenous Melanesian environments, culture and people in conforming to national and international

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## April 2007

- Diploma course MOU signed
- Pou clan boundary map done
- Capacity building vital for expansion
- Awareness posters
- New Project Staff

We welcome back our readers to a new year 2007.

RCF has launched into most of its major activities early and as the year unfolds we will continue to inform you of latest developments and activities of the organisation as the two programs embark on new and challenging activities for the year.

In this issue, we bring to you the highlight of a significant event in the history of RCF with the signing of the Diploma course MOU. The diploma course has eventuated from the collaborative efforts of key people involved in initial discussions and development of the course. The organisation is also grateful to former Con.Ed Manager Lydia Dori who was also instrumental in the discussion process.

Happy reading!

## Pou clan first to have boundary map

This is the first of its kind in the Crater Mountain Wildlife Management Area for RCF to produce a clan map. Mapping Officer Stanley Jacob has completed the first two maps for the Pou clan in Haia and presented them in April.

that has been designated for conservation alone as shown in the picture.

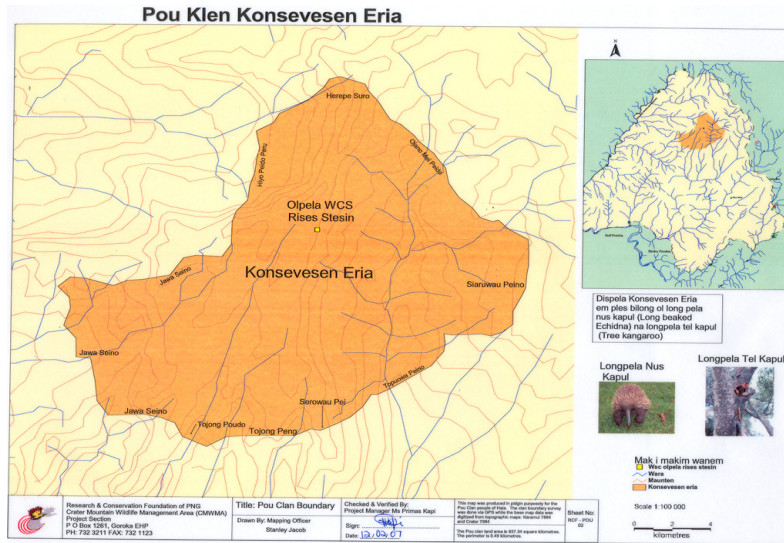
The total land area for the Pou clan within the Crater Mountain WMA is 937.34 square kilometres and the conservation area is 37.3 sq. kilometres and is highlighted in orange. The maps which were

With the Pou clan boundary map now completed, Stanley has already collected GPS readings for the second clan which is the Jene clan. He began work on the draft map for Jene clan and their conservation area early this year. In May the draft map will be given back to landowners to iron out possible disputes. Once all information is accepted the final work on the map will begin.

There are twelve clans in Haia so with one clan map done, the mapping officer has eleven more to work on.

After completing the clans in Haia Stanley will then move to Mengino in Lufa district.

Despite involving painstaking work of trekking in the rugged terrains of the Crater mountains, the information was easily transformed into a map that can be easily interpreted and understood by the landowners. This can be used to plan conservation efforts as well as manage land use for longterm benefit of the clans. These maps will also be useful in minimising incidence of land disputes between clans.



The completed Pou clan map depicting the conservation area highlighted in orange.

One map depicts the clans boundaries within the Crater Mountain WMA and the other is the Pou conservation area map which shows the clans land area

written in pidgin were presented to the Pou clan in April.

The maps were done in pidgin for the convenience of landowners' understanding and interpretation.

## Awareness posters

The Crater Project through its awareness program has developed posters on issues which threaten wildlife. Five posters have been produced with three more to be completed.

The posters are aimed at creating awareness on sustainable hunting practices on wildlife and also focus on the importance of trees. All the posters have been produced in pidgin to make it applicable to local people.

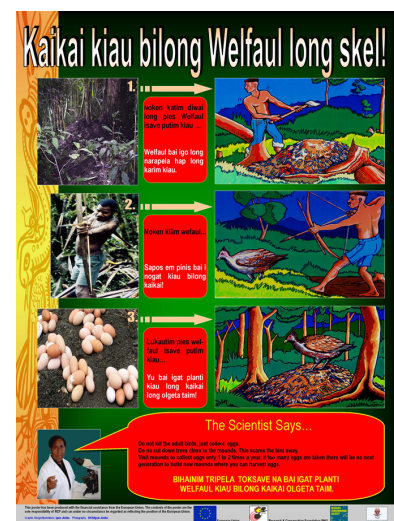
Technical information was pro-

vided by WCS to furnish the posters, while the graphics and design were produced by Graphic designer Igsie Jimike.

The poster production was generously funded by European Union.

A sample of the posters is shown in the picture opposite.

It is hoped the posters will help people take responsibility and adopt sustainable hunting practices that will support conservation.



## Capacity building vital for expansion

The Conservation Education program continues to expand and is embarking on new avenues to pass on conservation messages, like offering a diploma course through University of Goroka. To complement its expansion, the program has set staff training as a priority to upgrade program officers' knowledge and skills to take on new roles and challenges.

In 2006, two staff went for further training. Senior Teacher trainer Sangion Tiu underwent a one-year Master of Science degree at the University of Waikato in New Zealand under the New Zealand Aid Scholarship scheme. Ms Tiu's thesis titled "*The*

*Role of Indigenous Knowledge in Biodiversity Conservation: Implications for Conservation Education in Papua New Guinea*" focused on the importance of indigenous environmental knowledge and how this knowledge can be used to promote biodiversity conservation efforts. The thesis also explored how indigenous environmental knowledge was acquired, interpreted and disseminated and how these

ideas could be useful for Conservation Education practices in Papua New Guinea. Emmie Reresi, the Sat. CERC Coordinator, did a post graduate diploma in education (PGDE) at the University of Goroka for one



*Newly inducted HELP trainer Kome, receiving his certificate from Mr. Waukave.*

year studying fulltime and working. She has completed the program successfully and will now be responsible for all PABLO training.

A similar arrangement is also in place for Program assistant Julien Pochimel, who is currently studying post vocational training in education (PVTE) in business studies at the University of Goroka. While on full-time study, Julien will also assist with other program activities.

Apart from that, regular maintenance of computers, accessories and office network to ensure they function efficiently is important for the program. To ensure this, CERC officer Ambiki Kome recently attended a three week course on implementing & supporting Microsoft Windows XP professional at the Institute of Business Studies (IBS) in Port Moresby.

The training has enhanced his IT skills and placed him in a position to effectively maintain office computers.

On another note, Mr. Kome is also under induction program to

take over HELP training in the near future. Mr. Kome was presented with a trainers' certificate by the Finance & Administration Manager Mr. Kelvin Waukave. On presenting the certificate on behalf of the program manager during a special morning tea, Mr. Waukave commended Mr. Kome for his efforts on embarking on the new challenge.

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standards.

The Diploma course offered by RCF will be one of the pioneer courses to be offered by the centre for Melanesian studies. The course will commence in the second semester with five students already enrolled in the course.

The content of the course will fo-

cus on the environments and biodiversity of Melanesian countries. It will also have a component on *Indigenous Environmental Knowledge* a concept that has become popular.

While giving his remarks Dr. Hane-nou emphasised that content knowledge is what students

would take out from such courses offered by partner organisations like RCF.

Under Centre for Melanesian Studies, other academic programs as diploma and degrees that promote Melanesia as a region will be offered.

## New project staff

The latest inclusion to RCF's diverse workforce is Titus Jerry who is the Rural Livelihoods Field officer for Crater Project. Titus will be working alongside Rural Livelihoods Officer Rebecca Negints.

Titus will move from site to site within the four weeks out in the field monitoring and working alongside landowners on projects like organic coffee and vanilla as well as ecotourism activities and artifacts.

His position is temporary however it may become permanent if required to undertake current project activities.

Titus is married with one child and comes from Masi village in Goroka.

Titus holds a Bachelor in Land studies from Unitech. Upon

graduating in 2002 he went on to work for the University of Goroka as the Assets property officer in 2003 to 2005. Since be-



*Moses Martin and Titus Jerry all set to begin work in Crater Mountain villages.*

ing offered the job by RCF in early April, he is prepared to take on the new challenge.

Moses Martin is the other new officer who will be attached to the Crater Project for seven

months as the Environmental Health Officer. He will begin work once funding for the water project comes in.

Martin will be responsible for the rural water supply sanitation program. This will cover health and hygiene education, assist in gender and HIV/Aids awareness, as well as work with the people on building improved latrines, and rubbish disposal pits.

Martin graduated from Divine Word University with a diploma in Health Sciences (Environmental Health) in 2005.

Titus and Moses will work in the Mengino, Haia, Maimafu and Abigarama villages.

RCF Welcomes them on board.

Research & Conservation Foundation of PNG  
PO Box 1261  
GOROKA.  
Papua New Guinea