

Dialogue on Forestry

Not so long ago Papua New Guinea was covered by forests. Even now more than 80% of the country has forest cover, though much of that has been depleted through large scale forest harvesting since the 1970s. Forests are an important part of the traditions of Papua New Guinea. It is impossible for Papua New Guineans not to care about the forest. The wide scale logging that has taken place has brought considerable financial bonuses to some of those landowners who have agreed to the logging of their forests. Not that those bonuses have always been wisely spent. Disgruntlement with the perceived problems of industrial scale logging and lack of benefits, has led to orchestrated campaigns which have opened up a debate on forest management in PNG that has not always if ever been cordial or informative.

The positions of the various interested parties have become polarised. Where does the truth lie? The answer is a matter of national importance, not only as it impacts directly on the good name of Papua New Guinea as custodian of a natural resource of international importance, but because the way the forest is managed has and will continue to have an impact on the benefits the forest resource brings to the citizens of Papua New Guinea, including through trade and employment.

The Institute of National Affairs, as the Independent think tank in PNG, has agreed to facilitate a dialogue on forestry within PNG, aimed at addressing key options and opportunities for a sustainable forestry industry in PNG. The Overseas Development Institute, a well respected international research organisation with considerable experience of tropical forestry, has prepared three objective background papers to inform the discussions. You can access those papers on this web site www.inapng.com

The first of these papers

‘What can be learnt from the past? A history of the forestry sector in Papua New Guinea’
by Neil Bird

is posted today, Friday the 24th November. Two more papers will be posted over the weekend:

‘The current legal and institutional framework of the forest sector in Papua New Guinea’
by Adrian Wells

and

‘Issues and opportunities for the PNG forest sector’ by Flip Van Helden

A workshop for selected participants will be held in Lae from the 6th to 8th December. Invitations have been restricted, but all stakeholder groups have been invited. You are encouraged to read the papers and to send comments to your representative. A list of the

invitees follows this introduction. The European Union is funding the research and the workshop, which has been initiated at the request of the Government of PNG.

We hope that all stakeholder groups will take part and that the openness of the debate will lead to considered and measured conclusions. The conclusions of the workshop will also be made public and will be used to inform continued dialogue within the Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council's (CIMC) Sectoral Committee on forestry, which has not been active recently, partly as a result of the polarisation of positions. This dialogue will not provide a solution to all forestry issues, but surely discussion can contribute to a sustainable way forward which benefits the people of Papua New Guinea.

Hard copies of the papers will not be distributed by INA. Invitees are encouraged to facilitate information dispersal among those who are likely to have comments on the issues and opportunities for the forest sector in Papua New Guinea.

Paul Barker
Director Institute of National Affairs

DIALOGUE ON FORESTRY - Official Guest list

GROUP	NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION	
Politicians	Rabbie Namaliu	Minister	Treasury	
	Sase Zibe	Minister	Agriculture	
	Hon. Dr. Puka Temu,MP	Minister for Lands/Physical Planning	Office of the Minister	
	Hon. Bart Philimon	Member	Lae Provincial Government	
	Patrick Pruaitch	Minister	Minister of Forestry	
Church	Sir Brian Barnes	Bishop	Catholic Diocese	
	Wesley Kigasung	Bishop	Lutheran	
Civil Society	Kanawi Pouro	Chairman	PNGSD	
	John Sowe	Head. Social/Envir.	NRI	
	Ila Geno	Comm Gen	Chief Ombudsman	
	Lawerence Kalinoe		Law Reform	
	Roy Gagau (NARI)	HRM Mgr	Land owners	
	Graham Auni	EO	RIC	
	Paul Barker	Director	INA	
	Brown Bai	Chairman	RIC	
	Donors	Ms. Andrea Cole		Aus Aid
		Dr. Benson Ateng	Country MGR	World Bank
		Ms. Helen Kulumbu		ADB
		Ms Leslie Rowe	Ambassador	USA
H.E. Mr. Aldo DELL'ARICCIA		Ambassador	EC Delegation	
David Gordon Macleod		British High Commissioner	British High Commission	
Tessa Temata		NZ Aid Manager	New Zealand High Comm	
Government		David Sode, LLB,	Comm Gen	IRC
		Simon Tosali	Secretary	DOT
		Mr. Ian Mesibere		DAL
	Dr. Gae Gowae	Deputy Secretary	DEC	
	Valentine Kambori	Secretary	Fin and Planning	
	Alois Tabereng	Secretary	Trade and Ind	
	Dr. Rona Nadili	FAS	Labour	
	Gei Ilagi	Secretary	PLLGA	
	Ms. Ageta Pokatou	R Forestry Officer	Momase	
	Kevork Baboyan	Economist	IRC	
Joshua Kalinoe	Chief Sec.	DPM		

GROUP	NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION
Industry	Oscar Mamalai	GM	Innovision
	James Lau	GM	Rimbanan Hijau
	Toshifumi Ohira	MD	Open Bay
	John Sweet	GM	Lae Builders
	Athol Smith	Manager	Timber saws
	Richard Pickworth	Director	Golden Square
	Mr. Steve Powiesnik	Director	Cloudy Bay Timber Products PNG LTD
	Mr. Charles Sia	Director	Stettin Bay Lumber Co. LTD
International	Eva Galabru		Human rights activist
	David King		UK Chief Scientist
	Jared Diamond		Author
Local Govt	Hon. Clement Nakmai	Governor	WNBP
	Hon. Mal Smith	Governor	EHP
	Hon. Luther Wenge	Governor	Morobe
	Hon. Bob Danaya	Governor	Western
NGO	Theresa Kas		TNC
	Thomas Paka	Chairman	Eco Forestry Forum
	Kenn Mondiai	ED	Partnership Melan
	Mr. Ted Mamu	SFO	WWF
	Dorothy Tekwie	Campaigner	Greenpeace
	John Ericho		Conservation Forum
	John Gonapa	Prog. Mgr	Con. Melanesia
	Mr. Aung L. Kumal		Village Development Trust
	Anne Kagir	ED	ELC
PNGFA	Goodwill Amos		PNGFA
	Terry Warra	A/MD	PNGFA
	Dike Kari	Director - Policy	Policy PNGFA
	Max Peki	PNGFRI	FRI
Tourism	Peter Vincent	CEO	PNGTA
SGS	Bruce Telfer	MD	SGS
Academia	Michael Hafagema	Lecturer	UNITECH
	Ruth Turia	Lecturer	UNITECH Dept. of Forestry
	Prof Simon Saulei	Dean	UPNG/carbon
	John Kaupa	Lecturer	UPNG
	Phil Shearman	RSU	UPNG