

Evaluation of the Community Engagement Program (CEP), December 2002.

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Milne Bay Community-based Coastal and Marine Conservation Program



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Introduction

After two Community Engagement Program (CEP) patrols in the later half of 2002 (September and December) it was decided by the Community Development Specialist (CDS) and the Community Trainer (CT) to do an assessment and evaluation of the trainings, briefing and debriefing sessions, and patrols to date. Personal thoughts about the CEP, patrols and the briefing and debriefing sessions were collected individually from Village Trainers (VTs) in private interviews. The evaluation was deemed necessary to help the CEP in coordinating its activity and training programs. The CDS and the CT then reviewed the patrol reports, discussed needs and further actions, and these are listed below.

Progress to Date

The CEP is currently working in 15 communities. These include Panaeati, Panapompom, Motorina, Brooker, Ware, Anagusa, Tewatera, Kwaraiwa, Skelton, Tubetube, Dawson, Nuakata, Iabam, Pahilele and East Cape communities. The communities at Motorina, Dawson and Anagusa were included after the first patrol after requests from neighbouring communities.

- The first patrol went through a process of rooting people in their history, distinguishing between 'cargo' and community development and self-reliance. They were then asked about their own perceptions of resource status and were given Community Profiles (which had been translated into the local languages), which outlined their past and present population status, land area and the results of last years stock assessment for beche-de-mer and other commercially valuable resources. From this action, community interest was generated on how to manage resources for sustainability. Concepts that were outlined included the establishment of set-asides (using the analogies of hospitals and banks) and management plans.
- The second patrol, utilising the catalyst of the first patrol has seen several communities begin discussions amongst themselves to designate reef areas for sustainable fisheries management or have started improvising management plans for certain areas or fisheries. This patrol was used to disseminate education and awareness materials on marine resources (these also had been translated into the local languages). The Misima team also participated in the first Brooker-Ware territorial mediation over the extensive Long-Kosmann reef area at Ware and patrolled again for a shorter period after this to attend the second mediation at Brooker, and to conduct workshops at Motorina Island.

Proposed Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) or management strategies for each Area of Interest (AOI) to date are as follows:

- Nuakata Islanders in AOI 1 have now set some rules on the harvest of the marine resources, which includes the banning the use of derris root.
- Skelton, Kwaraiwa and Tubetube Islanders in AOI 2 have expressed an interest to setting-up LMMAs, (these are not yet defined) for management. This is despite the uninformed intentions and the subsequent confusion created by Conservation International's (CI's) Chief Executive Officer's (CEO's) sojourn and the later visit by the National Department of Lands and Physical Planning (NDLPP) in October. The VTs have done well to quell misconceptions and rumours generated by these visits.
- Brooker Islanders in AOI 3 are currently negotiating amongst themselves to set up several LMMAs over reefs surrounding Panuabwauwau, Yotovi, Panasial, Abowat and Ehiki Islands to allow beche-de-mer stocks to regenerate. Recently Brooker people also discussed the probability of setting up an LMMA around Lal Island. On Panasial it has been proposed that the cutting of trees will be restricted.



The CEP is preparing for its third patrol in March and will assess community initiatives so far. We are making progress but the CEP should not be pushed or rushed to meet 'higher' agendas but rather controlled by the communities, so true conviction, co-operation and commitment can be developed at their own pace. This will ensure that any LMMAs that are developed by communities are truly 'community-owned and driven'. There is also an urgent need for the services of a Fisheries Ecologist/Marine Biologist to assist communities in formalising and assisting communities in their selection of LMMAs. Islands in the targeted areas are owned by clans, because of this, large scale Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) or strict 'no-take zones' are not practical or culturally feasible for reef owning communities. Therefore there will also be a need to incorporate genealogy work in setting up LMMAs.

Finally, the news about the program is spreading and we are getting many requests from communities both inside and outside the program area to have awareness done with their communities.



Issues provided by Village Trainers (not in any order of importance)

Operational Issues

- No job descriptions for VTs and Area Coordinators (ACs).
 - *Action Taken: The CDS has started formulating duty statements for VTs.*
 - *Recommendation: Review the need for ACs (main responsibility is organizing logistics, and as interface for villagers and LLGs).*

- No prescribed format for patrol reports.
 - *Action Taken: The CDS has developed a new format, which will now be adopted. Format will serve as reminder to help VTs record good accounts of events while on patrol.*

- No briefing on the project for the Maramatana LLG, because of this, Councilors are not fully aware of the project and are therefore not as cooperative as could be.
 - *Action Taken: Maramatana Area Manager was briefed on 6th February 2003.*
 - *Recommendation: CDS and CT to maintain contact with all LLGs where VTs are operating.*

- Shortage of food on patrols and in the village.
 - *Recommendation: Enough food to be taken on patrols.*
 - *Recommendation: VTs to be sensitive about shortage of food in villages.*

- Need for more team building exercises.
 - *Recommendation: VTs to be put through more team building exercises.*

- Some VTs not been given enough opportunity whilst in briefing and debriefing sessions, and on patrol.
 - *Recommendation: VTs to be put through more team building exercises.*

- VTs rely on one member of team to take notes. All should take turns doing everything.
 - *Recommendation: VTs to be put through an Adult Literacy Course.*
 - *Recommendation: VTs to be put through more team building exercises.*

- Some VTs have a tendency to instigate issues and force others to get involved. The pay issue was discussed at the time of employment and all agreed to it before joining. Those not happy with it should be asked to resign as it is causing gossip and conflict amongst other VTs.
 - *Recommendation: VTs to revisit pay schedule, benefits and probationary period.*
 - *Action Taken: Wages to be increased in line with the Consumer Price Index to keep up with rises in cost of living.*

- Some VTs were not very clear on what teams were supposed to do on the second patrol in the community.
 - *Recommendation: Plans to be outlined and 'role' played before each patrol in the briefing session. This is now deemed necessary, as the VTs will have a greater role in deciding activities and communities to work with. Some communities will need more time than others.*

- Inadequate accommodation for some VETs whilst on patrol (Misima team is okay).
 - *Recommendation: Utilise EMB's materials (for a nominal fee) as they are specifically geared up for outdoor education camps or purchase tents for VETs.*
- Need for a third dinghy for the Nuakata/Alotau VET.
 - *Recommendation: Dinghy and outboard with necessary equipment to be purchased.*
 - *Action Taken: Quotations obtained from Samarai Plastics and Ela Motors.*
- Need to get insurance for VTs and community members that travel on patrol dinghies.
 - *Action Taken: CBC Finance Manager has begun consultation with insurance companies on conditions and rates.*

Safety Issues

- Have the radios working in the boats.
 - *Action Taken: Radios repaired.*
 - *Action Taken: Inventory of all equipment and replaced as needed. Additional equipment to be supplied: fuel tanks, spare parts, camera, Coleman lamp, canvas (and/or tent) and possibly a Primus stove.*
 - *Recommendation: Checklists of dinghy safety and general equipment to be checked by CDS or CT before and after every patrol (Note: this responsibility will be handed over to Education Milne Bay (EMB) where the dinghy will be stored and the CEP will be based).*
 - *Recommendation: Regular maintenance to be done after and prior to every patrol (Note: this responsibility will be handed over to EMB).*
- Some members of the team are playing the role of others, example taking over the role of the boat operator and making decisions on the movement of the boat instead of consulting with the boat operator first.
 - *Recommendation: Dinghy operator to be responsible for all movements of dinghy. This is to be done in consultation with the Patrol Leader.*

Gender Issues

- Male members need to accept women as equal members of the team.
 - *Recommendation: All VETs to have one woman in the team.*
 - *Recommendation: VTs to be given training on gender issues and equity.*
 - *Recommendation: VTs to revisit 'Common Qualities of Healthy Effective Teams'.*
 - *Recommendation: VTs to be put through more team building exercises.*

Personality and Respect Issues

- Some VTs are too domineering.
 - *Recommendation: Individuals to receive counseling.*
 - *Recommendation: VTs to revisit 'Common Qualities of Healthy Effective Teams'.*
 - *Recommendation: VTs to be put through more team building exercises.*



- Some VTs need to control their temper and accept being corrected.
 - *Recommendation: Individuals to receive counseling.*
 - *Recommendation: VTs to revisit 'Common Qualities of Healthy Effective Teams'.*
 - *Recommendation: VTs to be put through more team building exercises.*
- VTs to treat each other as equal members of the team.
 - *Recommendation: VTs to revisit 'Common Qualities of Healthy Effective Teams'.*
 - *Recommendation: VTs to be put through more team building exercises.*
- Need to speak a language that all can understand to avoid gossiping and joking about other VTs.
 - *Recommendation: VTs to use the common language of English when in the company of VTs from other areas.*
- Some VTs using obscene language in briefing and debriefing sessions and whilst on patrol.
 - *Recommendation: VTs to refrain from using coarse language.*
 - *Recommendation: VTs to be made aware of guidelines (rules) for being a VT and review if necessary.*
 - *Recommendation: VTs to revisit qualities of being a VT.*
- There is no confidentiality amongst the VTs.
 - *Recommendation: VTs to make more use of the 'talking wall' in briefing and debriefing sessions.*
 - *Recommendation: Issues relating to individuals in the CEP are to be dealt with by those personally involved.*
 - *Recommendation: Issues related to the CEP are to be dealt with the individual in question, the Patrol Leader, the CDS and the CT.*
 - *Recommendation: VTs to look at selecting a VT Representative.*



Other Issues from the CDS and the CT (not in any order of importance)

- Training needs of VTs need to be identified and prioritised. Training programs needs on (not in any order of importance):
 - Conflict management
 - Finance and money management
 - PRA tools
 - Computer skills, literacy and report writing
 - Leadership
 - Local Level Government, its laws and its functions
 - Legal issues
 - LMMAs
 - Gender issues and equity
 - Agriculture (particularly for SLUNP)
 - Marine resources and reproduction
 - Fisheries management
 - Appropriate technology
 - Radio procedures and GPS use
 - First aid and sea safety
- *Recommendation: Identify and prioritise training needs and develop a suitable schedule for implementation.*
- *Recommendation: Investigate the potential for an exchange or visitation program by VTs with the Bismarck Ramu Group (BRG) operating in Madang Province.*
- Inadequate training and accommodation facilities.
 - *Action Taken: A new office, training, operations and accommodation facility is presently under construction by EMB.*
 - *Recommendation: Communicate the schedule of use to VTs.*
- No District Office at Bwagaoia at Misima for Misima Area Manager and SLUNP.
 - *Action Taken: Program Manager has written letter to the District Administrator requesting use of unoccupied office space with Division of Agriculture and Lands.*
 - *Action Taken: VTs have looked for space with Bwagaoia Community Hall, Uniting Church, Women's Guest House and a local storeowner.*
 - *Recommendation: Obtain lease on space immediately, preferably within the District Administration office.*
- No Fisheries Ecologist/Marine Biologist on staff to help VTs with communicating to communities appropriate areas for LMMAs and to assist in stock abundance modelling of commercially valuable resources. This delay is affecting the CEP and its activities.
 - *Action Taken: A Fisheries Ecologist/Marine Biologist has been advertised for and screening will soon commence.*
 - *Recommendation: Communicate this to target communities on the next patrol.*

- CDS and CT are overburdened with producing education and awareness materials (though the CDS and CT have a very good understanding of community needs in this area).
 - *Action Taken: A Communications and Education Officers have been advertised for and screening will soon commence. The CDS and CT will continue to provide input into materials needed.*
 - *Recommendation: Communications Officer in collaboration with EMB to investigate the potential of a theater performance on marine resource management (similar to 'Wan Smalbag' from Vanuatu, or the work by BRG in Madang and the East Sepik Provinces).*
 - *Recommendation: A CD disc player with screen (run on a solar panel) is purchased to enable the CEP to show relative materials to targeted communities.*

- Need to mitigate the interference from by CI senior management (also raised by the communities after the CEO sojourn and NDLPP visit) and the confusion that it creates.
 - *Recommendation: Visits by senior management to be closely coordinated with the CDS, CT and VTs for the area.*
 - *Recommendation: Councilors to be informed prior to any future visits by senior management.*
 - *Action Taken: Guidelines disseminated to immediate senior managers.*
 - *Recommendation: Any changes to the CEP to go before the CTA and the Steering Committee, and to be in line with the principals of good adaptive management.*

- Need for some training to communities.
 - *Recommendation: CDS in consultation with the CT and VETs to discuss what the needs are for community training (these will be generated from community forums on their needs). Such areas may include (not in any order of importance):*
 - Community development
 - Community organising
 - Ward Development Planning
 - LMMA set up
 - Leadership, government and governance
 - Finance and money management
 - Appropriate technology
 - Health and hygiene (as part of the SLUNP)
 - Nutrition (as part of the SLUNP)
 - Agriculture (as part of the SLUNP, eg: making soap and cooking oil from coconuts)
 - Gender
 - Literacy
 - Resource management and conservation
 - Fisheries management
 - Marine biology
 - PRA

- Need to initiate Church program as the Church is the main mobilier of communities and is an important source for awareness dissemination.
 - *Recommendation: Initiate contact with Church groups and assess receptiveness to act as awareness disseminators on resource management and conservation.*
 - *Recommendation: To network and build alliances in the Church hierarchy.*
 - *Recommendation: Have VTs initiate wider discussions when staying with local pastors or when being cared for by the Women Fellowships.*
 - *Recommendation: To do awareness in the pastoral training colleges with those training to become tomorrow's pastors.*
 - *Action Taken: A Communications and Education Officers have been advertised for and screening will soon commence. The CDS and CT will continue to provide input into actions needed.*
 - *Recommendation: Collaborate with BRG with their 'Christians for Environmental Stewardship' program.*

- Need to offer alternatives for income generation (all communities are requesting assistance in setting up mariculture initiatives, particularly clam farms).
 - *Recommendation: CDS to develop a 'Manual for Community-based Giant Clam Farming' and other materials on seaweed and other mariculture alternatives.*
 - *Recommendation: CDS and the Fisheries Ecologist/Marine Biologist with collaboration from the NFA and the PFA to develop an extension team (to work parallel with the VETs) on better processing of existing utilized marine resources and mariculture initiatives.*
 - *Recommendation: CEP to assist communities in organizing themselves into resource owners associations where they can bargain with exports for better prices for marine resources.*
 - *Recommendation: CDS to pursue in collaboration with the SLUNP, appropriate agriculture developments and viable cash cropping.*
 - *Recommendation: VTs to disseminate awareness on new copra buying company in Alotau.*
 - *Recommendation: CDS in collaboration with the Tourism Extension Officer to assist communities with small tourism development (where feasible) and strengthen the dive fee schedule.*
 - *Action Taken: A Tourism Extension Officer has been advertised for and screening will soon commence. The CDS and CT will continue to provide input into actions needed.*
 - *Recommendation: CEP to collaborate and provide input into Education Milne Bay's eco-tourism extension program.*
 - *Recommendation: CEP to collaborate and provide input into the ADB and EU fisheries development projects.*

- Need to identify territorial boundaries and ownership (through genealogies) of islands/reefs.
 - *Recommendation: Conduct genealogy studies for areas that are suggested by communities for LMMAs, and areas of high priority.*
 - *Recommendation: Collaborate with Division Land and Physical Planning on delineating boundaries.*
 - *Recommendation: Assist in mediation with disputing communities.*
 - *Recommendation: Map boundaries to be drawn on high-resolution air-photographs once a consensus is reached.*

- Inadequate photocopying and printing facilities to produce awareness materials.
 - *Action Taken: The Finance Manager and the IT Specialist have begun the process of purchasing a suitable colour photocopy.*
 - *Recommendation: Existing colour printer be serviced or replaced.*
 - *Recommendation: Separate photocopier and printer are purchased for the new CEP office at the EMB facility (EMB have expressed an interest in paying a surcharge for access to this equipment).*

- Inadequate translation services to produce awareness materials.
 - *Recommendation: CDS and CT to look for suitably educated people to be able to offer high quality translation services.*
 - *Recommendation: CDS to investigate any role for the Summer Institute of Linguistics (currently their fees are too high for the volume of translation we need done). They may feel more inclined to translate materials that have a religious bent.*



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