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PROGRAM UPDATE

Scenario Modeling for Green Growth Strategies in Madang, Papua New Guinea



More than 25 representatives of government, academia and civil society recently gathered in Madang, Papua New Guinea, to advance the province's efforts at developing policies that balance economic growth with sustainable environmental management. The meeting on March 20, 2015, built on a number of trainings, studies and pilot projects supported by USAID LEAF, and aimed to provide input to the planned final recommendations to the Provincial Government on Low Emissions Land Use Planning as a Tool to Support REDD+ and Green Growth in Madang Province.

Key to USAID LEAF's work to date in Madang has been the focus on Local Level Land Use Planning (LELUP), carried out in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Theresa Kas, head of TNC in Madang, shared her thoughts: "We have had great success institutionalizing community based land use planning at the local level based on traditional clan governance, which among other benefits, gives the people who own the land some say over how it is used. We are now in the process of replicating that at the provincial level." Ms. Kas noted that there are real champions in the provincial government who are now advocating this type of planning be used all the way up to the national level. "It's a great bottom-up story—what works in our communities across Papua New Guinea can be scaled and replicated for the benefit of the entire nation." Ms. Kas added.

"I am really proud to be a Papua New Guinean today. Here in this room there are so many people with so much commitment to promoting economic growth while preserving this country's incredible natural resources, and we have a provincial government in place that is very supportive of promoting green growth. It is my sincere hope that our government leaders take action on the recommendations we put forward."

(left) Dr. Lowong Balun, Senior Lecturer, Biology Department, UPNG

LELUPs being developed in Madang take into account economic, environmental and social aspects of land use. Participants examined five key sectors where growth in Madang is expected: logging, infrastructure, oil palm, mining, and community land use, and developed scenarios based on doing business as usual, implementing strict environmental controls, and creating a regulatory framework that balances environmental conservation with economic growth. Consensus evolved around a balanced

approach. A key next step will be to provide policy recommendations for the government to act on.

Recognizing many of these areas of economic growth are driven by national and foreign investments, participants examined ways the private sector can be engaged to provide financial support to activities that have a positive impact on climate change efforts in PNG. Over the coming months, USAID LEAF will be working to engage the private sector to take an active role in the province to mitigate potential negative impacts of new infrastructure, plantations, mines, and other development projects.

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