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PROGRAM UPDATE

USAID LEAF and Madang Governor Launch Low Emission Land Use Planning Report



The Honorable Jim Kas, MP, Governor of Madang, officially launches the options and opportunities report with USAID LEAF Deputy Chief of Party, James Grall.

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Nicholas Dilol
Village Magistrate, Wagedave

isolated and remote villages in the highlands of the Adelbert Range, in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy. Participatory land use planning is a bottom-up process where everyone who has a stake in conserving natural resources and mitigating the effects of climate change has a say. With minimal assistance and targeted training, assisted villages have taken control and are managing the wide range of natural resources on which the livelihoods of their communities rely. This process formed the basis for USAID LEAF to work with these communities and a wide variety of other stakeholders to develop the options and opportunities report.

The magistrate of Wagedave village, Nicholas Dilol, having witnessed the benefits in communities that have implemented land use planning, explained why his village is looking forward to developing their own land use plan. "If our remote villages in the Adelberts can adopt measures to preserve and protect the environment for our children and future generations, then anyone should be able to do it. We hope that our example leads to an even stronger management plan for the lands and forests of the entire province," he said.

The United States Agency for International Development Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests program (USAID LEAF) is a five-year (2011-2016) regional project focused on achieving meaningful and sustainable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from the forest-land use sector across six target countries: Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea.

On 24 June 2015, the United States Agency for International Development Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (USAID LEAF) program, in collaboration with the Madang Provincial Government and The Nature Conservancy, launched a report entitled, "Low Emission Land Use Planning for Madang Province: Options and Opportunities." This report, produced in cooperation with the Madang Civil Society Forum, Madang community-based organizations and national level stakeholders looks at a wide array of strategies that can assist the Madang Provincial Government in development plans for the province, while managing natural resources and lowering greenhouse gas emissions to achieve economic, social and environmental sustainability.

The culmination of much of USAID LEAF's work in the province, the report provides guidance to the Madang Provincial Government to achieve "green growth" and to contribute to national and international discussions on low carbon growth. The core of the report is an extensive analysis of various development pathways for the province, focusing on the key drivers of environmental change, including logging, mining, infrastructure, palm oil and community land use, and provides concise recommendations for action by the provincial government. In officially launching the report, the Governor of Madang Province, the Honorable Jim Kas, MP, said, "An effective and sustainable land use planning process will allow our valuable natural resources to be sustainably developed for our economic prosperity with positive and long-lasting environmental outcomes for all."

The work done by USAID LEAF to produce the report was heavily influenced by participatory land use planning carried out in nine

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