



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



LOWERING EMISSIONS
IN ASIA'S FORESTS

PROGRAM UPDATE

Participatory Land Use Management Planning Preserves Ancestral Life in the Adelberts



Joe Nareamen and Andrew Basebas help to ensure future generations of their tribes will have access to natural resources.

“PLUMP is good for protecting the forest and environment so we have trees when we get older. We hear stories about how there used to be even more trees when my dad was younger.”

*Geramai Basebas
Aged 10, Urumarave village*

environment. As a community that's lived here for eight generations, we rely on this land and its resources for our way of life. We are confident that today's youth will continue to be good stewards of these lands.”

It is evident when talking to youth in the village that they are aware of the importance of respecting the rules of land use. Andrew's son Geramai, aged 10, recognizes the importance of the resources that his community relies on. “PLUMP is good for protecting the forest and environment so we have trees when we get older,” he said. “We hear stories about how there used to be even more trees when my dad was younger.”

Villagers selected Andrew to be the local conservation monitor. He was trained by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and is provided a small stipend, but says the money is not important. He enjoys the role because he wants to preserve the forest and its resources for future generations. While everybody monitors and reports violations, Andrew is the main contact. During his daily work in the gardens or walks in the forest, he is always on the lookout for violations, which could include hunting in the conservation area or clearing in the forest area. Violators must pay a fine of 10 Kina (\$4 USD) and a chicken for the first violation, and 50 Kina (\$18 USD) and a pig for repeated violations. In a society where most individuals live on less than \$1 USD a day and livestock are a form of savings, these fines are effective in ensuring villagers abide by PLUMP rules.

Sitting in the community haus—a thatched roof building used for community gatherings—Andrew and his son watch the evening's fire burn down to glowing embers. Andrew looks forward to the morning, when he and Geramai will go on a walkabout in the village, knowing that they are helping to preserve this special place for generations to come.

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.

Resting atop a granite peak in the Adelbert Range of Papua New Guinea (PNG), Urumarave village is isolated, surrounded by dense forest, and a nine kilometer trek to the nearest paved road. The community's 300 inhabitants come from three different tribes and collectively manage a land area of 1,100 hectares. Despite a lack of electricity, running water or modern conveniences, Urumarave's people are taking charge of their environment and preserving the ways of life of their tribes.

Urumarave is one of nine communities in Bogia District that have implemented participatory land use management planning (PLUMP), a bottom-up process that involves the local villagers in the zoning of their land. Tribal land is divided into six areas, each for a specific use: conservation, gardening, agriculture, forest use, hunting and village development. Overwhelmingly, inhabitants of the village have noticed benefits to the community and their own lives because of PLUMP implementation.

Andrew Basebas, son of one of three tribal chiefs of Urumarave, says the villagers respect PLUMP because it helps preserve the ways of their ancestors, who had high regard for the cultural, ecological and spiritual significance of the land. “There are social benefits to this planning process,” said Andrew. “It teaches young people discipline. They learn to respect and want to preserve the

For More information:

USAID Asia: info-rdma@usaid.gov USAID LEAF: leaf_info@leafasia.org