



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



LOWERING EMISSIONS
IN ASIA'S FORESTS

PROGRAM UPDATE

Participatory Land Use Planning Expands in the Adelbert Range of Papua New Guinea



Villagers gathered in Wagedave for a village meeting

"Some sacred places have been severely degraded because of floods and landslides. Now that we will implement land use planning, we hope that it will help us preserve our way of life."

*Nicholas Dilol
Village Magistrate, Wagedave*

For more than 10 years, nine remote villages in the Adelbert Range of Papua New Guinea have been practicing participatory land use management planning (PLUMP), supported by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and recently in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests program (USAID LEAF). PLUMP 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 in the management and use of village lands. Just outside the borders of these villages lies the community of Wagedave, which, having witnessed the impact of PLUMP on their neighbors, is embarking on their own PLUMP process this year. "If our neighbors can adopt measures to preserve and protect the environment for their children and future generations, then we should be able to do it, too," said Nicholas Dilol, village magistrate of Wagedave.

The inhabitants of Wagedave are interested in pursuing PLUMP for a variety of reasons. They have noticed changes in their environment, with the men and boys having to travel further into the forest to hunt because they have degraded the land immediately surrounding their homes, resulting in a loss of habitat for wildlife. They also want to reforest areas they have

clear cut in the past for agricultural use, as well as adopt better gardening practices that make the land less susceptible to erosion and landslides. They will also begin intercropping, whereby they can increase yields and use less land and water. They plan to adopt shifting cultivation, in which plots of land are cultivated temporarily, then abandoned and allowed to revert to their natural vegetation. Villagers gathered for a recent meeting expressed their confidence that with minimal assistance, this community can take control and manage the wide range of natural resources on which the livelihoods of the community rely.

The villagers' desire to implement PLUMP has a social element as well. Many of the 200 people who call Wagedave home feel that they have strayed from the ways of their ancestors and want to return to traditional ways of conserving and protecting the forest. Other villagers echoed Nicholas, noting that while they may not understand the technicalities of climate change, they have noticed irregular rain patterns in recent years, frequently experiencing heavy rains during the dry season that cause flooding and landslides, and that there is less rain during the wet season. This is having a direct impact on their ability to grow the crops on which they rely on for food as well as trading excess produce for income.

Using guidelines and resources developed by TNC and USAID LEAF, Wagedave will be able to implement PLUMP with assistance from its neighbors, effectively zoning the entire land area belonging to the village into six specific-use plots: conservation, gardening, agriculture, forest use, hunting and village development.

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.

For More information:

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