

CASE STUDY 5:

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG) LIVELIHOODS PROJECT – 'MANGORO MARKET MERI'

The Mangoro Market Meri livelihoods project in PNG provides an example of how an INGO, The Nature Conservancy, can work with a local NGO to act as knowledge brokers between communities and scientists. This case study links to the 'Programmatic' level of ACFID's Climate Action Framework within the environmental restoration stream.



DONOR/FUNDING PARTNER:

DFAT

LOCATION:

Papua New Guinea

TIMEFRAME:

2018 - ongoing

PARTNER NGOS:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Women's group in PNG
Local NGOs	CSIRO
CARE International	

OBJECTIVE:

The project aimed to bring together women from PNG to support sustainable mangrove management for the benefit of improved livelihoods, including tourism, women's empowerment, food security, storage of 'blue carbon', and the protection of coastal communities from sea level rise and storm surge.

Photo: Mangoro Market Meri Program in PNG. Mangoro Market Meri Mangrove Scientist, Mazzella Maniwavie (pregnant) leading the local women in the training on Mangrove Ecology in Milne Bay Province. Credit: Ruth Konia.

LINKS TO ACFID CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK:

OPERATIONAL

Reducing environmental impact

PROGRAMMATIC

Nature-based solutions

DEMONSTRATION OF ENABLERS:

1: Multi-year, core funding and flexible funding options

2: Partnerships, relationships, and knowledge exchange

3: Ongoing and holistic approach

4: Prioritising climate change action within organisations

5: Strength-based approaches, recognising traditional and local knowledge

6: Recognising the 'what' and 'how' of climate change integration

CLIMATE CHANGE INTEGRATION APPROACH:

The project worked in two provinces of PNG, with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) partnering with CSIRO, CARE International and local communities on activities that sought to enhance sustainable livelihood through a focus on conservation and restoration of mangrove environments. TNC took a bottom-up approach to understand the community's priorities and opportunities, and support communities to bring about change themselves (Enabler 5).



Right from the start we were inclusive, consultative, communities were aware of our purpose in the village."

Ruth Konia, TNC Project Manager.



The project aimed to work with women and youth of the communities. TNC recognised the socio-cultural context of the community and identified effective ways to communicate and establish relationships with the women of the communities. The project sought support from a gender expert from CARE International to design a gender-responsive approach that would align with the community context. Advised by the gender expert, the project undertook a holistic approach to engage both men and women of the families and successfully included women in the project.

The project was supported by existing strong relationships between TNC, community-based groups and national NGOs (Enabler 2). These relationships with organisations with stakeholders at different scales within the 'system' have been built over time, enabling trust to be built between partners. The relationships have supported a collaborative approach to project implementation and facilitated new ways of working.

TNC saw its role as a knowledge broker between the community and the CSIRO scientists (Enabler 5). Importantly, the knowledge exchange was a two-way process. TNC collected data from the local community via surveys, to understand community priorities and resources. This data was provided to CSIRO, who then designed training materials and climate science resources based on community needs. Tools, methods and activities developed by CSIRO were then provided to TNC, who undertook the contextualisation of these materials. Through training, local NGOs developed capacity to translate the outputs for community-level and helped to disseminate the climate science information in a relatable way to the communities. The local NGOs were a critical link to community members, acting as local knowledge brokers between communities and the INGO (Enabler 5).



We are sharing community information with CSIRO and they [CSIRO] then help us identify the future risks [based on community data]... So as knowledge brokers we try to find ways that we can help translate what we learn with CSIRO to actually find that knowledge that can bring down to the community."

Ruth Konia, TNC Project Manager.

The process of two-way knowledge exchange described above demonstrates the importance of both 'what' and 'how' of climate change integration (Enabler 6). TNC carefully navigated the incorporation of the latest climate science (the 'what') in a careful way that engaged the local NGO to deliver the information in local language and in a locally contextualised approach.

TNC had strategically prioritised climate change (Enabler 4) as a risk needing to be addressed across its programs in all countries in which it operated. Program staff were aware of this organisational policy on climate change integration and used it to guide their work in practice.



We [TNC] have very strong policies in place that, that guide how we work with, with the communities, with our government and with all the stakeholders that are with us."

Ruth Konia, TNC Project Manager.

LESSONS FOR NGOS FROM SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES OF CASE STUDY 5:

- Projects that engage with diverse members of communities from the outset are more likely to align with community priorities (Enablers 2 and 5)
- An intentional gender responsive approach that aligns with local cultural practices supports genuine engagement of women and men (Enabler 5)
- ANGOs and INGOs can work with local NGOs to act effectively as knowledge brokers between climate scientists and communities (Enabler 5)
- Strong organisational policy on climate change integration supports and directs staff to consider climate risks in program activities (Enabler 4)
- Acknowledging two-way knowledge exchange which values local knowledge and draws on local knowledge brokers can support trust and relationship building that underpin transformational change (Enabler 6)