



Terms of Reference

Independent Contractor – Community Engagement & Mobilization

Professional services to guide and develop protected area management plans, processes, and mechanisms for the YUS Conservation Area, Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea

Contract Duration: 12 Months (December 2023 – December 2024)

Background and Rationale:

The YUS Conservation Area is the first protected area of its type in Papua New Guinea, established in 2009 and re-designated in 2020 as a Category VI protected area encompassing the entire 163,000-hectare landscape. Located on the Huon Peninsula in PNG's Morobe Province, the YUS Conservation Area provides protection for a wide range of habitats and species including the endangered Matschie's tree kangaroo, eastern long-beaked echidna, and bird of paradise species. The YUS landscape also provides for the well-being and livelihoods for about 15,000 indigenous people living among 50 villages within the protected area.

Comprised of land pledged for conservation by the area's customary clan landowners, the YUS Conservation Area is managed by the local communities with the support of the PNG government and the technical organization, Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program (TKCP), via the YUS Conservation Area Management Committee governing body. With PNG's recent updates to its national policy on protected areas, the YUS Conservation Area serves as a national model for community-based conservation.

The YUS Conservation Area's management plan is primarily comprised of ward-level Land Use Plans developed by local communities among the 18 wards within YUS, and complemented by landscape-level action plans in response to broader conservation threats and trends identified through the monitoring of key species, habitats, bylaw violations, resource availability, and land use. Following the recent landscape-level designation, there is need to adjust and refine the protected area's management structures, systems, and processes to more fully align and respond to the communities' plans and priorities for the protection and sustainable management of natural resources throughout the YUS Conservation Area.

Recent community impact assessments indicate that while structures and processes are in place to connect community interests with government/stakeholder support, they are not fully functioning in accordance with their design. In particular, the mechanisms necessary for providing Community Participation and Representation in the area's management require further design, refinement, and community endorsement.

To date, the communities and customary landowners of YUS have been represented on the YUS Conservation Area Management Committee by the executive leaders of the community-based YUS Conservation Organization, which was established in 2009 to serve this purpose. However, while these executives were nominated by the communities they represent, the YUS Conservation Organization has struggled to fully establish its purpose and function and is therefore lacking in presence and support throughout YUS. TKCP has since absorbed much of the role of the CBO however TKCP cannot perform mandated functions under the CA Act as it is not a landowner group. The consultant will help to guide TKCP and the CAMC to identify the place for the functions that require landowner input.

In addition, assessment findings suggest the need for greater engagement and integration of local/ward-level land use management planning with established government representatives and planning/resourcing processes at the Ward, LLG, and District levels.

The Community Engagement & Mobilization Consultant(s) will need to have deep knowledge and understanding of government structures and culture in Papua New Guinea, as well as demonstrated experience in facilitating community dialogue, participatory planning, and stakeholder engagement. Familiarity with community-based conservation and natural resource management in the PNG context are essential. Fluency in Tok Pisin and English is required. Knowledge of conservation and protected area management is considered an asset. The Consultant(s) is/are expected to be based in Papua New Guinea, however qualified international applicants will be considered.

This consultancy and its associated activities are part of TKCP's capacity-building initiative to Strengthen Community-Based Governance and Management for Papua New Guinea's YUS Conservation Area. It is funded with the contribution of the European Union and the ACP Group of States through the IUCN's Biodiversity and Protected Area Management (BIOPAMA) Programme.

Scope of Work:

Recognizing this, as well as the challenges in coordinating resource management and community mobilization across the vast mountainous YUS landscape, TKCP is seeking the support of professional services to advise and facilitate a participatory constructive review and realignment process for community representation and engagement in the management of the YUS landscape.

Complementary to a concurrent process to clarify and refine the function of the YUS Conservation Area Management Committee in support of increased stakeholder accountability, the Community Engagement & Mobilization Consultant (Consultant) will guide and facilitate a sustained process of participatory review, realignment, and determination of suitable mechanisms for inclusive governance and management of the YUS landscape. Throughout this process, emphasis will be given to the guiding principles of community ownership, participation, effective representation, and stakeholder accountability for the YUS Conservation Area's management and community benefit.

Consultant Objective: Establish and refine the systems, processes, and infrastructure for community participation (including women and youth) in YUS Conservation Area management planning and decision-making, in accordance with existing structures for leadership and representation.

- Key Activity 1: With the communities having recently developed the Third-cycle Land Use Plans (2021-2025), consultant will organize a series of six Community Dialogue Sessions to provide for reflection, discussion, and feedback regarding the implementation of, and stakeholder support for, LUP actions and priorities. Independent facilitation will ensure that participants approach concepts with an objective lens, free of assumptions and stakeholder biases. Each session will be held at a central location within the six sub-zones of YUS (Nambis, Som, Upper Uruwa, Lower Uruwa, Yopno 1, and Yopno 2), with dialogues and topical discussions organized over the course of a week, to allow for maximum community access and participation.

The process will serve to generate a deeper and broader understanding of community stakeholders' perceptions, interests, concerns, aspirations, and ideas with regard to the governance and management of the YUS Conservation Area and its alignment with local priorities and constraints. The ward Land Use Plans will serve as a valuable point of reference throughout the dialogue sessions to gauge further the awareness, participation, and support for the plans among a wide range of stakeholder groups (e.g., women and youth) as well as gauging local understanding as to the plan's implementation status. Perceptions around the availability of, and need for, local natural resources and basic public services will be explored, with discussions serving to identify and affirm local leadership, management, and accountability structures associated with those resources and services. As appropriate, such structures will be leveraged, supported, and integrated into the ward-level planning processes in order to strengthen participation, accountability, and clarity. The outputs, observations, and findings emerging

from these sessions will guide and inform Stakeholder Alignment Review workshops (Key Activities 2 and 3):

- Key Activity 2: Facilitate a Participatory Programmatic Alignment Review process with YUS communities and government stakeholders, structured around the ward Land Use Plans (LUPs), to guide the focus, development, and adaptation of programmatic support provided by TKCP and the YUS Conservation Area Management Committee.
- Key Activity 3: Engage with local government structures and processes (Ward and LLG) to facilitate and support in the uptake of ward Land Use Plan priorities into ward development plans.
- Key Activity 4: Facilitate a Stakeholder Reflection Workshop with representatives for all key YUS Conservation Area management stakeholders to solicit end-of-project stakeholder perceptions and attitudes relating to the YUS Conservation Area’s governance and management. Particular focus will be given to insights and perceptions regarding community participation, representation, and stakeholder accountability. These workshops will allow for thorough discussion of local needs and objectives, leading into the determination and affirmation of programmatic support requirements to be secured through the YUS Conservation Area Management Committee and its respective members. Both the ward Land Use Plans and the ward Development Plans will serve as integral input components throughout this process.

Consultant Deliverables:

1. Detailed consultant work plan and timeline for Community Engagement & Mobilization
2. Community Dialogue Session Reports, with Recommendations and Next Steps
3. Programmatic Alignment Review Report, with Recommendations and Next Steps
4. Ward Engagement & Development Planning – Uptake Report, with Recommendations and Next Steps
5. Stakeholder Reflection Workshop Report, with Recommendations and Next Steps
6. Final End-of-Project Report

Expected Timeline:

Deliverable	Tentative Timeframe
Detailed work plan and timeline	December 2023
Community Dialogue Sessions in YUS	January – February 2024
Programmatic Alignment Review	April – June 2024
Ward Engagement: Land Use & Development Planning	June – October 2024
Stakeholder Reflection Workshop	November 2024

Expression of Interest:

For further information or to submit an Expression of Interest, please contact TKCP’s Governance & Engagement Manager Alfred Mark by email alfred.mark@treekangaroo.org or phone (+675) 472 7304

Qualified candidates are asked to submit an Expression of Interest and Financial Proposal to TKCP by **15th September 2023**. Financial proposals should be all-inclusive and take into account various expenses, including contractor's time, resources, travel, and accommodation to be incurred by the contractor during the contract period. TKCP will assist with securing the appropriate visa if required. All EOI's must include, but are not limited to, a cover letter explaining qualifications, statement describing the approach to be utilized to complete the scope of work identified above, CV, listing of similar work undertaken, and contact details of references.

All applicants are encouraged to review the TKCP website www.treekangaroo.org and Facebook page www.facebook.com/TKCPPNG.