

Global Forest Rescue Station

Greenpeace is working with landowners in Lake Murray, Western Province, Papua New Guinea to seek solutions and alternatives to logging

The forests of Papua New Guinea's Western Province are some of the world's last remaining ancient forest. Home to PNG's largest lake, Lake Murray, the Western Province is under continued threat from illegal and destructive logging.

The tribes around Lake Murray are taking control of their land and making a stand against this unsustainable logging.

Customary landowners are marking land boundaries and pioneering solutions which provide responsible and ecologically sustainable ways to support communities now and into the future.

Forests in Western Province

As in the rest of Papua New Guinea, the forests of the Western Province are home to some of the world's most unique forest communities, and diverse plant and animal life.

People of the Western Province are no strangers to confronting the loggers. Many communities opposed the disastrous Kiunga-Aiambak road project, which resulted in the illegal logging of over 100,000 hectares of forest.

Some 5000 people from nine tribes live in the one million hectares of ancient forest around Lake Murray. To the north and east are key logging concessions such as East Awin, Kamula Dosa and Wawoi Guavi being targeted by the PNG government and logging industry.



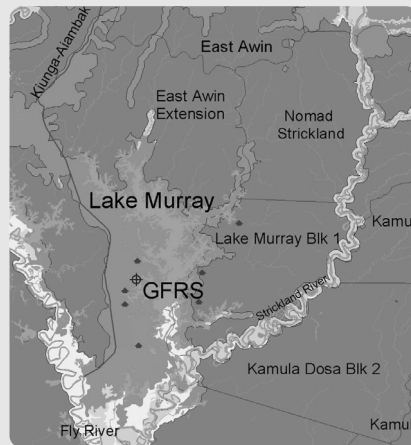
In Wawoi Guavi, Kuwene Nakeye (pictured), landowner from the Haya clan, Kosuo tribe, told the loggers, "You cannot build a road through here... this is an old village, there are burial site and okari nut trees."

A reserve was created there.

What is the Global Forest Rescue Station?

The Global Forest Rescue Station (GFRS), on the western edge of Lake Murray, is the base camp for boundary marking the Kuni and Begwa tribal lands.

Boundary marking, or demarcation, which identifies and maps the community's land is an important step in the development of a community-based solution.



The Global Forest Rescue Station is marked on this map by a crossed circle and the letters GFRS.

The Kuni tribe, the largest in Lake Murray, and the Begwa have started to demarcate their land. Negotiations are starting with the Pari tribe. The boundary marking is at a critical phase with the Global Forest Rescue Station (GFRS) speeding up this process.

At the invitation of these customary landowners, forest

volunteers from around the world have come to help.

"It is a lot of work to mark out the whole intact forest in the remote area. We have been invited by the Kuni tribe to support the clan members to map out the land boundaries and select areas for ecoforestry", explains Sam Moko, Greenpeace forest campaigner.

The Global Forest Rescue Station will showcase small-scale eco-enterprises and the benefits they bring in contrast with the destruction of illegal logging or forest conversion for oil palm plantations.

The work of the Forest Rescue Station began at the end of February and will continue until May. At the end of the project it is anticipated 300,000 hectares of land will be boundary marked.

Greenpeace works in Western Province at the invitation and with the participation of the customary landowners.

www.greenpeace.org/paradiseforests



Greenpeace works with customary landowners and partner NGOs in Western Province, marking land boundaries and preparing for alternatives to destructive logging.

Working together

In Papua New Guinea, Greenpeace works with other NGOs and local groups offering training and support in community forest solutions. These groups include:

- ♦ Lake Murray Resource Owners Assn (LMROA)
- ♦ FORCERT (Forest Management and Product Certification Support) www.forestandtradeasia.org
- ♦ Papua New Guinea Ecoforestry Forum (EFF) www.ecoforestry.org.pg
- ♦ Foundation for People and Community Development (FPCD) www.fpcd.org.pg
- ♦ Centre for Environmental Law and Community Rights (CELCOR) www.celcor.org.pg
- ♦ Environmental Law Centre (ELC) admin@elc.org.pg
- ♦ World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) www.wwfpacific.org.fj
- ♦ Barefoot Community Services barefoot@online.net.pg

Protecting the forest

Small-scale community enterprises, including ecoforestry, non-timber forest products (such as nuts, oils and fibre) and ecotourism secure sustainable livelihoods and protect the forest.

The customary landowners who have been stewards of these forests for generations are taking control and pioneering a future that strengthens indigenous land rights and culture, provides an income and protects the environment.

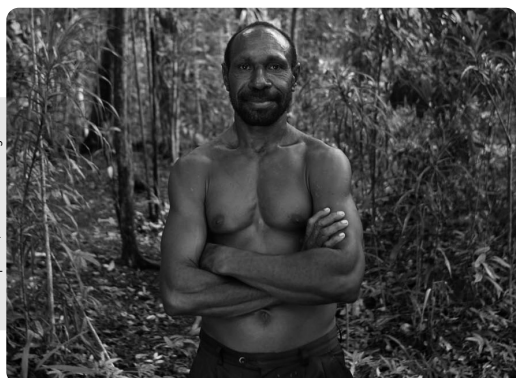
To have their customary rights recognised, the community must first identify and demarcate its land.

Around Lake Murray, two tribes have begun marking the land boundaries as a step towards alternatives to destructive logging.

"Our forest is like our supermarket and our survival depends on the forest. The forest gives us our houses, our food and our medicine, and it is very important for our future and our children's future," says Sep Galeva from the Kuni tribe.

"At Lake Murray, we are saying no to loggers to come in and destroy everything. We want to do small scale logging by the landowners, in a way that is sustainable and environment friendly."

Boundary marking can prepare the way for ecoforestry projects which mill the timber where it is felled. This ecotimber is used to build homes and to generate income for community services.



"We ask the Papua New Guinea Government to recognise us as customary landowners and support our rights in protecting our forests. Let's stand together and protect our forest for the future of this country."

Sep Galeva (pictured), Kuni tribe of Lake Murray, Western Province

What is Greenpeace doing?

Over the last 10 years, Greenpeace has worked in Melanesia with over 60 communities that have said no to illegal and destructive logging. Greenpeace is one of several NGOs and local groups working in PNG's Western Province, supporting landowners to protect the forest and develop ecologically sustainable community solutions.

So far, both the Kuni and Begwa tribes in Lake Murray have invited Greenpeace to help with the boundary marking of their land and to set up an ecoforestry business.

What you can do

Support landowners' right to develop their own forests. Please write to the Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare, and ask him to recognise landowners' customary rights as part of the fourth goal of the constitution: 'Papua New Guinea's natural resources and environment to be conserved and used for the collective benefit for us all, and to be replenished for the benefit of future generations.'

Write to:

Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare
Parliament Office, National Parliament House,
WAIGANI, N.C.D., Papua New Guinea.
Telephone: (675) 327 7316, (675) 327 7317
Facsimile: (675) 327 7490
Email: pmsmedia@pm.gov.pg