

FINAL PROJECT NARRATIVE REPORT

You will need to refer to your Project Application Form and the Agreement with WACC. Please answer the questions as fully and concisely as possible to help us learn about your completed project. The report should not exceed 15 pages, excluding appendices. Please return the report with any supporting documents and materials to WACC. We welcome stories about how individuals benefitted from the project, with photos. We also welcome case studies. Please place stories and case studies, if any, in an appendix.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Project Title: (as in the Agreement)	Building Communication capacities and strategies for Middle Sepik Villagers
1.2 Project Reference Number: (as in the Agreement)	1833
1.3 Full Name of Organisation:	Sepik Wetlands Management Initiative (SWMI)
1.4 Country:	Papua New Guinea
1.5 Full Postal Address:	P O Box 81, Ambunti, ESP, Papua New Guinea
1.6 Physical Address:	Green House, Ambunti District Government Station, Ambunti District, Upper Sepik Region
1.7 Contact Person:	Jerry Wana, Chairman
1.8 Telephone:	+675 73498654
1.9 Fax:	(675) 4585108
1.10 E-mail:	swmi@datec.net.pg or wanajk2009@gmail.com (Currently no connectivity)
1.11 Website:	n/a
1.12 Period the project was implemented: (from month/year to month/year)	May- November 2012

2. OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

2.1 What was the project's long-term goal?
The project goal was to assist the people of the region to maintain their cultural and environmental integrity and to make wise economic and social choices for themselves and for the future of their communities, without being overrun by powerful mining and government interests. The project is a first step in strengthening the voices of the marginalized people of the Upper, Middle and Lower Sepik River, PNG in the face of the imminent opening of large-scale copper/gold mining operations.
2.2 What was the project's immediate purpose and to what extent was it achieved?
The immediate purpose assessment to hold meetings with individuals and groups in the river communities in order to begin to build an inclusive and effective planning process, to help the communities build unity, evidence and capacity in order to strengthen their

position and their relationship with the mining interests and the government. Through this first step, we will discuss and build consensus as to how the villagers of the Middle Sepik can best respond to the mine and receive fair recognition of their priorities, needs and concerns. They also need to plan how to organise, document and present their priorities and concern through constructive dialogue with the government of PNG and the mining company.

To date, the people - men and women - located downriver on the Sepik, have been largely ignored by the company and government. The concerns of the people of the Sepik, men and women, regarding the mine have been largely ignored by the company and government. They feel that they have been told only of potential short term cash benefits only. They have not seen or discussed a social impact study. They do not recall being consulted by anyone preparing such a report. They are currently lacking the information resources and skill needed to articulate their concerns.

2.3 To what extent were the expected outcomes and outputs achieved?

Expected outcomes and indicators	Achieved outcomes (disaggregated by sex)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A consensus- driven plan for a communications strategy, approved by men and women from the villages of the Middle Sepik, including first steps to be taken to build capacity and knowledge and prioritizing of messages that need to be expressed in the communities and to government and the mining interests. (Indicator: report on the community meeting) 2. The villagers are able to assert their human rights as they dialogue with the mining company to find fair means of dealing with the disruptions the mine will bring. 3. Greater sophistication in the use of communications will offer longer-term benefits including dealing with government and assisting the local economy to prosper. 4. Access to critical information and tools that will empower the villagers to make informed decisions, share diverse viewpoints and present their concerns 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partial. A skeleton plan was developed. 2. Much more work needed on understanding of basic rights, as per the Constitution of PNG and understanding their rights in relation to documenting their own evidence and presenting to the mining company. 3. Awareness of the urgent need for more sophisticated communication, but this problem remains to be solved. Internet via phone works , but is costly. Recharging phone batteries and accessing credit are but two of the basic problems to be solved. 4. Awareness of the kind of critical information and tools needed, and the resource organisations and people to be networked and partnered with. But more work needs to be done in this area.
<p>Indicator Plan and budget for the next phase)</p>	<p>Draft prepared and attached. Outline plan and budget only has been developed</p>

<p>Expected outputs and indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness in the villages that their concerns can be addressed; 2. Initial discussion with an organization of committees made up of men and women from the various villages to continue to develop approaches; 3. A list of messages to be delivered, the proposed audiences for those messages and proposed approaches to their delivery. <p>Indicator : <i>Detailed plan for the messages and media to be used, a schedule for implementation and a training plan for the local people who will implement next phase.</i></p>	<p>Achieved outputs (disaggregated by sex, if applicable)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This output was definitely achieved. The project instilled a sense of hope, a need to engage, a need to change, but also a realisation that there are many steps to take before people have achieved the capacity to respond effectively. 2. People have indicated a great desire to get organised in order to build the partnerships, and take the follow up steps to achieve their goal. Logistics and funding challenges to realise this plan cannot be underestimated. 3. Outline plan for messages, media and schedule dissemination developed.
<p>2.4 What other observations did you make? Please mention anything that may illustrate the benefits arising from the project.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heightened awareness among women and men of the potential benefits and real costs of mining, and the particular impact on the main Sepik River and the livelihood of the people living down river from the minesite. • People's interest and discussion levels in potential impacts increased, especially the impact on local river and lake fishing, which is the main economic activity and source of income for women and the basis of a well documented and enduring food barter system, which sees women engage in long distance barter and trade, and is an important part of tradition, culture, cooperation and cohesion among people in this area. Crocodile conservation and sustainable harvesting of eggs will also be severely affected. • Greater realisation of the likely cultural impact – and that culture, in particular art and architecture is not only a rich heritage but also a key source of community income (tourism and researchers). • Greater realisation of people power, and that the relationship between the people and the partnership of the government with the mining company is not one-way and predetermined. There are many ways in which the people can make their voices heard 	
<p>2.5 If you observed any unintended positive outcomes arising from the project, please describe.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People's awareness that there may be some positive spin offs in terms of local contracts. Many people now starting to ask about possible new large-scale economic opportunities in addition to the main, traditional areas of economic activity (sustainable crocodile management and fishing, smoking and long 	

<p>distance marketing (barter and trade for cash) for women, traditional carving production and sales and tourism based on local arts and culture (mainly men). However, people are also aware of the challenge to achieve balance, so that the natural resource base of subsistence, economic activity, art, culture and trade is not lost or compromised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people made more aware of their current social problems (e.g. young men producing and consuming home brew alcohol and idle, now starting to realise that they need to wake up and pay attention to the changes and opportunities and costs associated with mining, otherwise they will be walked over and further marginalised. • Parents who were not paying sufficient attention to/ investing in their children’s education realised that education is critical to the local community mitigating negative impacts and recognising economic opportunities associated with mining. They realise the general lack of education in the community now puts them at a disadvantage in dealing with the mine.
<p>2.6 If you observed any negative outcomes arising from the project, please describe.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some young men responded by wanting to actively and violently protest against the mine. This led to discussions of experiences in other mining areas (Bougainville, where violent protest to the mine led to an armed, 10 year civil war, and loss of infrastructure that has set development of the province back 50 years. and made the people more reflective about how it could be different and better in Sepik. • Its urgent to follow up now on all of the above issues, and particularly to find the right resource people who can guide and channel constructive, win/win responses.
<p>2.7 Did you observe any long-term impact (positive or negative) in the wider context that might be related to the project interventions?</p>
<p>Positive impacts were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strong desire to work together as an association of 21 villages in the affected Middle Sepik area, and then to extend to the upper and Lower Sepik regions. • Identification that a longstanding lack of interest in investing in formal education combined with the problem of the younger men turning to drugs and alcohol is a problem that the communities have to address, in order to get the young men actively and constructively engaged in planning and responding. • Realisation that they cannot depend on communication media that are too costly or too sophisticated.
<p>2.8 What methods did you use for assessing outcomes and impact?</p>
<p>Simple reflection and analysis of the process and the findings, and more detailed follow up discussions with local leaders, resource people and a gender expert from the Sepik/PNG/Pacific on how to get the women more involved and more aware of the critical importance of their own economic role/contribution and the need to protect the natural resources that they need to sustain it.</p>
<p>2.9 Please describe the actual direct beneficiaries and indicate the number of women and men. Please also mention any indirect beneficiaries.</p>
<p>Direct beneficiaries: Population of the 14 villages visited. Resources were not sufficient to reach the initial 21 villages targeted. A total of 376 people (281 men and 95 women) were reached in the initial round of village visits and Focus Group Discussions</p>

conducted in April 2012. 150+ women were reached in a second round of women – targeted consultations, conducted in August 2012.

When discussing and preparing the initial report on community level discussions, the project initiators realised that their original process had not enabled women to participate equally alongside men (separate discussions not possible, facilitators not sufficiently skilled in managing challenging situations). One of the initiators of the project then undertook another round of visits to the same 14 villages, this time to meet exclusively with women and to register their concerns. The women welcomed this additional opportunity and actively engaged, however, the facilitator was not equipped with the skills to elicit gender specific concerns, Further, the guiding questions that were used in the first round of FGDs was. Essentially the women were asked 23 questions, which were adapted from the original set of guiding questions for the FGDs. This supplementary, amended set of guiding questions was also suggested by the men who had acted as consultants. They are all physical scientists rather than social scientists. Interestingly, and not too surprisingly, several key questions were left out in the set of Qs that was used with women. (Qs 6,7, 28,29,30) These are questions about agency, action, at individual and community level, as well as Qs about forming an association to speak with one voice on the priorities needs and concerns of affected communities. This adapted version of Qs for discussion with the women, were based on an assumption that women are not agents of change and would not have views or maybe not be interested in formation and participation in an association. This is a major gender blindspot in the process used and achievements of this project, that needs to be remedied as a priority in the next phase.

2.10 What is the likelihood that the project outcomes will be sustained over the medium and long term? Please explain.

The initial visit must be urgently followed up. This is very challenging as some local NGOs mentioned in the initial application are no longer active. SWMI is the community arm of an environmental livelihood and conservation project. Its profile mentions skills in Participatory Analysis and Community profiling, but and transport and communication is difficult. (suggest forge a partnership with BRG and women in agriculture) and ICRAF

2.11 What has been the most important change brought about by the project and what is the key evidence for this change?

People have woken up, see the need to be better informed, engaged, able to discuss, reflect, learn, lead, dialogue with govt and with the company. People in all of the villages have also started to discuss, reflect and analyse the key challenges within the community that need to be addressed, including the need for a more inclusive approach, to get women empowered and involved, but also to get the male youth more involved, enabled and engaged. People are ready to organise, learn more and train more of their own local facilitators. In particular, through trial and error, the initiators of the project have started to understand the importance of gender equity and of equal participation of men and women at all stages and in all aspects of the project.

4. ACTIVITIES

3.1 Please provide a summary of the major activities carried out in comparison with those planned. In the case of significant changes, please explain the reasons. If applicable, please report on specific activities for women and men respectively.

Planned activities:	Actual activities (<i>state if they were specifically for women, for men, or for all</i>):	Explanation of change
<p>1. Two experienced communicators, one man and one woman, will spend approximately one month on the Middle Sepik. They will go to each of the villages and hold the sessions mentioned above as part of awareness and consensus building.</p>	<p>1. A team of 5 people, 4 men (2 from SWMI, Martin Dinga, experienced in rehabilitation of OK Tedi mining impacts on Communities in the Fly River and Claytus Yambon, Elected leader of Korogu Village an master carver, cultural ambassador. The single woman on the team was Pamela Api from Swami. one woman visited 14 villages, and conducted Focus Group Discussions, using a set of Guiding Qs and prompts.</p> <p>When follow up discussions revealed insufficient attention to ensuring women's voices were heard, an additional round of visits and discussions was undertaken by community leader and project initiator, Claytus Yambon. In August 2012, he revisited same 41 places to get more detailed and direct responses from the women. He used a slightly revised set of guiding questions.</p> <p>Many additional informal discussions, debates and a lot of time spent on helping people to</p>	<p>The team used the resources of SWMI. The three members of SWMI provided much practical support to the team, but did not would have benefitted from more preparation or assistance on the community facilitation and social and gender analysis aspects.</p> <p>The team was accompanied by a local consultant with substantial experience in OK Tedi's mine impacted area. His inclusion replaced the original plan to bring a team of women and men from the OK Tedi mine affected area to the Sepik. The financial resources available for the project were not sufficient to do this. Martin was an important and strategic member of the team, however, he came away from his work with the OK Tedi mine and was working under time constraints and this affected the amount of time the team could spend out on the river (8 days instead of 20)</p> <p>Follow up visits to specifically and exclusively engage with and learn from women, as well as opportunistic meetings and discussion with leaders from this region of the middle and upper Sepik.</p>

Planned activities:	Actual activities (<i>state if they were specifically for women, for men, or for all</i>):	Explanation of change
<p>2. Separate men's and women's meetings will be held in each village and there will be follow-up meetings with chosen village leaders, male and female, to bring together the concerns of each of the villages into a unified set of messages and delivery mechanisms.</p> <p>3. Working with selected representatives, a report will be prepared, as above, that will become the</p>	<p>understand the imperatives for the mine, the partnership of the govt and the company and the relative power/ powerlessness, voice/ passiveness, of the people – men, women and youth -who are likely to be affected.</p> <p>2. During the first round of village visits and Focus Group Discussions it was not possible to hold separate FGDs with women and men, due to limited time, funds, facilitation skills and ability to prepare the communities in advance.</p> <p>Furthermore, for the same reasons, follow up meetings with men and women leaders to develop key messages have been mostly informal and opportunistic. Draft messages have been developed and attached to this report.</p> <p>3. A report on the first round of Village visits and Focus Group Discussions, and an annex for the second round of discussions is attached.</p>	<p>Planning for an environmental</p>

Planned activities:	Actual activities (<i>state if they were specifically for women, for men, or for all</i>):	Explanation of change
<p>basis for proposals to funding agencies for assistance in developing follow-up plans based on community discussions and follow-up leaders' sessions.</p> <p>Part of the report will be an assessment of the capabilities and knowledge of members of the communities so that it can be determined how best to use local knowledge and institutions and complement them with technical and other skills from outside organizations.</p> <p>An additional activity was to plan for a people based environmental assessment of the Middle Sepik region. The assessment was, to be carried out by local individuals in conjunction with recognized experts, to allow the establishment of a baseline against which to measure possible environmental damage, e.g. to assess fish stocks in the river, important plant species in the riverine environment, etc. This baseline assessment is a critical baseline to advocate</p>	<p>While it was originally intended to do a capacity assessment/training needs assessment of the communities visited and their human resources and capacities, this did not actually happen to any significant extent.</p> <p>Therefore this will be part of the census and detailed baseline now proposed for phase 2.</p> <p>Planning for an environmental impact assessment was at discussion level only and specialised Technical assistance is needed to make further progress.</p>	

Planned activities:	Actual activities (<i>state if they were specifically for women, for men, or for all</i>):	Explanation of change
for mitigation of potential environmental impacts and to have the evidence that may be needed to support claims for future environmental damage.		

3.2 How did the beneficiaries react to the programme activities?

Initially very upset and angry when the consultation team arrived in the village. The river communities have grown cynical and frustrated due to a lack of information and communication about the mine to date. They thought that this team that came to consult them might be associated with the mine. However, this was clarified as the consultations got underway, and as discussion progressed their Qs became more constructive and inquiring. In the end they were very glad that something has been started in the name of the people/local resource owners. The women also, were very happy with the efforts made for follow up visits to talk exclusively to them.

3.3. If the project is primarily purchase of equipment, please describe what kind of impact / change the equipment is bringing to the beneficiaries.

N/A

3.4. If the project included a workshop, seminar, or consultation, please attach the list of participants, the themes/topics of their speeches/papers, and any statement, declaration, or other material published.

Focus Group Discussions in 14 remote villages. Results documented and used to prepare the initial report. List of participants attached: **See annexes???**

4. CHANGES IN THE ORGANISATION

4.1. Please note any important changes or events that took place that directly affected the project. These can relate to management, planning, staffing, or other matters.

WWF, an International environmental NGO and HELP Resources, a local NGO, both pulled out of Ambunti District, in early 2012. This left the district without skilled social scientists or community development facilitators. WWF leaving also meant that SWMI without the resources and budget needed to stay connected online regularly, in order to stay in communication and manage this project more actively and be able to communicate more regularly and effectively on matters related to project implementation and reporting.

5. CONTEXT

In families and communities, in mens groups and women's groups	
Political:	National Elections took place in July 2012. Surprisingly, none of teh candidates who got elected, (as well as a good number who didi not get electyed) highlighted potential mining impacts.
Social:	Discussion on impending mining has prompted more young people to think about losing old habits and start to focus on what

	the more will change and what the opportunities and risks are for them.
Natural environment:	Fish species changing, climate changes, build up of sediment in Sepik River, making people suspect that the mining company is already operating. Some lakes have been drastically changed, grasses drying, massive grass fires.
5.2 To what extent is the project still relevant in the present-day context? Please explain.	
VERY relevant indeed. The proposed mine start up and potential impacts are currently one of the main issues for the people to discuss among selves, between villagers and	

6. YOUR ORGANISATION'S LEADERSHIP ROLE AND NETWORKING WITH OTHERS

6.1 Has the project and the support from WACC helped your organisation be in a better position to provide leadership for further initiatives of your own or of others? If so, please explain.	
Much was learned by all who took part in the first, and then the second round of community consultations. Has established a demand for more accurate and detailed information and for better good leadership and guidance.	
6.2 In what ways has your organisation articulated and shared good practices, lessons learned, and/or resource materials with other organisations working on similar or related concerns? If you have not done so, do you plan to do so? How can WACC assist?	
We have verbally shared experiences from the other mining areas of PNG. Otherwise, our organisation is still learning and we are not in a position to develop or share good practice yet.	

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 What lessons and good practices have emerged from this project? (as per 6.2)	
<p><i>Many lessons learnt about :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • taking a more informed social development /community development and gendered approach from the outset. • Casting a wider net in the beginning, especially to engage with others more involved and experienced in mining environmental impact assessments, • The strategic benefits of more actively networking with individuals and organisations that have done substantial research on local traditional culture, including ethnologists, researchers and museums, . (e.g. Basel Museum, in Switzerland that has conducted comprehensive anthropological/cultural research in the area since 1960s AND social scientists and NGOs involved in similar work in other mining affected areas in PNG, Bismark Ramu Group (BRG) • Gender is a specific discipline and a specialised area of social analysis. Much attention should be paid to getting it right in this project and getting more people to understand gender issues constitutional and government commitments to address the issue of equality, equity, equal participation and equal say by women and men, and youth, in this community. 	
7.2 What challenges and difficulties were encountered, and how did you address	

them?

This Q is also partly answered in the above sections, previously covered in this report. In early 2012' Some lessons learned include:

- WWF left Ambunti, and pulled out of the partnership with SWMI. This left SWMI deprived of the resources and budget needed to do its own work and to fulfil its commitment to manage this project on behalf of the affected villages.
- The local consultants used are physical scientists rather than social scientists and this is reflected in the way they developed and conducted their assessments. Some important areas of social and gender analysis were overlooked.
- The cost of river travel and transport is extremely high and rising (cost of hiring fibre glass speedboat, outboard motor and pre-mix fuel is very high). This meant that only 14 of the 21 targeted villages could be reached.

7.3 Did the project have any impact on gender equality issues?

During the first round, the Focus Group Discussions the village leaders (who are male) tended to dominate, and in some places women were not attending or able to fully participate. This meant that women's voices were not always heard in the first round. To compensate for this, Cletus Yambon returned to the villagers to meet exclusively with women to hear their problems, needs, priorities and concerns. The initial oversight was explained to the leaders and they were happy that women were given an opportunity to be heard. This remedial action was much appreciated by the women. This may be one of the first times that someone has taken time to consult the women separately.

7.4 What further work needs to be carried out or follow up steps taken, if any?

Much of this is already answered.

Networking and Partnership building Contact with/visit by or to BRG, contact with women in agriculture, Register/legalise the association and develop different arms, including awareness raising/ adult education programme/find case studies from other mining areas to share/discuss, Tok Pisin versions of PNG Constitution/ Visual resources.

7.5 Other comments, if any.

N/A

7.6 We would like to receive digital copies of materials produced such as manuals, training materials, and other products to share them with others. We would also appreciate digital copies or internet links to photos, video or audio recordings produced by or about the project. Please indicate below what you are sending us.

Photos (attached) Other tools will be sent as developed.

Name and position of person submitting the report.

Jerry Wana, Chairman, SWMI

Report prepared with the assistance of Claytus Yambon, Martin Dangi, Leo Kasa and reviewed by Elizabeth Cox.

Signature:

Date: