



Political declaration establishing a partnership for Forests, Nature and Climate between Papua New Guinea, the European Union and France (through a team Europe Initiative), the Global Environment Facility, Australia, the Country package seed fund (France, Conservation International, the Rob Walton foundation, the Gordon and Betty Moore foundation) and the Asian development Bank.

Dubai, COP28, December 2, 2023

Recognizing the role of forests, forested areas, wetlands and oceans in achieving the objectives of the SDGs, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Agreement, and its objectives to avoid and reduce the impact of climate change and biodiversity loss, to protect 30% of land areas and 30% of marine areas by 2030 and to sustainably manage forest areas;

Recalling that the ambitious objectives of the medium-term development plans (MTDP4), the SDG'S 13-Climate action roadmap (2020-2030), the National Adaptation Plan, the enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution, and the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan 2019-2024 of Papua New Guinea mainstream biodiversity considerations, enhance biodiversity protection and promote sustainable use, as well as the role of local communities in the protection of biodiversity;

Reaffirming that Papua New Guinea's high ambition is aligned with the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, signed in 2021, marking the commitment of international partner countries to "halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation";

Emphasizing the outcomes of the One Forest Summit in Libreville in March 2023 and the launch of new Country Packages for forest, nature and climate together with the Forest and Climate Leaders Partnership, which deepen cooperation by gathering main international, public and private donors, and contribute to preserving vital reserves of both carbon and biodiversity;

Recalling the activities carried out as part of The European Union's "Forestry, Climate Change and Biodiversity" Nexus Programme for Papua New Guinea and the Kiwa Initiative- nature based solutions for climate resilience and the work of other partners;

Considering the exceptional biodiversity of Papua New Guinea, which hosts some of the most critical reserves of carbon and biodiversity in the world. Further recalling that the country hosts more than 7% of world biodiversity in less than 1% of the planet area and is the land of the third primary rainforest in the world, making Papua New Guinea a net carbon negative country;

Welcoming Papua New Guinea's determination to establish a multi-year program to protect these vital reserves, in the interest of the country and the rest of humanity;



In order to fight against climate change and preserve its forests, mangroves and marine areas, Papua New Guinea pledges to protect 30% of its land territory and 30% of its marine territory, focusing on the richest areas in carbon and biodiversity and stop deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. Papua New Guinea commits to start the implementation of the effective management of its two newly created marine protected areas for more than 1.5 Million ha that triple its ocean protection, marking a major leap forward on the road to achieving the 30 by 30 target;

In order to achieve this ambition, Papua New Guinea and its partners : France and the European Union, through a Team Europe Initiative, as co-leads of the Country package, Australia, Asian Development Bank, Global Environment Facility, the Country package seed fund (France, Conservation International, the Rob Walton foundation, the Gordon and Betty Moore foundation), Food and Agriculture Organization, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Wildlife Conservation Society, gathered at the COP 28, commit to:

I. Support and extend terrestrial and marine Protected Areas (PA) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECM) to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030

1. Take stock of the PA and OECM network through an evidence-based national-scale assessment of existing actions including community-managed areas.
2. Support the planning of the 30*30 objective through science-based and community-based land use and marine spatial planning with a focus on priority landscapes and seascapes that have both high biodiversity and high carbon storage capacity and in line with the update of Papua New Guinea's NBSAP.
3. Ensure the effective implementation of existing and new PAs and OECMs, by supporting site-based conservation.
4. Create and implement new terrestrial and marine PAs and OECMs including livelihood / economic development / natural resources management opportunities for / with local communities, including the management plan of the two newly created marine areas.

II. Improve forest management, value chain development and governance of the forestry sector in order to preserve intact forests and stop deforestation and forest degradation by 2030

1. Support a governance system for a certification scheme in the forestry sector, in line with the recently approved PNG Timber Legality Standard.
2. Assist sustainable forest plantation in logged over areas, including watershed areas.
3. Strengthen the development of sustainable downstream processing of forest products, in line with the government objective to cease log export by 2025.



4. Encourage agricultural commodity sustainable value chain around PAs and OECMs as alternatives to deforestation.

III. Reinforce and explore long term sustainable financing opportunities for forest, climate and biodiversity

1. Support PNG to improve access to international finance to implement priority projects under its Nationally Determined Contributions and other national forest, climate and biodiversity policies.
2. Develop and implement a resource mobilization strategy in order to identify sustainable financial mechanisms (domestic mechanisms, fiscal tools, biodiversity offsets, carbon markets, REDD+, biodiversity credits, etc.).
3. Establish a national policy framework and appropriate implementation mechanisms regarding the Mitigation Hierarchy for Biodiversity (Avoid-Reduce-Restore and Offset biodiversity impacts of development projects).
4. Strengthen the operationalization of the PNG Biodiversity and Climate Fund.
5. Support the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol regarding access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use.

IV. Support research and education

1. Implement the further extension of the National Forest Inventory (timber resources, carbon and biodiversity assessment) in additional provinces (so far, half of the provinces are covered).
2. Assist targeted institutions across the country in order to develop national capacity for environmental scientific research and vocational educational training programs.
3. Support national capacity for scientific research and governance on oceans and marine resources management.

V. Monitor the Country Package implementation

1. Enforce the secretariat dedicated to the Country Package.
2. Support the coordination among the national authorities particularly involved in PAs and between these authorities and the Provinces, in particular for law enforcement, compliance and policy implementation.



European Union and France (through a Team Europe Initiative) as co-leads of the country package, the Global Environment Facility, Australia, the Country package seed fund (France, Conservation International, the Rob Walton foundation, the Gordon and Betty Moore foundation) and the Asian Development Bank undertake to support these actions by mobilizing, subject to agreement on the implementation plan for this partnership, an initial amount of \$ 100 million within five years through the mobilization of multilateral and bilateral subsidies, with a view to a longer-term commitment, and with the technical partnership of the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Wildlife Conservation Society, AFD-Expertise France, and Institut de Recherche pour le Développement among others.

Papua New Guinea, and the current partners of the Country Package welcome the interest expressed by the World Bank, the United Arab Emirates, the United Nations Development Program, the Bezos Earth fund in supporting the implementation of the country package. They call on all public and private international donors, to further contribute to implement these essential actions to preserve the forest and the marine protected areas of Papua New Guinea.

The leaders resolve to organize a robust governance and stewardship mechanism based on:

- A **steering committee** chaired by PNG secretariat and composed of all involved partners, meeting at least quarterly acting as an instance for decision-making and follow-up of the commitments.
- A **roadmap** explaining the rationale, key objectives and logic of intervention, governance, and planning of the country package will be finalized within the first semester of 2024.
- An **implementation plan**, including for each objective defined in the roadmap, a list of projects and activities with budget, planning and indicators of success will be presented to international partners before COP 29.

France will provide the technical assistance as well as financial support to the PNG secretariat to that endeavor.

The complete Country Package agreement is intended to be signed by all partners at the COP29.