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## ***Annual Report***

### **1. Darwin Project Information**

Project Ref. Number	13-012
Project Title	<i>Integrated River Basin Management in the Sepik River</i>
Country(ies)	<i>Papua New Guinea</i>
UK Contractor	<i>WWF-UK</i>
Partner Organisation(s)	<i>WWF Papua New Guinea with:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>PNG Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC)</i></li> <li>- <i>Ambunti Local Level Government</i></li> <li>- <i>HELP Resources Inc.</i></li> <li>- <i>Sepik Wetlands Initiative</i></li> <li>- <i>Project area communities</i></li> </ul>
Darwin Grant Value	<i>£120,000</i>
Start/End dates	<i>1 April 2004 – 31 March 2007</i>
Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and annual report number (1,2,3..)	<i>1 April 2005 – 31 March 2006</i>
Project website	<a href="http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/asia_pacific/where/papua_new_guinea/index.cfm?uProjectID=PG0036">http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/asia_pacific/where/papua_new_guinea/index.cfm?uProjectID=PG0036</a>
Author(s), date	<i>Dr David Tickner, WWF-UK &amp; David Peter, WWF PNG October 2006</i>

## 2. Project Background

The Sepik River Basin, covering 72,000km<sup>2</sup> in the north of Papua New Guinea (PNG), is one of the least developed regions in a very poor country. Communities in the area rely almost entirely on the environment for subsistence resources. The Sepik River Basin includes parts of three highland provinces of Southern Highlands, Western Highlands and Enga; and two lowland provinces of East and West Sepik.

The Sepik is also one of the most ecologically valuable rivers in the Asia Pacific region and is among WWF's priority river basins in the world. As such, it is a place where WWF has long aimed to work. The Darwin grant gave us the opportunity to do so. The River Basin includes one of the highest priority wetlands and three priority terrestrial landscapes identified under the PNG Conservation Needs Assessment (1993); the most important and commercially significant crocodile population in New Guinea, the largest lowland rainforest protected area in PNG; and important habitats for nationally listed threatened species such as the Victoria Crowned Pigeon, the Harpy Eagle and the Cassowary.

Specific environmental threats include falling water levels; invasive species including Paku (*Piaractus briachypumus*), Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) and Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*); grassland/wetland fires; hillside gardening causing landslides; river pollution and over-harvesting of crocodiles, eaglewood and bivalves. In addition, future threats may arise from mining, oil exploration, hydropower development and oil palm plantations.

The project aims to build the capacity of PNG institutions at a national and local level to manage catchments of high biological value and low human development. In particular, the project aims to assist government and local stakeholders to design an Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) framework for the Sepik River that will promote the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources.

## 3. Project Purpose and Outputs

### Project Purpose

To assist government and local stakeholders to design an IRBM framework for the Sepik River Basin. This framework will protect biological diversity and ecological processes while promoting the sustainable management of natural resources supported by properly implemented catchment management policy.

### Project Outputs

- A comprehensive IRBM plan;
- Strong stakeholder awareness of and commitment to effective river basin management; and
- Mechanisms to ensure stronger protection for areas of ecological importance.

### Changes to operational plan

The operational plan in the original project agreement (including activity schedule and budget) have been amended to take account of a slow start to the project during the previous reporting period. The amended plan was submitted to the Darwin Secretariat on 31 January 2006 with a request for a no-cost extension to the project. The extension was agreed by the Darwin Secretariat on 19 June 2006.

(Note: Questions about the project arising from the review of the previous annual report are answered in a separate document to this report.)

#### **4. Progress**

As mentioned in the previous annual report, progress on this project was initially slower than expected due to the delay in recruiting a Freshwater Programme Manager for the WWF PNG office. David Peter was eventually appointed to this post in February 2005. Thereafter, project implementation gathered speed. Progress reported last year included:

- consolidation of WWF's internal strategy for this project during an internal workshop;
- agreement with the PNG Department of Environment and Conservation about related staffing and about implementation of the PNG government policy for Total Catchment Environmental Management (TCEM);
- successful completion of a field trip to review potential sites for specific elements of the project and to engage key stakeholder groups assess their needs and expectations;
- production of an information leaflet; and
- planning of a Sepik River Crocodile Festival as a vehicle for raising awareness of local communities and other stakeholders of the importance of integrated management of the Sepik River.

Progress in this reporting period against the agreed baseline timetable and log frame is set out below. Note that some of these activities were carried forward from year 1 due to the slow start to the project.

##### Confirm partnership agreements

A new agreement has been confirmed with HELP Resources Inc, a community based organisation focusing primarily on social issues. As discussed in the previous annual report, this replaces the partnership originally envisaged with Ambunti District Local Environmental forum which has become defunct as an organisation. HELP Resources Inc has now extended its operations to include the Sepik River Basin and, with WWF's assistance, has opened an office in a remote part of Ambunti.

A partnership has been confirmed with Ambunti Local Level Government, with whom WWF is developing a five-year (2006-2010) development plan.

An agreement has been made between WWF, HELP Resources Inc and Ambunti Local Level Government for the use of two Ambunti Local Level Government buildings for the project.

WWF facilitated a Sepik Stakeholder Initiative, developed at a meeting held in August 2005. The Initiative aims to bring together stakeholders so that they share resources and maximise efficiency and impact.

##### Consultants and staff hired

A Field Co-ordinator for the Sepik River Basin has been seconded from HELP Resources Inc and will work alongside David Peter on the project.

DEC, supported by the project, has recruited a Catchment Management Officer for the Sepik River Basin.

A consultant was hired by the project to undertake a stakeholder capacity assessment and to collect biological data. The consultant also developed a database of those experts and institutions that hold information about the Sepik River Basin. A copy of this report will be sent to the Darwin Secretariat once it is finalised.

##### Complete background reviews of programme sites

Further site visits, and discussions with stakeholders, were made by David Peter in November and December 2005. These visits and discussions directly informed the design for implementing IRBM in the Sepik basin (see below).

##### Formulate education strategy and produce public awareness materials

The text for a Sepik River Tourism Brochure was completed by March 2006 following discussions with East Sepik Provincial Government, Ambunti Local Level Government, HELP Resources Inc and Bauabaua Theatre Group. Technical problems with the printing process meant that the publication of the Brochure was expected in August 2006.

HELP Resources Inc, Sepik Wetlands Management Initiative and Bauabaua Theatre Group expressed their keenness to co-operate with WWF in the development of further awareness materials.

Contact was made with the PNG government's Department of Education to see how principles of IRBM might be included in teaching syllabuses. Meetings were also held with the University of Papua New Guinea to discuss the extent to which IRBM might be captured in environmental degree courses.

#### Training in IRBM

David Peter undertook a four-month distance training course in IRBM plan development at UNESCO-IHE in the Netherlands. He also visited colleagues in WWF Australia to learn about IRBM efforts in the Murray-Darling Basin and to attend the 2005 RiverSymposium in Brisbane.

Two wider training sessions in IRBM were held. The first, in October 2005 in Port Moresby, was directed at WWF staff and partners in DEC and other major institutional partners. The training was facilitated by Dr David Tickner of WWF-UK and built on lessons learned from several WWF projects around the world. As a result of this training, the WWF PNG staff felt more confident in the complex concepts IRBM entails. This has had knock-on benefits for WWF PNG's sister project in the Kikori River Basin (funded from sources other than the Darwin Initiative), the lead staff of which also attended the training session.

The second workshop, led by David Peter in Ambunti in November 2005, aimed to explain IRBM concepts to local level stakeholders and to explore how such concepts could be applied in an appropriate manner in the Sepik River Basin.

#### Design for implementing IRBM policy in the Sepik River Basin

Following the site visits and discussion with stakeholders in November and December 2005, it was concluded that, while the IRBM plan should cover the entire Sepik River Basin (as per the original proposal for Darwin funding), limits on time and resources mean that detailed implementation efforts could focus initially on priority sub-catchments within Ambunti District or East Sepik Province. This is consistent with the initial focus of the Sepik Stakeholder Initiative.

David Peter and a volunteer from Australia began to develop a guidance document on IRBM planning in the Sepik River Basin. This guidance will provide detailed advice on the process of developing the plan, the type of baseline information required and the Terms of Reference for the Sepik River Stakeholder Committee. It will also suggest a ToR for a consultant to assist with the development of the IRBM plan.

#### Monitoring database and baseline established

Basic biological and socio-economic data on the Sepik River Basin was gathered, along with meta-data on available expertise and sources of information. In addition, guidance on information gaps was being drafted.

For more detail see paragraph on data collection in "Consultants and staff hired" section above; and paragraph on baseline information requirements in "Design for implementing IRBM policy in the Sepik River Basin" section, also above.

#### Communications materials on values of the Sepik River

See "Formulate education strategy and public awareness materials" above.

#### Initiate awareness campaign

An IRBM awareness campaign – consisting initially of a series of workshops - began, mostly focused in East Sepik Province and in conjunction with partner organisations.

Meetings were also held with two other provincial governments - in Enga and West Highlands Provinces – to introduce the IRBM approach to stakeholders in upstream reaches. The project was well received by these organisations.

Partner organisations such as HELP resources Inc, the Sepik Wetlands Management Initiative and the Bauabaua Theatre Group are also contributing to the awareness campaign through their work in the Sepik Basin.

#### Begin management planning in protected areas

A necessary first step in management planning is to designate protected areas. Two new PAs were designated in this period in the Sepik Basin: Wagu and Me'aha. The designations were announced at a side event of the Pacific Island Leaders Forum in Port Moresby. Jim Leape, WWF Director General attended, as did the PNG Minister for the Environment & Conservation, the Honourable William Duma. The Minister made a commitment that his Department would work with WWF in protecting and conserving these areas. The event was covered by national television.

#### Define mechanism for operationalising Total Catchment Environmental Management policy

Two exploratory meetings were held with the DEC on the TCEM policy. At these meetings the DEC detailed the resource limitations it faces in implementing the TCEM policy. Key issues discussed included: how to overcome these resource limitations; and the relationship between the IRBM planning at the basin level and the TCEM policy. These issues will form the basis of subsequent discussions.

#### Assist DEC in the preparation of draft catchment management plan

See “Design for implementing IRBM policy in the Sepik River Basin” above.

#### Form catchment management institutions

Plans were agreed for a committee – to be known as the Sepik River Steering Committee – to be formed in mid 2006 with the aim of co-ordinating the IRBM planning process. Most of the members of the Committee will be drawn from active stakeholder groups within East Sepik Province, including project partners such as HELP Resources Inc, Bauabaua Theatre Group, Ambunti Local Level Government and the Sepik Wetlands Management Initiative. Next steps will include finalising the Terms of Reference for the Committee, as part of the guidance document for IRBM planning (see “Design for implementing IRBM policy in the Sepik Basin” above).

The intention is that information on the progress of this Committee will be provided to other provincial governments in Western Highlands, Enga, Southern Highlands and West Sepik with a view to replicating the model.

#### Assist communities to declare new wetlands protected areas and complete management plans

See “Begin management planning in protected areas” above.

#### Support LLG legislation and District development plans that reflect integrated river basin management objectives

David Peter assisted the development of the 2006-2010 plan for Ambunti/Drekikir district of East Sepik Province. His focus was on identifying parts of previous plans that could contribute to IRBM objectives and analysing which of these had not been implemented, and why. A second step was to prioritise these and other proposed activities based on available resources and the expressed needs of stakeholders. It was clear from this exercise that most of the activities suggested by the Sepik Stakeholder Initiative could be included in the 2006-2010 plan.

#### Continue awareness campaign

See “Initiate awareness campaign” above.

#### Support community management and enterprise initiatives

One Eaglewood Management Area was identified in the Hunstein Range and an Eaglewood Management Plan was drafted and awaiting endorsement by stakeholders. Once this takes place, and legal issues around designation are clarified, the Eaglewood Management Area will be gazetted. The plan will help local communities to protect Eaglewood trees and to sustain economic benefits from harvesting.

#### Monitor changes to baseline environmental conditions and achievement of planned activities

Basic biological and socio-economic data on the Sepik River Basin was gathered, along with meta-data on available expertise and sources of information. In addition, guidance on information gaps was being drafted.

For more detail see paragraph on data collection in “Consultants and staff hired” section above; and paragraph on baseline information requirements in “Design for implementing IRBM policy in the Sepik River Basin” section, also above.

Main achievements during this reporting period have included:

- Gaining support and commitment from a wide range of stakeholders – this is a fundamental principle of the IRBM approach and, in a country such as PNG, the difficulty of gaining not only acceptance but active support from NGOs and community groups should not be underestimated. To gain such buy-in, there is no magic methodology – rather, a concerted effort to talk and listen to stakeholders is needed. This necessitates significant time in the field. The outcome, the Sepik Stakeholder Initiative, is a significant step forward. In addition, community voice has been increased, e.g. communities have successfully persuaded the government to reconsider environmental studies of proposed logging and mining concessions in the Wewak area.
- Undertaking by East Sepik provincial government to support IRBM – East Sepik Provincial Executive Council requested a briefing on the IRBM work and, subsequently, offered its support, including funding. An official from the province, Mr Solomon Hopkos, was assigned to represent the Provincial Executive Council in the IRBM work. The Ambunti District Council was also directed to support the IRBM project and subsequently made available office space in Ambunti for WWF and other partners to use. This support was achieved by careful argument, a continued presence on the ground, and by reacting quickly and decisively when the Provincial Executive Council showed an interest.
- Launching of two new protected areas in the Sepik River Basin and proposal of a new Eaglewood Management Area – As noted above, Wagu and Me’aha protected areas were designated. In addition, the Hunstein Range Eaglewood Management Area was proposed. The Eaglewood Management Area proposal is still awaiting legal confirmation because it is a new concept in PNG and the Act of Parliament under which it should be gazetted needs clarification.
- Consolidating IRBM as a viable concept in PNG – A combination of lobbying of, and support to, the DEC, combined with the various training efforts on IRBM, means that the DEC prioritised support to implementation of the Total Catchment Environmental Management policy and has committed to support IRBM in the Sepik basin. For instance, a DEC staff member, Benny Gowep, has been made available to support Ambunti District and WWF on the project, and after a recent DEC restructure, a position as Sepik River Catchment Officer was made (though funding for the position was not yet confirmed). IRBM is a complex, and

potentially nebulous, approach to natural resource management so gaining this level of acceptance is only the first step in mainstreaming the method.

Difficulties encountered during the year have included:

- **Resources and funding** - The challenges of implementing IRBM in a country like PNG are profound. A long-term approach is needed and, while support from the Darwin Initiative is very welcome, it should be regarded as the start of this process. A proposal for follow-up funding for work in the Sepik River Basin was therefore submitted to the EU's Co-financing with European Development NGOs fund. The project is entitled "Sepik livelihoods: sustainable natural resource management to improve the social and economic welfare of remote communities in the Sepik River Catchment, Papua New Guinea" and is intended to extend and enhance the work started under this Darwin-funded project. The total cost of the proposal is just under €1m over three years. If this funded is awarded, it will effectively form the continuation strategy for this Darwin-funded project.
- **Logistics** – The Sepik Basin covers the remotest parts of a country with little physical or electronic infrastructure. Combine this with the rising cost of fuel and access to the project area has been an even greater challenge than was first envisaged. In one field trip, three WWF staff were stranded by the roadside without food and accommodation while waiting for unreliable public transport. In order to minimise the difficulties encountered through travelling from the WWF PNG office in Port Moresby to the field, WWF decided to relocate a member of staff (Leo Sunari, the Sustainable Resource Use trainer) to Ambunti to work alongside staff from HELP Resources Inc. His presence will boost WWF's presence and help to maintain continuous consultation with stakeholders and partners in Ambunti and the nearby villages.

Changes in project design over the past year included:

- WWF PNG's Freshwater Strategy was revised during this period to focus even more on IRBM. For instance, the Kikori River Basin project (a sister project to this one and funded from non-Darwin sources) has shifted its focus to IRBM from a biodiversity research emphasis. This has not directly affected the Sepik IRBM project, except in that lessons learned from this project have been in demand.
- A no-cost extension to the project was submitted to the Darwin Secretariat. This reflected the difficulties in project start-up – and, in particular, in recruiting a good Project Manager – in the first year. At the end of the reporting period the request was still being considered.

A Gantt chart showing the revised workplan for the next reporting period is in Attachment A.

## **5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)**

No comments had been received from reviewers before the compilation of this report.

## **6. Partnerships**

Collaboration between WWF-UK and WWF-PNG remains good, as is evidenced by the decision to submit a further proposal for funding to the European Union (see above). The recruitment of Peter Ramshaw, ex-WWF-UK, to be WWF's freshwater co-ordinator for the Asia-Pacific region, has also helped. Peter has focused on developing and supporting IRBM programmes in a small number of countries, including PNG.

Dr David Tickner of WWF-UK visited PNG in November 2005 to facilitate the IRBM training with WWF PNG staff and colleagues from partner organisations, including DEC. This was very useful for both WWF-UK and WWF PNG and helped to further cement relationships. While in PNG, Dave spent time in face-to-face discussions with the Sepik IRBM project team.

WWF has sought to ensure that maximum value for money has been achieved, with costs shared across WWF different projects in PNG to ensure greatest impact and leverage. In addition, WWF has sought to share costs with other partners wherever possible, including HELP resources Inc, the Sepik Wetlands Management Initiative and Oxfam Australia.

## **7. Impact and Sustainability**

The profile of the project in PNG increased very much in the last year through the following activities:

- field trips by David Peter and other WWF PNG staff, and by partners, to the Sepik River Basin for meetings and workshops with stakeholders;
- Meetings with the East Sepik Provincial Executive Council and the submission of an official Information Paper to the Council;
- Dissemination of information about the project to staff of partner organisations such as HELP resources Inc;
- The provision of support and advice to local communities concerned that logging and mining activities might result in detrimental effects on the environment; and
- Launching of two Wildlife Management Areas in the Sepik River Basin during the Pacific Islands leaders Forum.

The profile of the project is set to increase further with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with partners; the launch of a Sepik River Tourism brochure; and endorsement of the IRBM planning process by stakeholders and the National Executive Council of PNG.

One clear impact is that there is significantly increasing interest and buy-in from potential project partners including the Center for Environment Research and Development and Oxfam Australia. It is encouraging that partners such as Oxfam Australia and HELP Resources Inc – who are not explicitly concerned with biodiversity but whose work can greatly facilitate conservation and sustainable management of natural resources – are showing an interest.

WWF PNG will continue working with the Ambunti Local Level Government to support and guide its development plan so that it incorporates IRBM principles and measures. The plan is due for launch in mid-2006. This, together with continued support to DEC and the proposal submitted by WWF to the EC for continued work in the Sepik, comprises the main continuation strategy for the IRBM work once support from the Darwin Initiative has ceased.

## **8. Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination**

The original Project Implementation Timetable set out a number of milestones due for this reporting period. The difficulty in recruiting a Freshwater Officer in the previous reporting schedule has meant that achievement of these has generally been delayed. However, some have been achieved or nearly achieved notably:

- Training in IRBM
- Monitoring database and baseline established
- Communications on values of the Sepik River
- Initiate awareness campaign



- Begin management planning in protected areas

Good progress has also been made on other milestones especially with respect to the signing of partnership agreements with national and local agencies, the production of local level government development plans that show commitment to IRBM, the production of a draft catchment management plan and defining the mechanism for operationalising the TCEM policy.

Dissemination activities were built into the project activities and progress is set out in section 4 above.

WWF PNG hopes to recruit a Communications Officer in 2006. This post will, in part, support future dissemination activities on the Sepik RIBM project.

WWF-UK included a story about work in PNG, including the Sepik IRBM project, as the cover story in the inaugural edition of its new WWF Action magazine. A hard copy is available on request.

It is anticipated that most of the concrete project outputs for Year 2 set out in the original proposal will be delivered in time for the next Annual Report.

**Table 2: Publications**

Type * (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. contact address, website)	Cost £
WWF-UK Membership magazine article	Jowett, G (2006)	WWF-UK	WWF-UK, Panda House, Weyside Park, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1XR	-
WWF PNG leaflet	Sepik River Management	WWF PNG	dpeter@wwfpacific.org.pg	-

## 9. Project Expenditure

**Table 3: Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 April to 31 March)**

Item	Budget (please indicate which document you refer to if other than your project schedule)	Expenditure	Balance

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## 10. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons

WWF has recently developed a standard M&E framework for all of its programmes and projects. WWF-UK and WWF PNG will work to apply this framework to the Sepik IRBM project.

Lessons learned this year include:

- The needs and aspirations of communities and their views of conservation efforts are changing in PNG, with greater demands for socio-economic development. In future, wider and deeper engagement involvement of communities in planning and decision-making will ensure the ground-truthing of conservation projects and a sense of ownership among local people.
- Institutions in PNG struggle with resources and to recruit high quality professionals. This means that better salaries and innovative recruitment strategies (eg. collaborative employment) will be needed.
- Programme planning should be more realistic. While the targets in the Sepik IRBM project are achievable, it will be a challenge to fully deliver the originally- envisaged impact within the timescale and resources available. It is helpful that WWF PNG has shared some costs between this and other projects and with project partners.
- Many NGOs in PNG do not work closely with government and other stakeholders. This jeopardises the sustainability of projects. The Sepik IRBM project has deliberately sought to involve all stakeholders closely from the outset. While this is the appropriate strategy, it takes substantial time and effort.

## 11. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements

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Obtaining genuine buy-in from stakeholders in the Sepik River Basin to the IRBM process is no mean achievement. Logistical constraints, the complex nature of the IRBM concept and the lack of capacity among government stakeholders and others present substantial challenges. The WWF PNG team have largely overcome these hurdles and there is real momentum now to develop and implement an IRBM plan. There is also an opportunity to revive the dormant national TCEM policy and to use the Sepik as a demonstration of how it can be put into practice. The fact that communities and stakeholders have stayed in workshops til 11.30pm, that some have had tears in their eyes on seeing PowerPoint presentations about their own river and that local level government in East Sepik have jumped on board the IRBM project without hesitation – and have provided significant in-kind contributions – are all testament to the progress the project has made in this reporting period, after a difficult inception.

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2005/2006

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2005-Mar 2006	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Goal:</b> To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The conservation of biological diversity,</li> <li>• The sustainable use of its components, and</li> <li>• The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Purpose</b> <i>(insert original project purpose statement)</i></p> <p>To assist government and local stakeholders to design an integrated river basin management framework for the Sepik River Basin. This framework will protect biological diversity and ecological processes while promoting the sustainable management of natural resources supported by properly implemented catchment management policy.</p>	<p><i>(insert original purpose level indicators)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existence and use of a management framework in the form of databases, procedures and materials guiding catchment management in DEC and Department of East Sepik.</li> <li>• Stronger policies for catchment protection.</li> <li>• Increases in the levels of protection to areas of biological and ecological significance.</li> </ul>	<p><i>(report impacts and achievements resulting from the project against purpose indicators – if any)</i></p> <p>None in Year 2.</p> <p>Agreement by East Sepik Provincial Executive Council to a catchment planning process for the Sepik River.</p> <p>Submission of proposals for two new Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in October 2005 covering approximately 60,000ha and including a large part of the catchment of the Sepik River.</p>	<p><i>(report any lessons learned resulting from the project &amp; highlight key actions planning for next period)</i></p>

<b>Outputs</b>			
<i>(insert original outputs – one per line)</i>	<i>(insert original output level indicators)</i>	<i>(report completed activities and outcomes that contribute toward outputs and indicators)</i>	<i>(report any lessons learned resulting from the project &amp; highlight key actions planning for next period)</i>
A comprehensive integrated river basin management plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An agreed catchment management plan for the Sepik basin</li> </ul>	None in Year 2	
Strong stakeholder awareness of and commitment to effective river basin management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of partnership agreements</li> <li>• Number of successful community initiatives</li> <li>• Number of management actions implemented from Sepik catchment and community PA management plans</li> <li>• Number of posters, press releases, media articles and radio stories</li> <li>• Number of LLG annual development plans showing commitment to effective IRBM</li> </ul>	<p>Informal partnership agreements in place with District and Provincial government, Help Resources Inc, DEC and Bauabaua Theatre Group</p> <p>Local CBO is putting in place crocodile egg harvesting initiative; Eaglewood harvesting initiative.</p> <p>None in Year 2</p> <p>1 general project leaflet produced</p> <p>Invitation from Ambunti LLG for WWF to assist in development of District Development Plan. Two meetings held.</p>	

<p>Mechanisms to ensure stronger protection for areas of ecological importance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management plans for community-managed protected areas</li> <li>• Policies that support the protection of ecologically important areas</li> <li>• Gazettal of protected areas established in priority wetland and forest areas</li> </ul>	<p>Eaglewood management plans completed in the Pukapuki reion of the April river tributary</p> <p>Agreement by East Sepik Provincial Executive Council to support IRBM process for Sepik River.</p> <p>DEC commitment to TCEM policy renewed.</p>	
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*Note: Please do NOT expand rows to include activities since their completion and outcomes should be reported under the column on progress and achievements at output and purpose levels.*