

Association of Foresters of Papua New Guinea Inc (AFPNG)



Presented by
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Restoring forests and landscapes to secure Australia's future
Biennial conference of Forestry Australia
Adelaide 20-23 October 2025



Presentation Outline

Area of forest

- Natural forest
- Plantation

Value of forestry

- Contribution to the economy
- Reforestation
- Environmental cultural values

Number of forestry professionals

- Government, Private Sector, NGOs
- Qualifications

Status

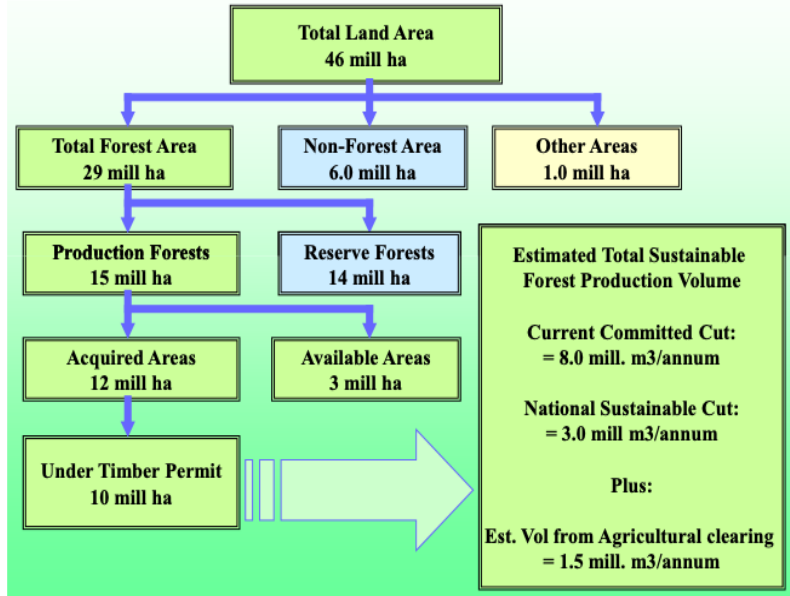
Priorities – training & capacity building

Networking opportunities



Snapshot forestry & forestry professionals

Area of native forest 29 mill ha vs planted forest 0.07 mill ha



TOTAL PLANTED FOREST: 56,250 hectares in 1996 vs 69,719 hectares in 2020
13.5 hectares planted over 24 years?

Hub	Location	1996	2020	Species
		Area (ha)	Area (ha)	
Southern	Brown River	1,200	1,266	<i>Tectona grandis</i>
	Kuriva	600	1,473	<i>T. grandis</i>
	Ulabo	1,500	1,679	<i>Eucalyptus deglupta</i> & <i>Terminalia brassii</i>
		3,300	4,418	
Highlands	Kainantu	1,000	1,263	<i>Pinus patula</i>
	Fayantina	1,100	1,660	<i>P. patula</i>
	Lapegu	3,200	1,320	<i>P. patula</i>
	Waghi	2,100	2,045	<i>E. grandis</i> & <i>E. robusta</i>
	Ialibu	900	201	<i>P. patula</i>
		8,300	6,489	
Islands	Kerevat	1,900	1,785	<i>T. grandis</i>
	Open Bay Timbers	9,200	12,854	<i>E. deglupta</i> & <i>T. brassii</i>
	Balsa	-	6,200	<i>Ochroma lagopus</i>
	Stettin Bay Logging Company	8,400	14,685	<i>E. deglupta</i> & <i>T. brassii</i>
	Kaut	250	265	<i>E. deglupta</i>
		19,750	35,789	
Mamose	Bulolo	12,000	8,728	<i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> & <i>A. hunsteinii</i>
	Wau	-	900	<i>P. caribeeae</i>
	Oomsis	-	190	<i>P. caribeeae</i>
	Leron	-	830	<i>P. caribeeae</i>
	Gogol & North Coast	12,900	12,375	<i>Acacia mangium</i> & <i>E. deglupta</i>
		24,900	23,023	
TOTAL PLANTED AREA		56,250	69,719	



Snapshot forestry & forestry professionals

Value of Forestry – Log Exports & Contribution to Economy

Summary - Benefits to PNG from 2021 - 2023

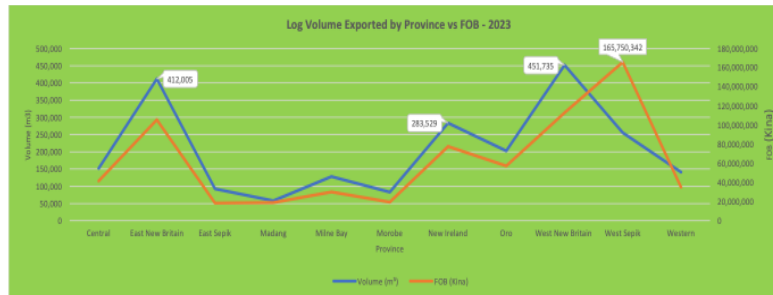
Year	2021	2022	2023
Direct Project Expenses (PGK)	8,996,138	7,365,691	7,279,892
Additional Development Levy Payable (PGK)	15,037	15,722	16,137
Additional Customs Duty Payable (PGK)	284,646	328,364	256,605
Additional Tax Payable IRC (PGK, Estimate)	189,754	213,460	187,884
Additional Foreign Exchange (PGK)	632,511	711,539	626,281

Graphical Summaries for Logs Exported in 2023

Graph 1



Graph 2





Snapshot forestry & forestry professionals

Value of Forestry – Environmental & Social/Cultural Benefits

- Shelter – housing & fuelwood
- Food store
 - Shifting cultivation
 - Hunting & gathering
- Clothing – traditional costume
- Cultural – names/identity
 - Land and mankind inseparable
- Medicinal plants



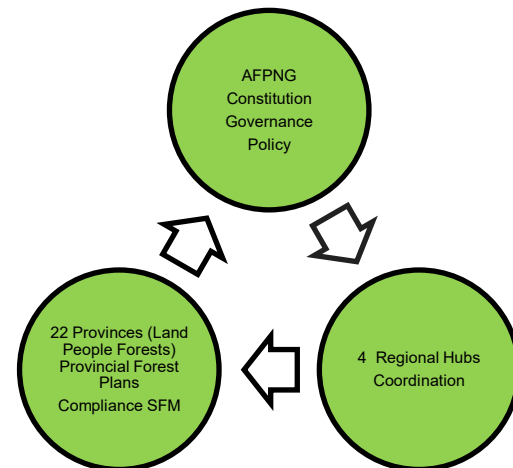
Source: D. Yakuma



Snapshot forestry & forestry professionals

Number in government, private & NGOs

172 Forestry Professionals in 4 Hubs					
Sector	Hubs				
	Southern	Highlands	Islands	Mamose	Total
Government	42	2	15	24	83
Private	15	0	14	21	50
NGO	15	0	11	13	39
Total	72	2	40	58	172



PhD	Masters	Degree	Diploma	Students	TOTAL
6	30	95	29	12	172
3%	17%	55%	17%	7%	100%

Source: AFPNG database Sept 2025



Status of national association for forestry professionals

- Improved communication (WhatsApp, Zoom) to increase, positively engage and retain membership
- 13 April 2025. AGM held & President, Vice-president, Treasurer & Secretary elected
- President member of the PNG Forest Board among 1/9 members
- President, Chair of the Natural Resources Sectoral Committee under the Consultative Implementation Monitoring Council
- AFPNG re-registered as an Association under Associations Act 2023 in May 2025
- Amended Constitution being developed, to be adopted at end of October 2025
- May 2025 attended and participation at PWoFA Tonga
- Thematic Committees established
- Regional (4) hubs established and continue strengthening
- 172 financial members
- 30+ membership into Forestry Australia. Thankyou ACIAR & Forestry Australia





Priorities for enhancing the professional development of forestry professionals

Priorities – training & capacity building

- Better organised, **WELL FUNDED** AFPNG – constitution, 5-year strategy, Secretariat
- Team building breaking down silos. Project teams Lean process improvement.
- **IMPROVED VISIBILITY:** Updates, references, communication through use of WhatsApp, Zoom, Google documents from office to field implementors
- Governance – ethics/attitude
- Compliance and operational monitoring against standards
- Policy alignment with other land-use agencies for tree planting
- Provincial & national forest plans
- Land acquisition to plant trees as a long-term investment
- Graduate employment – small medium enterprise (SME) and tree planting
- Coordination - research and development (R & D)
- Mentoring and support advise to the provinces and forest operations site



Opportunities for enhancing professional skills and capacities through the Pacific Network of Forestry Professionals

- **VISIBILITY:** Communication, training and information hub. Frequently asked questions. Alignment of international donor funding – bottom-up planning resulting in tree planting with end market in mind

Mentoring programs

- Project Teams (inclusivity) working on common issues via R&D breaking down silos and team building
- Retention of leaders who drive change
- Graduate support by pairing mentors (e.g. OTML Graduate Development Program & ForestWorks/Forestry Australia model)

Support for local training activities and projects to promote SFM

- Community woodlot - SME business planning and training through coordination with NGOs & Private sector & State agencies (e.g. VDT model & ACIAR Forestry Program model)
- Agro-forestry and trees: an investment



Acknowledgements

- Forestry Australia and ACIAR support gratefully acknowledged
- AFPNG and our employer
- Five other Pacific islands nations via PNFP hub
- Colleagues - people to people relationships across borders

For more information

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