

SWM SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The Bismark Forest Corridor is an area of global biological importance. It contains an astonishing 200,000 ha of contiguous intact forest, which stretches from Mount Wilhelm, Papua New Guinea's highest peak at 4,509 metres, down to lowland forests at 700 metres.

THE BISMARK FOREST CORRIDOR (BFC) PRESERVING OUR UNIQUE BIODIVERSITY

© WCS/Alex Fanaso

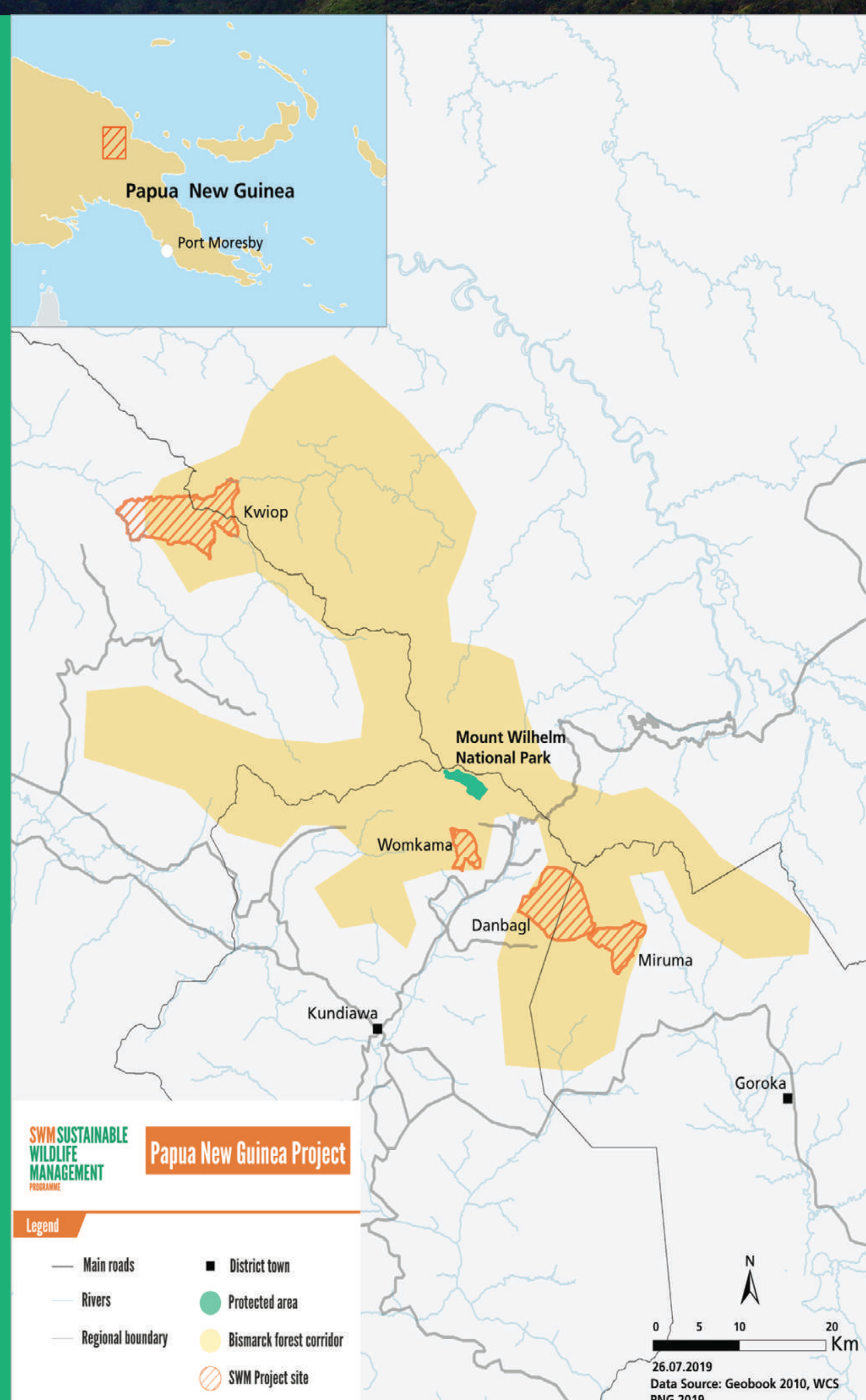
Why BFC?

The Bismark Forest Corridor (BFC) is remarkable in many ways.

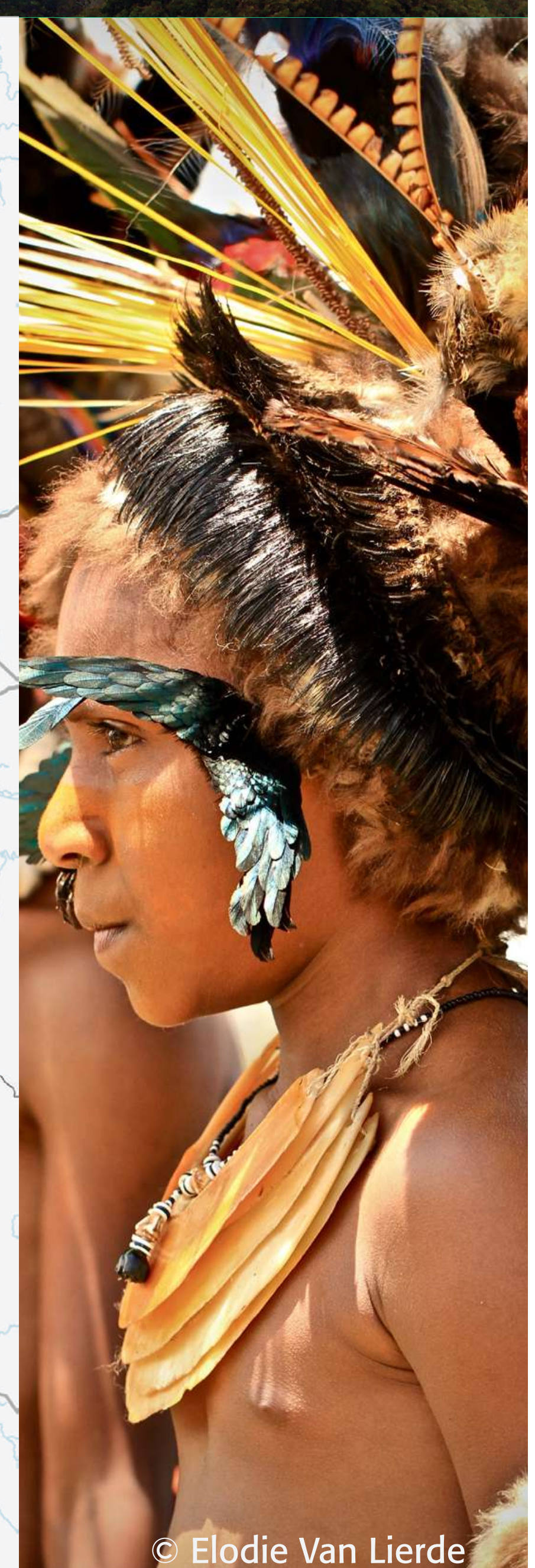
The BFC runs east-west along the spine of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and borders four provinces (Eastern Highlands, Chimbu, Jiwaka and Madang). Its rich and diverse habitats are home to a unique assemblage of native plants and animals. The massive altitudinal gradient in BFC (almost 4,000 metres) harbours many unique endemic species, such as cassowaries, birds of paradise and Goodfellow's tree-kangaroo. These climate-resilient species are able to move to higher altitudes as their habitats shift with climate change.

The indigenous communities living in the BFC rely on this rich flora and fauna for their wellbeing. However, growing rural populations are putting pressure on the remaining intact forest, as people seek new sources of food, shelter and income.

Experience shows that these same communities are also the best advocates for conservation, as their cultural identity is based on the forests. Traditional ceremonial ornaments or Bilas, which are made from animal skins and feathers, are central to their traditions. Communities are keenly aware that without the forest, there will be no wildlife and no Bilas. Their lives are intimately linked with nature, and for this reason, they are highly motivated to protect the forest, its wildlife and their heritage.



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.



© Elodie Van Lierde

By preserving and extending the life of existing Bilas, communities can reduce the need for new wildlife skins and feathers

© Elodie Van Lierde

Wildlife Management in BFC

Communities in the BFC want to maintain their cultural traditions by protecting the intact forest, recovering lost forest and maintaining wildlife populations. Supporting community livelihoods in sustainable ways, which protect and restore the forest, is essential for both biodiversity conservation and retaining peoples' cultural sense of self.

The Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme seeks to empower local communities by strengthening their capacity to manage their natural resources; producing poultry to reduce demand for wild meat; expanding native-tree nurseries to increase reforestation; and distributing Bila preservation kits to extend their lifespan.

Good practices from the innovative SWM Programme can be adapted and replicated elsewhere in PNG to support sustainable community livelihoods.

© WCS/Alex Fanaso

Programme Coordination

In PNG, these SWM Programme activities are coordinated by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in collaboration with the national Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA). The project is supporting Indigenous communities in Chimbu (Danbag!), Eastern Highlands (Wamui) and Jiwaka (Kewio) provinces, with the active engagement of the provincial and district authorities responsible for wildlife management and animal production.



© Elodie Van Lierde

Sustainable farming and forestry practices will help minimise the loss of biodiversity and cultural identity in the BFC.

© Elodie Van Lierde

SWM Programme

Around the world, overhunting for wild meat and habitat loss is threatening hundreds of wildlife species with extinction, and jeopardizing the wellbeing and cultural identity of millions of Indigenous Peoples. As wildlife populations decline, many rural communities and Indigenous Peoples are being left without food. This situation is becoming more critical as the demand for wildlife consumption and cultural materials grows in urban areas.

The SWM Programme is developing innovative solutions based on field projects in fifteen countries. This seven-year (2018-2024) initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) is funded by the European Union with co-funding from the French Facility for Global Environment and the French Development Agency. It is implemented by a unique consortium of four organizations with expertise in wildlife conservation and food security: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).



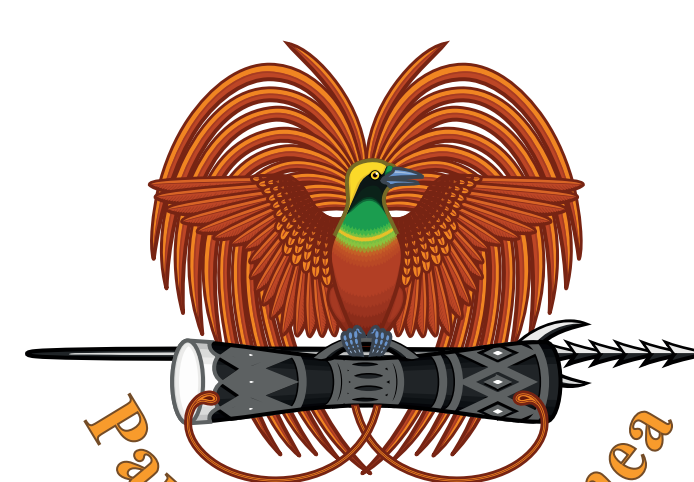
© WCS/Michael Kigel

Supported by



Funded by the European Union

National Partner



Conservation Environment Protection Authority

www.swm-programme.info