

Research Conference on PNG Multipurpose National Forest Inventory

Concept Note (As of 26 January 2018)

Date: 14th & 15th February 2018

Venue: PNG Forest Research Institute, Lae, Papua New Guinea

Background

New Guinea is the largest tropical island in the world and contains the third largest tropical rainforest after Amazon Basin and Congo Basin. The country of Papua New Guinea (PNG) comprises the eastern portion of the New Guinea Island as well as numerous islands and archipelagos. PNG is a well-known centre for biological endemism and diversification. Currently PNG's tropical rainforest is relatively well conserved. PNG Forest Authority (PNGFA) recently produced a national forest base map with assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency and conducted remote sensing based national forest assessment with assistance of UN-REDD. Both studies showed that PNG's forest covers 80% of country's land area and 60% of the forest are undisturbed. Nevertheless, the forest is coming under increasing pressure, due to resource extraction, especially through logging, but also from clearing for mining and agriculture. Despite their extent, size and rich diversity, PNG forests are poorly known scientifically. PNG's first NFI will make a significant scientific contribution to the understanding of PNG's tropical rainforest and the biodiversity within.

Since UN-REDD PNG National Programme commenced in 2011, methodologies of the multipurpose National Forest Inventory (NFI) for all NFI components including tree inventory, non-tree plant biodiversity, ornithology, entomology and soil survey were established and documented through extensive review studies and discussions at a number of workshops and meetings. Forest in PNG was stratified and all plot clusters were mapped. All the required capacities for NFI implementation were built within PNG Forest Authority (PNGFA) and other implementing partner agencies through numerous in-country and overseas trainings for all the NFI components. NFI was launched by the Prime Minister in March 2016 and roll out of the field assessment was commenced in May 2017.

A total of 13 Project scholarship students have been conducting MPhil research using NFI related data. A large amount of data is being accumulated day by day as NFI field assessment progress. It is very important that these data to be analysed and the results to be published in timely manner. A NFI research workshop supported by Mountain Partnership was held in February 2017 at PNG Forest Research Institute. At the workshop, most of NFI Project sponsored students presented their research ideas and proposals. Since then, field assessment has been conducted and the field data was collected for analysis and reporting. At this

workshop in January 2018, the preliminary findings of the first PNG multipurpose NFI will be presented and discussed.

Workshop Objectives and Outcomes

The main objectives of the workshop are:

- Present and publish the preliminary findings of PNG multipurpose NFI
- Review the protocols and outcomes of PNG multipurpose NFI
- Capacity building of PNG researchers and foresters on data analysis, presentation and scientific paper writing
- Review the progress and research quality of NFI scholarship students
- Publish the conference proceedings as the annual research report of PNG multipurpose NFI

Call for papers

All NFI Project scholarship students are expected to submit their conference paper and present. Anyone who are involved in PNG multipurpose NFI are encouraged to submit conference paper and present it at the conference. Conference paper submission must follow the template provided in this concept note.

Important date

	Closing date
Submission of the presentation title	31 January 2018
Submission of the conference paper	2 February 2018
Conference	14 & 15 February 2018
Project Steering Committee meeting & NFI meeting	16 February 2018
Field excursion	17 & 18 February 2018
Mountain Partnership capacity building workshop on research planning	19 & 20 February 2018

Please send submissions to;

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