

MAMA GRAUN CONSERVATION TRUST FUND

OVERVIEW

Mama Graun Conservation Trust Fund (MGCTF) services the Melanesia Region (PNG - Solomon Islands – Vanuatu – Fiji - New Caledonia - Timor L’Este) to support Biodiversity Conservation and related sustainable development. Mama Graun was registered in Papua New Guinea (PNG) in 2000 and its Board of Trustees voted to expand its services to the Melanesia Region in 2008. Mama Graun accomplishes its mission by providing long-term sustained funding through a grant program that supports the Melanesian countries Protected Areas Network.

Mama Graun has been created by a Trust Deed and is registered as a private charitable Trust corporation with a governing Board of 12 Regional and International Trustees of highly distinguished personalities in their area of expertise that represent all sectors of civil society. Mama Graun is working to mobilize funding from a variety of public and private sources to build an endowment of at least USD 30 million (EUR 20 million) to provide long term support for sustainable biodiversity resource management in Melanesian Jurisdictions.

PARTNERSHIPS

Mama Graun mission is currently supported financially and technically by a large array of international organizations such as David and Lucille Packard Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, the German Government through its BMU project, USAID, WWF, AusAID, Conservation International, and local national partnerships such as National & local Governments, local business, NGOs, local communities, PA Management Committees, national research institutions and Universities. Mama Graun is closely involve with regional initiatives such as Coral Triangle and Turtles protection

In addition to providing financial support, Mama Graun is placing special emphasis on building the capacity of Melanesian land owners, resources users and organizations to design and manage conservation programs. Mama Graun is a conduit that brings together people from government, private enterprise, community and non-profit organizations to collectively address the challenges of natural resource management in Melanesia, enhancing public-private partnerships, and sharing experiences and best practices.

STRATEGIES

The MGCTF has four overall strategies through which it is building the capacity of Melanesian land owners, resources users and organizations to design and manage conservation programs.

- Promote initiatives by people living in and around selected conservation areas to increase the value and to better evaluate the benefits of natural resources to their overall livelihood;
- Empower people from the communities to assume responsibility for the long-term management of their natural resources through recognition of the value of traditional methods of natural resource management and the diffusion of such practices in neighboring communities;





- Encourage the creation of innovative partnerships between non-profit organizations, the private sector, and government agencies; and,
- Develop the technical, financial, and management capability of natural resource managers in targeted conservation areas.

GRANTS PROGRAM

The MGCTF manages donations and Advised funds given to each Melanesian Jurisdiction independently. The decision of grant allocation in each of the Melanesian Jurisdictions is made by a local highly distinguish science technical committee that follow the stringent assessment requirement of the Trust for each request of fund.

The Mama Graun Conservation Trust Fund focus its grant funding on projects which seek to protect biodiversity and promote sustainable management in selected areas in each Jurisdiction that have been identified as priority Areas of Biodiversity where funds have been donated. All donations support the following:

- conservation of priority natural biodiversity resource areas;
- Strengthening the ability of communities, community organizations, government agencies, conservation and development NGOs, and other appropriate organizations to conserve Melanesian's biodiversity and sustainably manage its natural resources for the benefit of future generations;
- build community awareness about biodiversity conservation and related environmental education programs;



The grant funds are disbursed quarterly. After the first disbursement of funds a quarterly financial and technical report triggers the next disbursement.

ELIGIBILITY

Organizations that are eligible for assistance from Mama Graun include:

- Not For Profit organizations (NFPOs) (including associations, schools, colleges and universities, religious organizations, research organizations, other institutions);
- Community-based organizations (CBOs);
- Specific biodiversity conservation projects from specific government agencies (national, provincial, local level government); and,
- Specific projects of local groups or organizations working with legally recognized or registered environmental International Non Governmental Organizations (INGOs) in Melanesia.



In special cases (e.g., proposed activities contributing to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in targeted areas), business enterprises and private individuals may also be eligible for grant funding.

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