



2024

ANNUAL REPORT



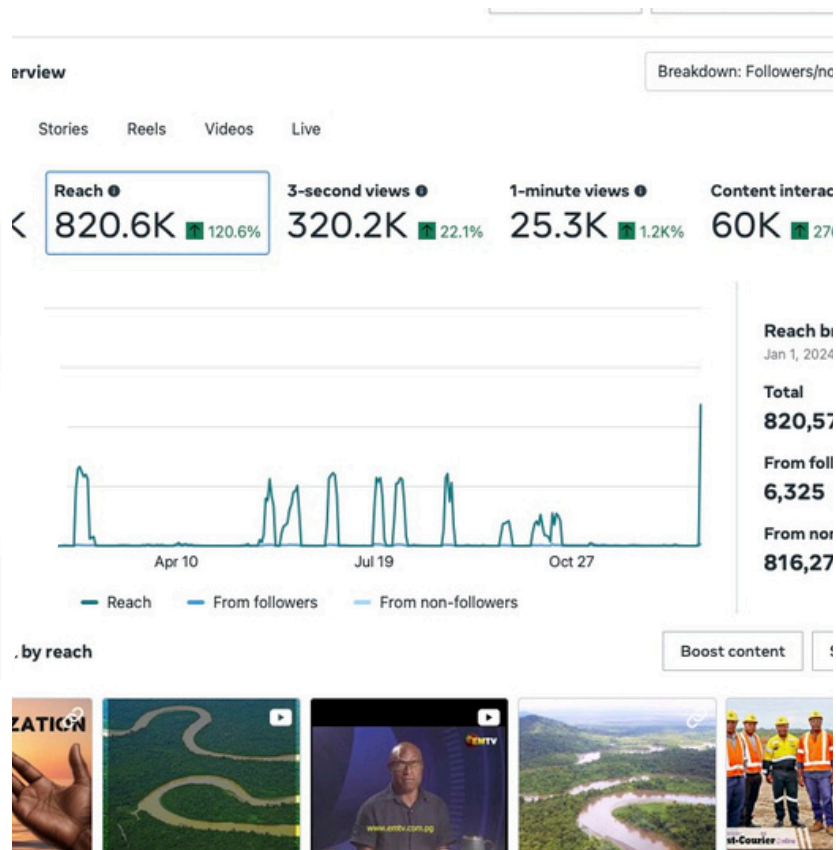
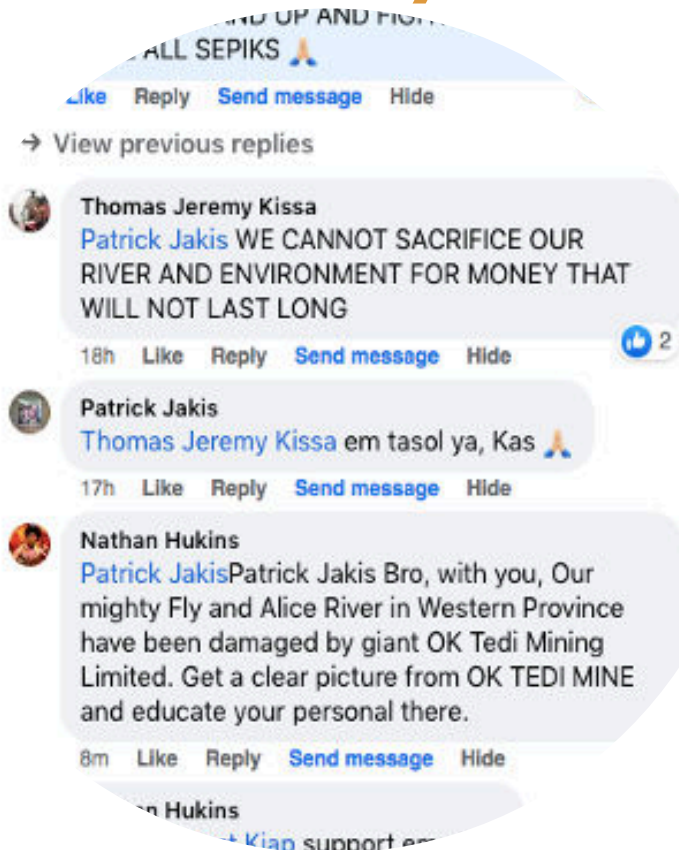
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2024 THE STRATEGY

Project Sepik sees the natural flora and fauna of the Sepik region protected from harm for the benefit of current and future generations. The organization employs Awareness and Advocacy to bring the messages out and get others to speak for the campaign and the organization. It facilitates Sustainable Livelihood Projects to ensure people are grounded on their land and manage their resources appropriately. Together with its partners, Project Sepik is profusely preparing for legal battles with environmental terrorists. Project Sepik recently focuses on Climate Change today. Conservation, Climate Change Laboratory and the Sepik River Delta Climate Adaptation Program are the projects it is working on. As it journeys, Project Sepik intends to grow a mature, legally and ethically compliant organization that is functioning to ensure Papua New Guinea (PNG) continues to have a Sustained Balance of Life.

IMPACTFUL Awareness & Advocacy

Our social media advocacy reached more than 800,000 individuals. A 120.6% increase from 2023.



REINFORCING ADVOCACY GOALS THROUGH “DECOLONIZATION”

Steven Walhan, a graduate accountant in his 20s who attended the Decolonisation Training at Chambri Lakes, Wosera Gawi District of East Sepik Province (ESP), shared his story of resilience. After graduating, Steven decided to go home and plant cocoa. He recalled the encouragement from his parents who said: *“Holim graun na traim lukim wanem samting bai kamap”* - “Toil the earth and see what comes out from the labor”. Steven has never regretted his decision to go back to the village. This participant ended up joining Project Sepik as the Organizational Accountant. Another participant from the Hunstan ranges shared: “My home, the Hunstan Ranges, is like a young virgin that everyone desires. This training has empowered me to be vigilant and wary of those who come in to exploit. I now realize that I am not poor but I own massive wealth.” The East Sepik students at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), committed to using their education to challenge exploitative policies and practices that may be potential threats to their communities’ livelihood and well-being. The training highlighted the connections between environmental protection, cultural heritage and self-reliance, aligning academic discourse with realities on the ground.



Troy Mabos, a vibrant student volunteer for Project Sepik since 2019 wrote his final year Major Research Paper (MRP) on Indigenous Designs and Knowledge as solutions to contemporary issues and challenges faced by communities in PNG. “Indigenous knowledge is centered around the principle of sustainable practices in PNG. His study aimed to explore factors affecting loss of indigenous knowledge and practices of water management in Brauniek Village in the ESP of PNG”. Below is the link to this MRP. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OT7UK5kCJILx1ZNtMuQrSBGcVzjYdLUI/edit?usp=sharing&oid=112253957591597551487&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Troy’s research was mostly inspired from the TED Talk presentation by Emmanuel Peni on the 22nd of September 2022 in New York, United States of America. This talk can be viewed using the following link. https://www.ted.com/speakers/manu_peni

What makes this story a significant impact is that, the MRP was received and immediately nominated to be presented at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences Research Symposium at the Divine Word University (DWU) on 4th October 2024. A week later visiting practitioners and experts in development field from World Vision PNG National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Consortium invited Troy to present at the 1st National WASH Symposium at Apec Haus Port Moresby from 16th – 18th October. Today, at the time of writing, Troy has been invited by Dr Irene Semos to co-author his work with expert professionals from Australia and PNG. Dr Semos is a Papua New Guinean Indigenous and Methodologies Researcher and Melanesian Epidemiologist, who lived and work in Australia with ARC Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Futures. The mission of Project Sepik and its goals are relevant in today’s search for contemporary PNG challenges which includes climate change.

AMPLIFYING RELEVANCE & VISIBILITY OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE

Dr Almah Tararia, a Papua New Guinean, Doctor of law, shared her respect for the work of Project Sepik. She is based in Canberra, Australia and works with Sustineo (www.sustineo.com.au), an organization specialized in high-caliber technical and management services that make a positive social and economic impact.

Dr. Alma met Emmanuel and shared with him how she uses the work of Project Sepik to educate on cultural governance. She teaches advanced Tok Pisin to Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade- Australian Defence Force (DFAT-ADF) officers. She continues to use materials from Project Sepik to support sessions which she call 'understanding society' using Tok Pisin to explain complex concepts such as place, identity, livelihoods, and cultural governance. First year students of PNG Studies and International Relations at DWU also use Project Sepik produced advocacy and awareness materials and complete end of semester projects based on these materials and practices. Additionally, Dr. Christiane Falck, a post-doctoral researcher and lecturer at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany use Project Sepik Materials. Dr. Christiane also wrote an additional paper based on the Supreme Sukundimi Declaration which was produced by Project Sepik. <https://researchonline.jcu.edu.au/78499/>

THE STRATEGY OF FACILITATING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS STARTS WITH FINANCIAL LITERACY

The work is tied to the National Superannuation Fund (Nasfund), a financial Institution and superfund. Nasfund's Nasfund Customer Savings and Loans (NCSL) met with Project Sepik on two occasions to collaborate. The collaboration is for Project Sepik to facilitate processes and also design Miro Small to Medium Enterprise(MSME) and Small to Medium Enterprise(SME) products and services for NCSL for their customers.

MANAGING CHALLENGES

Over the past year, Project Sepik faced multiple challenges, including limited resources, external pressures and internal coordination issues. As a small organization, operating in extremely volatile condition and context, Project Sepik suffered shocks which should end the life of an organization. With limited resources at its disposal, Project Sepik had to be strategic in their decision-making and resource allocation. Horizontal management strategy adequately fostered a cohesive team environment that maximized efficiency and effectiveness in executing activities. The organization's ability to adapt, innovate and collaborate within a small team setting exemplifies their commitment to excellence and dedication to making a positive impact in the community. Moving forward, Project Sepik's success serves as a testament to the power of effective management practices in driving organizational success, even in the face of adversity.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS AND CHAMPIONS EVERYWHERE ON THIS PLANET

"Descriptive words fail to illustrate how much the generosity and support from Investors, Collaborative partners and other champions means to us. We are filled with gratitude for their voice, hand and heart which created a synergy, best fit for Guardians of Sepik River and its people." "Thank you for being an important part of our organization. Your involvement created a positive and remarkable change in the organization itself and impact on the world in which we try to be part of the change." "We are humbled by your generosity and thankful for your commitment to our cause".



"Your support allowed us to reach more than 2.3 Million people with our messages. More than 1.0 Million people have responded to our messages. Our voice was heard and our messages shared at more than 10 influential spaces. More than 25 influential people with various authority and dominance were able to speak for the river, speak for the organization and about our campaign.



Project Sepik Volunteers participated at 4 different national gatherings. 6 volunteers learnt new skills and participated as documentary movie review and guidance. 2 volunteer participated in the logistics for filming and research. 2 Student Volunteers enrolled at University were supported with their Final year Major Research Project. Both research received praise for the research outcomes.



A total of more than 100 villages along the Sepik continue to be in solidarity in their resistance, our goals.

An estimate of K 15,000.00 was raised at a fundraising event in Port Moresby. This event to take place in 2025.



A total of 30 people with more than 100 years of experiences make up the Volunteer, Board and Staff of Project Sepik are supported by more than 450,000 people of Sepik and Frieda River to carry on the campaign to "Save the Sepik".



Many more thousands in PNG and abroad supports the Campaign to Save the Sepik.



Completed a process to receive funding from a new Funder supporting long term with K450,000.00 annually for three years.

CALL TO ACTION



Donate towards Legal Action on Rights of Nature for Sepik River



Donate towards legal work on Local Level Government (LLG) laws to define standard practice on Free Prior & Informed Consent (FPIC)



Participate in Climate Change Laboratory's shared activities with Brandi Secondary School



Engage with us to design a living strategy for Decolonization efforts in PNG



Collaborate with us in seminars on environmental advocacy and conservation! Explore how culture, traditional knowledge and practices can drive sustainable solutions. Be part of the movement to protect our environment through indigenous wisdom—learn, engage, and take action!

OUR INVALUABLE ASSET -THE PEOPLE INVOLVED

Volunteers: Jack, Leoni, Barth, Darren, Wolfgang, Collis, Matilda, Ashanti, Jemeline, Wendy, Cedric, Jason, Marai, Florence, Casmil, Salvador, Nathan, Troy, Kenneth, Vernon, Peter. **Staff Members:** Issac, John (January to May) Steve (June to December), Ruga, Shyanne, Manu, Mary (January to July). **Board Members:** Anne Barry (January to June), Issac Poulias, Mary Boni (January to July), Meredith Tutumang (January to December), Seline Laho Lohia (January to July), Claire Asi (August to December), Cathy Alex (August to December), Emmanuel Peni (July to December)

FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS

Project Sepik accounts for an estimated annual financial support of K1.2 million from international donors each year. The international donors are: Bread for the World (Germany), Full Circle Foundation (Australia), Nia Tero Foundation (United States), Rain Forest Norway (Norway). In 2024, Project Sepik received a total of K 905,129.85 and expanded a total of K 870,394.30. It is estimated that the 2025 income will be 2 Million Kina.

PROMOTING A SUSTAINED BALANCE OF LIFE

