

## **RSPO New Planting Procedure**

### **Summary Report of HCV and SEIA Planning and Management**

#### **Proposed Roka Mini- Estate**

#### **West New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea**

### **1. Introduction**

This report provides a public summary of management and monitoring recommendations relating to the High Conservation Value (HCV) assessment and Social and Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) undertaken for an area of *ongoing new planting* titled the Roka mini estate (ME), in West New Britain, Papua New Guinea, by New Britain Palm Oil Ltd.

The information presented herein is based on reports encompassing the HCV (Bitou et al 2009) and SEIA (Lovai 2012), namely the following key reports:

- *Evaluation of High Conservation Value Forest of the Proposed Roka Mini-Estate West New Britain Province*. Biatu Bito, Ted Mamu and Tom Diwai Vigus – February 2009 - (The initial assessment of HCV).
- *RSPO based social and environment impact assessment report on NBPOL's proposed new planting areas in WNB*. Narua Lovai. December 2012 - (SEIA for various proposed new planting mini-estate area in WNB, including HCV mitigation and management of Roka areas).
- *Managing & Monitoring High Conservation Values & Social and Environmental Impacts within the Roka Mini Estate*. Ashley Barnes and Sander van den Ende. November 2012 – (Management and monitoring plan for HCV areas and items).

Due consideration has been given to confidential or commercially sensitive data, without compromising the relevance of the information to inform the public of the proposed activities.

The information meets the requirements as stated by RSPO ("*Format for summary report of planning and management*" – May 2010) and includes the following:

- Basic elements of the RSPO requirements for HCV and SEIA.
- Contacts and key NBPOL planning and management personnel.
- Key maps of all proposed Management Areas
- An overview of the management options identified in order to maintain or enhance HCVs and social and environmental issues raised during the assessment.
- Delegation of NBPOL responsibility and sign off on management and mitigation plans.

## 1.1 Organisational information and contacts

New Britain Palm Oil Limited (NBPOL) is a large-scale producer of sustainable palm oil. NBPOL have over 78,000 hectares of planted oil palm plantations across Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

All NBPOL existing operations have been certified under the RSPO scheme. Many of the company's commitments to sustainable development, including the management of HCV's and associated social and environmental issues are outlined in the company's sustainability report (2011/2012). NBPOL will "... *adhere to the precautionary principle for all new developments*" and ensure that "... *there are no plantings on peat, [and that] there is no development on land containing high conservation values*" (NBPOL 2011).

West New Britain Palm (WNB) is wholly owned by the New Britain Palm Oil Limited.

All existing HCVs and social and environmental issues are managed locally by WNB Sustainability Manager, Sander van den Ende and supported by WNB General Manager, Harry Brock.

*Company Address:* New Britain Palm Oil Limited,  
PO Kimbe,  
West New Britain Province  
Paoua New Guinea.

*Contact Person:* Phone / Email

Mr. Sander van denEnde ; svandenende@nbpol.com.pg

Mr. Ashley Barnes: abarnes@nbpol.com.pg

## 1.3 Legal, regulatory and other relevant guidance

Rokahill Ltd. purchased the land comprising the proposed development area from Lavegi landowners in 1989, and subsequently surveyed through the Department of Lands, registered the survey plan and obtained the title over portion 2292 (Certificate of Title Registered Vol. 31 Folio 146.) in September 1992.

NBPOL has entered into an agreement with Rokahill Ltd. to lease this portion for a period of twenty years. At the completion of the sub-lease, the principals of Rokahill Ltd. will have the option to renew the lease with NBPOL or decide to manage the plantation themselves.

All relevant stakeholders including LLG's were informed and included in early discussions and involved in the assessments undertaken throughout the SEIA and HCV process.

The following list of Legal documents and regulatory permits related to the areas were assessed.

- Land Title of Roka Estate

- Survey Plan of Roka Estate
- Rokahill Ltd Record of decision to enter into agreement with NBPOL

## 2. Context of the new planting area

The following section provides background on the proposed area of development

### 2.1 About the Roka mini estate

The proposed Roka ME consists of 287ha of alienated land located to the east of Malalimi Plantation at the junction of the Aum and Kapiura Rivers.

The area was selectively logged in the early 1980's; this would have caused extensive damage to the remaining vegetation as the original forest was Lowland Rainforest dominated by *Eucalyptus deglupta*, *Octomeles sumatrana* and *Pometia pinnata*. (There was no Code of Logging Practice at this time).

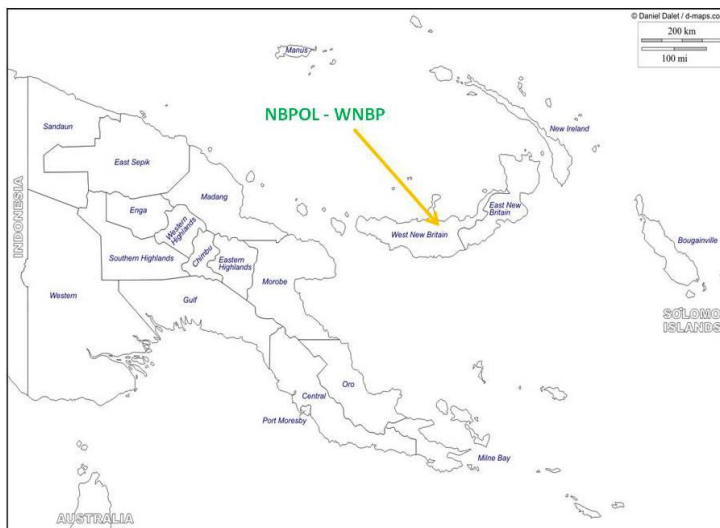
If left untouched the logged over forest would regenerate and be classified as secondary forest for many years, (some estimates state that it would take up to 300 years to regain its original ecological integrity Enright, 1978, Johns, 1986, Ash, 1988.).

A small hill located at the junction of the Aum and the Kapiura Rivers is too rugged to have been logged and contains remnant vegetation.

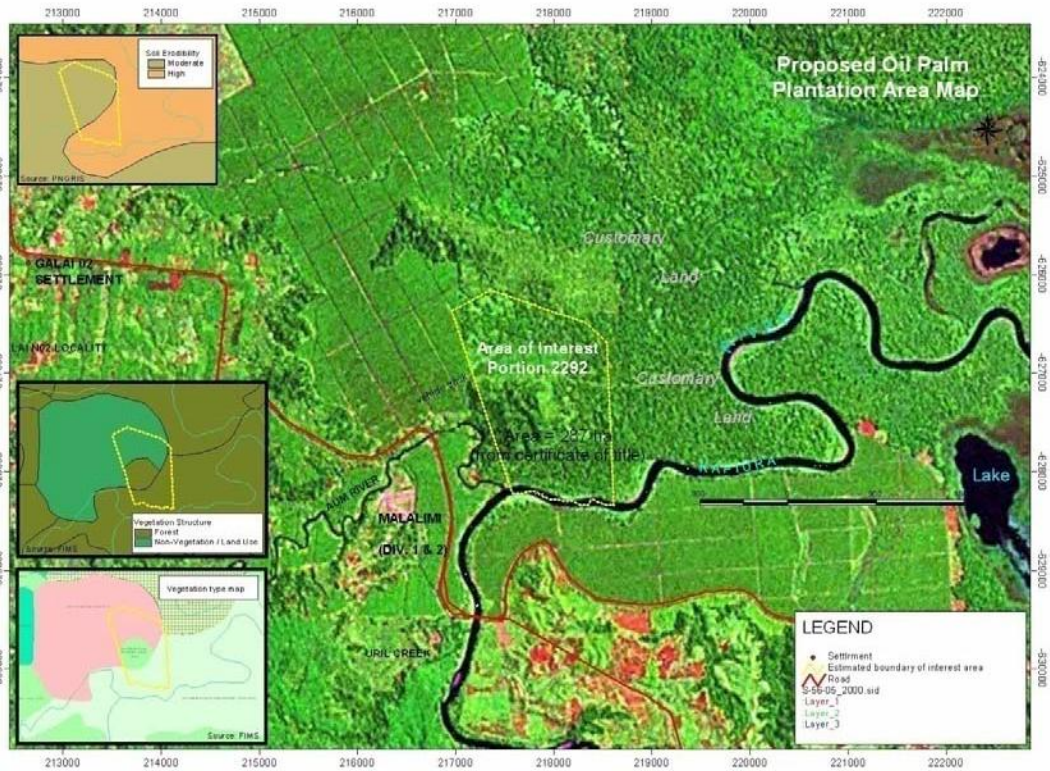
An area of approximately twenty hectares had been planted previously as a smallholder block.

The land ownership and historical land use is detailed below in the SEIA findings (section 4.2).

### 2.2 Location maps



**Map 1 Location of NBPOL WNB in relation to rest of Papua New Guinea.**



**Map 2 Proposed Roka ME area and surrounds**

### 2.3 Time plan for new plantings

The new plantings would commence no less than 30 days after public consultation (via the RSPO website) has passed and once the assessment findings and associated management and monitoring plan has been made available to all stakeholders.

The following presents the sequence of proposed operations leading up to and following RSPO process for approved activity.

**2001-2009** On and off communications with Roka Estate owners regarding their interest in developing the estate

**2009** High Conservation Value Assessment and Social and Environmental Impact Assessments conducted

**2013 August** HCV and SEIA Report peer reviewed by RSPO accredited consultant and Summaries written

**2013 September** HCV, SEIA and Management & Monitoring Reports validated and summarized by Certification Body

**2013 November** All documentation is posted to RSPO Website as per New Planting Procedures.

- 2014 May Relocate all boundary survey pegs for Roka Estate and demarcate Buffer Zones and reserve areas and erect Notices to that effect.
- Survey in-field road & avenue centre lines for full 180 ha.  
Demarcate Buffer Zone and HCV set aside by Clearly marking the edge of the buffer and hcv zone with a picket, brush an 8-metre swath from the edge of the buffer zone **into the plantation**, through the under growth. Divide 180 ha into 10 ha blocks and let bush-felling contracts to clear remaining area.
- 2014 June Cut & form roads with bulldozers. Cut & form Avenues. Cut drains as necessary Gravel sections of roads as necessary (Should be able to start work early after the Wet Season on the pumice soils).  
Develop first 90 ha.  
The tall palms will be removed and the area replanted.  
Plant cover crop.  
Construct bridge over drain.
- 2014 July–Aug Continue cleaning area and develop second 90 ha.  
Transport fertiliser.  
Plant oil palm seedlings for full 180 ha.
- 2014 Aug Maintain plantings.  
Manage buffer zones and HCV set asides as per Habitat Management Plans.
- 2017 Feb Harvesting starts

### 3. RSPO process and procedures

In 2007, NBPOL management resolved to adhere to the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), an oil palm industry regulatory system designed by industry participants, governments and NGOs to promote the responsible production of palm oil. The basic aim of RSPO is to reassure consumers that palm oil can be produced with negligible environmental impact and noticeable socio-economic benefits for host communities and countries.

Principle 7 of the RSPO addresses the establishment of new plantings including mini-estates and has the following key criterion relevant to the HCV and SEIA assessments.

- Criterion 7.1** The undertaking of a comprehensive and participatory independent social and environmental impact assessment prior to establishing new plantings or operations, or expanding existing ones, and that the results are incorporated into planning, management and operations.
- Criterion 7.3** That new plantings (since November 2005) have not replaced primary forest or any area required to maintain or enhance one or more High Conservation Value.
- Criterion 7.4** Extensive planting is avoided on steep terrain, and/or on marginal and fragile soils.

**Criterion 7.5** No new plantings are established on local peoples' land without their free, prior and informed consent, which is dealt with through a documented system that enables indigenous peoples, local communities and other stakeholders to express their views through their own representative institutions.

**Criterion 7.6** The local people are compensated for any agreed land acquisitions and relinquishment of rights, subject to their free, prior and informed consent and negotiated agreements.

RSPO Board adopted a new plantings procedure in January 2010. It outlines the process that must be followed in the identification and acquisition of new planting areas followed by their preparation and development.

The process consists of three major sequentially executed activities.

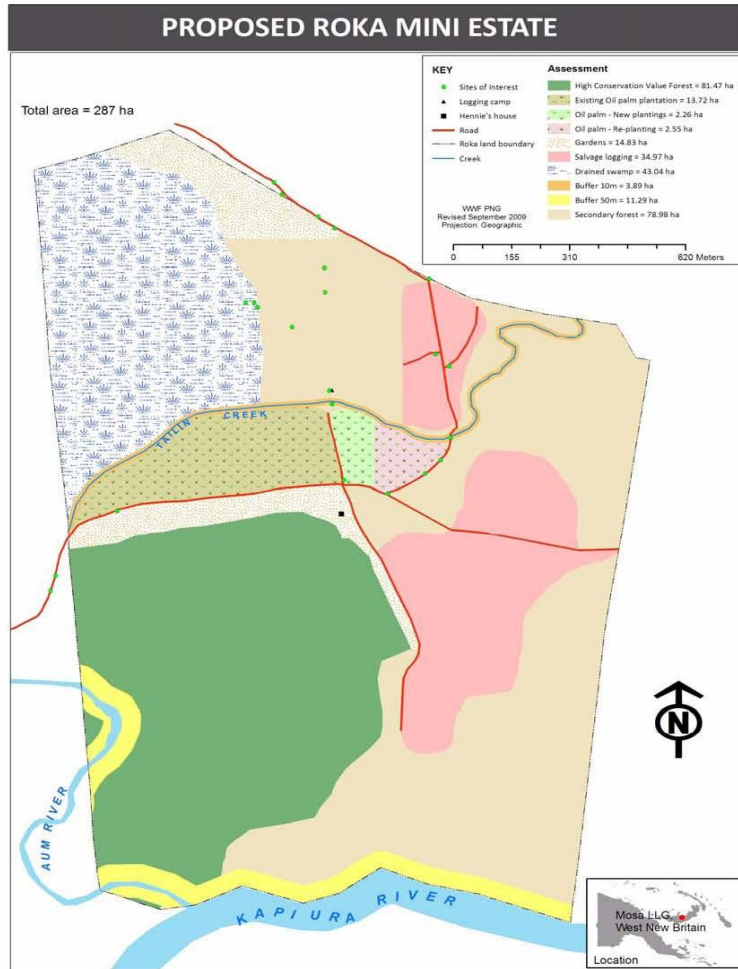
1. The first step is to confirm if the area was logged before November 2005 and perform a rapid assessment of its conservation status. No planting is allowed on any forested area logged after this date.
2. The second activity is to carry out an in-depth evaluation of the high conservation values (HCV) in the area. The purpose of this assessment is to identify ecologically sensitive areas and species that may be affected by the development and determine the net amount of land that can be planted with oil palm with minimum environmental degradation.
3. The final activity is to examine the predevelopment environmental and socio-economic situation, identify potential environmental and socio-economic impacts in the event that oil palm planting proceeds and recommend measures to mitigate, monitor and manage these impacts.

#### **4. Recommendations for management and monitoring**

A summary of recommendations for mitigation and monitoring management measures for HCV, environmental and socio-economic impacts has been detailed in a plan of management (APPENDIX 1 – socio-economic / APPENDIX 2 – HCV/environmental).

A map identifying key management area, including High Conservation Value sites and associated buffer zones has been prepared for the project site (Map 3).

Map 3 Final Classification and Identification Of HCVF Proposed Roka Mini-Estate



Draft HCVF Survey proposed Roka Mini-Estate

page 22

## 5.1 HCV management

The suggested mode of mitigation for potential impacts on identified HCV items is for NBPOL to enter into an agreement with Mrs Walum which includes the lease of the whole of the Roka Estate. Mrs Walaun and her mother, Boni, have been made aware of the HCV findings of the assessment and are in agreement with them.

This agreement included the HCVF designated area and buffer zones (at a reduced rent) to ensure that the integrity of the whole Roka Estate is protected by the company, as opposed to the current situation where Mrs Walaun is a single

landowner the midst of pressure of outsiders wanting to use the land illegally for different purposes.

In addition, Mrs Walaun would undertake not to use the HCVF area except for small scale ecotourism activities such as bird watching and NPBOL would Identify through signage and other means that they have control over the Estate (once the agreement has been signed).

The following HCV management and mitigation measures have been suggested and incorporated where relevant into the management plan.

- Restrict and monitor the activities of company employees and block holders, and actively discouraging hunting in the designated HCVF area.
- The Roka Estate Project has a South Western boundary of the Aum River and the Southern boundary the Kapiura River. A 50m wide river buffer zone would be established and managed as a protected reserve area and remain unplanted and be managed by NBPOL. Buffer zones would have trees along the boundary marked, be known to employees, contractors and the general public by the placement of several large clear signs. Buffer Zones would be replanted with endemic species as required, and be regularly monitored by NBPOL in order to maintain their environmental integrity and carry out remedial and/or disciplinary action as necessary.
- NBPOL would spread empty fruit bunches (EFB) from the mills on the plantation fields as a method of retaining a good level of organic matter in the soil. Good organic matter levels maintain soil structure and also retains water thus reducing erosion and also provides a natural source of nutrients.
- A program could be implemented to educate local people on the fauna laws of PNG [Fauna (Protection and Control) Act, 1976] governing certain species and traditional modes of hunting.
- Proper educational awareness should be conducted amongst employees and widely in the local community to increase awareness of the impacts of invasive or introduced animals (cats and dogs, Black rat - *Rattus rattus*) and plants (*Piper aducum*, etc). Information should be provided to the people about the impacts of introduced animals on native fauna, such as feral cats and dogs.
- Ensure that corporate policies that operate in the project area are sufficiently strong to be a powerful driver in maintaining existing flora and fauna. Establish and implement internal policies that will safeguard the fauna and flora within the project site.
- Establish a monitoring program that regularly assesses the population of threatened species to ensure that the biodiversity values of the designated HCVF site at Roka is being sustained. (There is potential here to combine the ecotourism activities of Mahonia Na Dari or other NGO with the monitoring programme).
- Discuss with Mrs Walaun the importance of respecting The RSPO Principles and Criteria and for Mrs Walaun to consider establishing a small “Future



Use/Fauna/Flora Reserve” of some 10-20 Ha located adjacent to the Tailern buffer zone.

- Investigate, with Mrs Walaun, the potential for gaining Payments for Environmental Services (PES) for the HCVF area; this is a process in development, which could give Mrs Walaun additional income and offset NBPOL’s rent.

#### **4.2 SEIA management**

The following management measures have been proposed to support mitigation of the potential social and environmental impacts, as identified during the SEIA.

##### *Management of potential environmental impacts*

- Make sure all buffer zones and HCV reserves are clearly marked and left intact for the duration of the ME or CP.
- Ensure that site preparation, access road construction and drainage installation is carried out in accordance with best field practices.
- Enrich species diversity in buffer areas.
- Maximise interconnectivity of buffer areas.
- Carry out a water quality monitoring in selected nearby watercourses before site preparation and six monthly thereafter.
- Ensure appropriate disposal of all wastes generated on the ME.

##### *Management of potential social aspects*

- Validate land boundaries and uses.
- Resolve outstanding land disputes and verify availability of land for other uses.
- Confirm certificate of registration under the Companies Act.
- Verify that all the family members are kept informed of agreement negotiations.
- Ascertain that all members understand the Lease Agreement before signing it.

#### **5. Internal Responsibility**

There are essentially two proponents working in a joint venture.

- a.) Rokahill Limited as registered Company operating in PNG

b.) b.) New Britain Palm Oil Ltd (NBPOL)

NBPOL will undertake and finance all works as per the Management Guidelines and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the Lease Agreement with Rokahill Ltd. All works are detailed in the Management Guidelines and responsibilities are described in detail within the Term and Condition of the Sub-Lease Agreement and are implemented as per the Organization and persons detailed below:

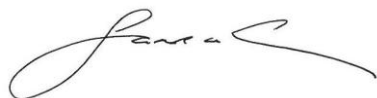
**Table 3. Organisational personnel involved in planning and implementation.**

<b>Project phase</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Initial contact	Lands Department	Establish unsolicited contact. Explain basic conditions. Assess initial viability of project.	Ashley Barnes, Head of Lands Department
Preliminary investigation	Sustainability Department	Preliminary HCV Preliminary SEIA	Sander van den Ende, Sustainability Manager
Signing of Lease agreement	Company Secretary and Lands Department	Formalize agreement between the parties	Teup Goleduh, Company Secretary and Ashley Barnes
New Planting Procedure	Lands and Sustainability	Full HCV and SEIA by accredited RSPO assessors	Ashley Barnes and Sander van den Ende
New Planting Procedure	Lands and Sustainability	Management and Monitoring Report	Ashley Barnes and Sander van den Ende
New Planting Procedure	Lands and Sustainability	Validation and Summaries of HCV, SEIA and Management and Monitoring Report by CB	Ashley Barnes and Sander van den Ende
New Planting Procedure	Lands and Sustainability	Posting of Public Summaries and Notification onto RSPO website	Ashley Barnes and Sander van den Ende
Implementation of Project	Plantation and Sustainability	Develop project and ensure Management & Monitoring Plan is implemented	Group Manager, Malilimi Sander van den Ende

This following key NBPOL-WNB Management staff assume responsibility for implementing report recommendations, including the HCV / SEIA management and monitoring plan.

**Sustainability Manager**

**Sander van den Ende**



**General Manager**

**Harry Brock**



## 6. References

### 7.1 Key references used in the SEIA / HCV

Dekker, A.J.F.M., 2012, Draft Reports on High Conservation Value Forest Assessment of Proposed Portions 131c/132c

HVCF National Working Group. (2005). High Conservation Value Forest Toolkit for PNG. PNG FSC Inc.

Leary, T. and T, Mamu. (2004). *Conserving Papua New Guinea's forest fauna through community planning*. (Second edition). WWF Kikori Integrated Conservation and Development Project, Papua New Guinea.

Koczberski, G, 2001, Improving productivity of the smallholder oil palm sector in PNG: a socio-economic study of the

RSPO, March 2008, RSPO PNG NIWG Principles and Criteria, RSPO. RSPO, May 2010, RSPO New Planting Procedures - Guidance Document, RSPO.

RSPO-PNG NIWG, The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) PNG National Implementation Working Group (PNG NIWG), Indicators and guidelines required to establish the RSPO Principles and Criteria (March 2006).

Saulei S.M (1992) Secondary succession and regeneration of tropical rainforest. In Kapoor-Vijay, Appanah S & Saulei S.M (eds. 1992). *Tropical forest ecology and management in the Asia-Pacific region: Proceedings of regional workshop held at Lae, Papua New Guinea*. Commonwealth Science Council, UK.

Vigus, T., 2009a, Draft report on High Conservation Value Forest Assessment of Roka Estate, Report to OPRA, Dami, West New Britain Province, PNG.

Vigus, T., 2009b, Draft report on Social Environment Impact Assessment of Roka Estate, Report to OPRA, Dami, West New Britain Province, PNG.

## **Appendix 1. Socio-economic Mitigation and Monitoring Plan**

Potential impact	Management / mitigation measure	Reference management documents	Monitoring plan	Responsibility
<p><b>Salvage logging (negative) -</b> The current project proposal and interaction with NBPOL has stimulated salvage logging which is impacting existing forested areas.</p>	<p>Inform Mrs Walaun and stakeholders that the objective of the project is to identify areas important to conservation (HCV) and to ensure these areas are not logged.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Awareness meeting to explain to Mrs Walaun, family and workers of the need for a conservation Management Plan.</p>	<p>Dianne Mirio - NBPOL Community Engagement &amp; Development officer</p>
<p><b>Health &amp; Nutrition (negative) -</b> The project will reduce land available for subsistence farming. Negative effects to the health of the director's and their families could include the increase consumption of alcohol, tobacco and betel nut. Less time may be spent in gardening if the income from the oil palm is solely relied upon to bought store goods; this may lead to unbalanced diet and associated health problems.</p>	<p>NBPOL has included ample gardening area into the land use management plan (See Map 3) and has encouraged the joint venture partners to maintain this practice and related dietary habits.</p>	<p>Habitat Management Plan</p>	<p>Bi annual inspections</p>	<p>Sustainability</p>

<p><b>Cultural Heritage (negative) -</b> During the HCV Assessment a significant historical and archaeological site (Sacred/Tambu/Ples Masalai) was identified by the block holders and recommendations were made for its protection and also included inland use management plan as the HCV set aside (see Map).</p>	<p>Throughout the duration of the project the NPBOL Project Manager will maintain the integrity of this area, compliance will be checked quarterly by the Sustainability Department</p>	<p>Habitat Management Plan</p>	<p>Bi annual inspections</p>	<p>Sustainability</p>
<p>The project will increase local human presence and could acerbate the hunting within areas designated as HCV in this study.</p>	<p>Awareness and enforcement of restrictions. Control entry of unauthorized people. Ensure buffer zones and HCV set aside are not encroached upon.</p>	<p>Habitat Management Plan</p>	<p>Bi annual inspections</p>	<p>Sustainability</p>
<p><b>Family legacy (positive) -</b> The project will allow Heni Walum to carry out her late father's plan thus realizing his vision for his family as well as her own recognition of her responsibilities to the Roka Estate, for herself, her family and future generations.</p>	<p>Implement the original idea of Februar Walum.</p>	<p>Project agreement</p>		

<p><b>Income generation (positive)</b> - The project will result in a steady and substantial income to Heni Walum and her dependents.</p>	<p>Inform Mrs. Walaun of all joint venture options as per NBPOL's current practice including land lease, percent royalty and share options.</p>	<p>Project agreement</p>		<p>A. Barnes, NBPOL Head of Mini Estates</p>
<p><b>Job creation (positive)</b> - The project may provide a number of different positions that may be suitable for locals, if they meet fair standards of recruitment.</p>	<p>Over 25 laborers will have full time employment when the project is in full production and further casual opportunities will occur when specific tasks are required to be done eg loose fruit collection during times of high crop. Additional positions as tractor operators, leading hands, and supervisors will be available for those with suitable qualifications and experience. Work will be awarded on basis of merit and in compliance with our Equal Opportunities Policy</p>	<p>Equal Opportunity Policy</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>NBPOL Malilimi Plantation Manager to assist in selection of suitable labourers</p>
<p><b>Squatters (positive)</b> - The project will help control the strong influx of people affecting the Roka Estate.</p>	<p>Enforce land ownership and agreed land use plan resulting from this report.</p>	<p>Habitat Management Plan</p>	<p>Bi annual inspections</p>	<p>Sustainability</p>

<p><b>Road Access and Communication (positive) -</b> The project will provide infrastructure in the form of improved transport and infrastructure, enabling the community to have greater access to services and markets.</p>	<p>Existing internal roads will be improved and new internal roads will be established.</p>	<p>TASK SHEET #0/03 ROAD AND DRAINAGE ALIGNMENT of MG01 New Development.</p>		
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## **Appendix 2. HCV / Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan**

Potential impact	Management / mitigation measure	Management Document	Monitoring Plan	Responsibility
<p><b>Habitat loss and ecological impacts on flora and fauna (negative)</b> - The conversion of secondary forests with refuge of unlogged forest will reduce habitat for endemics (11), CITES listed (7). It is accepted that to plant 180 ha. of oil palm the existing vegetation must be removed. This natural vegetation will be replaced by a mono-culture of oil palm and will result in a loss of habitat and associated biodiversity.</p>	<p>Ensure that HCV and buffer zones designated in this report are conserved. With the remaining 112 ha, left as a reserve (and predominantly a mountain), and with 5 ha. as the owner's garden, bird and butterfly species will have breeding areas available adjacent to the oil palm plantings. There will remain large areas of rainforest to the South of the project. This will assist in providing adequate habitat and food for displaced fauna.</p>	<p>Habitat Management Plan</p>	<p>Annual - Establish monitoring program that assesses population of threatened species to ensure that the biodiversity values of the designated HCVF site at Roka is being sustained.</p>	<p>NBPOL Sustainability Manager</p>
	<p>Consider legislating the HCVF site within the project area to be a protected area under the PNG Protected Areas Act.</p>			
	<p>Education program for local people on the fauna laws of PNG [Fauna (Protection and Control) Act, 1976] governing certain species and traditional modes of hunting.</p>	<p>Awareness Training Plan and Meeting Attendance Records</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Dianne Mirio - NBPOL Community Engagement &amp; Development officer</p>

	Proper educational awareness to be conducted amongst employees and widely in the local community to increase awareness of the impacts of invasive or introduced animals (cats and dogs, Black rat - <i>Rattus rattus</i> ) and plants ( <i>Piper aducum</i> , etc).	Awareness Training Plan and Meeting Attendance Records	Bi annual inspection	Dianne Mirio - NBPOL Community Engagement & Development officer
<b>Soil and bank erosion (negative)</b> - Erosion affects from clearing natural vegetation, building roads, drains infrastructure and planting	For reading implement all best practices in relation to material, camber, drain.	TASK SHEET #0/12 ROAD FORMING, TASK SHEET #0/13 ROAD SURFACING		
	No planting on slopes above 25 degrees. No fragile soils have been identified in the area to be planted in Roka.			NBPOL, Malilimi Plantation Manager
	The Aum and Kapiura Rivers will be buffered from oil palm plantings with a 50 metre wide no clear zone between the Roka Estate boundary and the river.			NBPOL Sustainability Manager
<b>Waste generation and disposal (negative)</b> - A number of waste streams would be generated from the proposed activity including pesticides, land development waste, building construction	Solid waste discharge - The standard waste management practices as followed within the plantations of the Malilimi Plantation Group will be adopted for this Project.	NBPOL EMS Manual, Jan 2004, (MG 14 Compound Practices and MG 15 Waste Disposal Practices)		NBPOL Sustainability Manager

<p>waste, and domestic refuse, creating potential pollution into the surrounding environments.</p>	<p>Pesticide - Used pesticide containers will be disposed of following the Australian Farm Safety Councils Guidelines recommendations. There is a specially designed and secure Pesticides Store located within the NBPOL Malilimi Plantation office/store complex.</p>	<p>NBPOL EMS Manual, Jan 2004 (NBPOL EMS Manual, Jan 2004 (MG 03 Pesticide Practices)</p>	<p>All pesticides are mixed at a dedicated pesticide Shed at Malilimi plantation compound and containers to moved into and out of Roka daily.</p>	<p>NBPOL, Malilimi Plantation Manager</p>
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