

Crocodile Meets Copper Mine

Project Profile



Project sponsored by the World Association for
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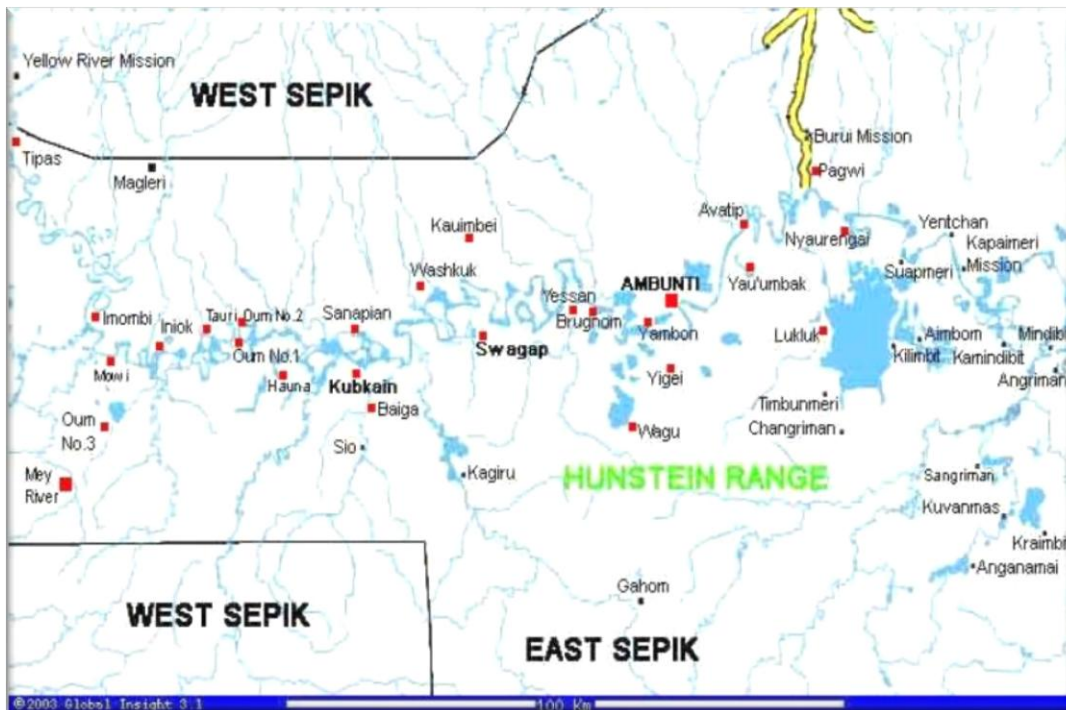
[www.waccglobal.org]



Sepik Wetlands Management Initiative (SWMI) is a local NGO based in Ambunti, East Sepik Province and has been working on both wetlands management and community development projects in the upper and middle Sepik River regions for over 12 years. The staff of SWMI is mostly locals mainly from Ambunti while the technical support team are from various organisations working directly with SWMI in the Sepik.

SWMI has been receiving continuous funding and technical support from various local and international organisations concerned with wetlands management and community livelihood improvement. SWMI has played key roles in successful delivery of number community projects along the Sepik River which are bringing significant income to the local communities.

SWMI has conducted village resources mapping, community development needs and natural resources management planning for over 50 villages along the Sepik. It has been involved in conducting trainings for local communities in partnership with other partner organisations. SWMI is working with some of its key partners to increase its manpower and vital resources capacities.



Villages on the Sepik River

PAPUA NEW GUINEA & MIDDLE SEPIK RIVER



Middle Sepik River

50 villages

10,000 villagers

Sepik River is the longest river on New Guinea (1126 km)

Carvings considered to be among the best in the world

Called Papua New Guinea's "Cultural Treasure House"

Independent State of Papua New Guinea

Population: 6.1 million

Capital: Port Moresby

Currency: Kina

Religion:
Christianity, Indigenous beliefs

Life Expectancy (years):
66, 61

GNI (per capita): \$1,300 USD



RELATED FACTS

- Villagers rely heavily on the Sepik River for transportation, water and food.
- Sepik carvings are on display in museums around the world including the Metropolitan Museum in New York and The Ethnographic Museum in Basel, Switzerland.
- Papua New Guinea has an area of 462,840 km² which is about the size of California.
- The official languages are English, Motu and Tok Pisin (pidgin).
- There are approximately 860 other languages spoken in Papua New Guinea.
- The major exports are gold, copper, forest products, coffee beans, cocoa, and coconut meat.
- The major industries are agriculture, fishing, mining, petroleum, forestry and manufacturing.



SOURCES

Background Note: Papua New Guinea <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2797.htm>

Doing Business in Papua New Guinea <http://www.pitic.org.au/pdfs/bigspng.pdf>

HRW World Atlas - Papua New Guinea http://go.hrw.com/atlas/norm_hm/papuanwg.htm

Internet World Stats: Usage and Population Statistics <http://www.internetworldstats.com/pacific.htm>

Papua New Guinea: Sepik River Region http://www.pacificislandtravel.com/png/about_destin/sepik.html

Unicef - At a glance: Papua New Guinea http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/papuang_statistics.html