



# FINAL REPORT BIODIVERSITY (FLORA) SURVEY FOR VARIRATA NATIONAL PARK MAY 2018





## **Report Prepared by:**

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in conjunction with Papua New Guinea's Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) formally partnered in June 2015 to develop and implement landmark biodiversity а conservation initiative for Protected Areas in PNG's Central Province (JICA, 2018). This initiative is formally referred to by JICA & CEPA as: 'The Project for Biodiversity Conservation through Implementation of the PNG Policy on Protected Areas' (herein referred to as the 'Project').

The Project has been specifically developed to align with PNG's existing Policy on Protected Areas (PPA, 2014) and the UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Program, which adopts a strong focus on improving the livelihood of people while concurrently promoting sustainable conservation practices. The key objective of the Project is to establish an effective 'Conservation Management Framework' for Protected Areas through a combination of institutional strengthening, capacity building, landholder engagement, sound science and investment in infrastructure (JICA, 2018).

In February 2017, the Indo-pacific Conservation Alliance (IPCA) was commissioned by JICA on behalf of CEPA to undertake Biodiversity Surveys of fauna and flora within VNP to document the Park's key taxa and concurrently provide a thorough appraisal of the Park's current ecological condition and habitat quality.

Biodiversity surveys were conducted over a twelve period commencing in mid April 2017 and were concluded in early April 2018. This has enabled the unique opportunity to collect rigorous data sets for key taxa allowing for seasonal (monsoon and dry season) variability. The results of these surveys comprise a comprehensive assessment of biota in VNP.

## **Project Objectives**

Seven key Project objectives established through contract and consultation between JICA and IPCA broadly framed the parameters of the Biodiversity Surveys. They comprise:

- (i) Assess species richness of key taxa that occur within the park and buffer zone through conduct of a detailed literature review and intensive field survey program;
- (ii) Prepare a habitat classification map of key vegetation types within the park using satellite imagery and results from field surveys;
- (iii) Prepare species inventories for key taxa;
- (iv) Produce Field Guide Brochures for key taxa commonly encountered within the park (birds, mammals, invertebrates, plants, amphibians and reptiles);
- (v) Provide opportunity to capacity build with CEPA staff, which was extended to train local Koiari to assist in the conduct of biodiversity field surveys; and
- (vi) Prepare an Invasive Species Management Plan for introduced taxa (primarily Rusa Deer and invasive plants) that occur within and adjacent to VNP.
- (vii) Prepare a Monitoring Plan that identifies and prioritises monitoring programs which will provide Park Managers with information critical to improving the environmental management of VNP.

This standalone document presents key findings associated with the project objectives detailed in items (i) to (iii) for the botanical survey (flora) component of scope. Reporting requirements for items (iv), (vi) and (vii) have been prepared as separate standalone documents (IPCA, 2018a; 2018c; 2018d).

## **Visitor Amenity**

Varirata National Park (VNP) is the most visited protected area in the country and represents a conservation success story. It is strongly supported by surrounding landowners and is patronised by a broad cross section of people. VNP provides a network of trails, popular swimming holes, camping and picnic areas, and scenic lookouts that provide sweeping views of Port Moresby and the escarpment.

The park currently receives a modest number of visitors comprising local Koiari, Port Moresby residents seeking recreational opportunities for picnics, bushwalking and camping, lotu lain (church parishioners), bushwalkers, eco-tourists (particularly local and international birdwatchers), and visiting scientists. It is also used regularly as a field site for tertiary education by local universities.

Its close proximity to Port Moresby provides enormous potential for a broad demographic to experience VNP's biodiversity and appreciate the broader environmental values provided by the Park.

## **Cultural Landscape**

The buffer zone surrounding the park remains a traditional Koiari hunting ground with hunters targeting wallaby, deer, wild pig and cassowary. Koiari Burial grounds, rock engravings and cave paintings located on the lower slopes of the park buffer zone ensures the park and surrounding area remain part of an important cultural landscape that warrants protection.

#### Other Environmental Values

In addition to VNP's established biodiversity and cultural values, the Park's relatively high forest cover mitigates against runoff, sedimentation of waterways and erosion. Neighbouring communities downstream of the park are reliant on naturally occurring spring water as their primary source of drinking water. So to the wider Port

Moresby populous, which benefits from the Park's catchment and its contribution to water quality and water supply for the Port Moresby power grid courtesy of the Rouna 1 and Sirinumu Dam hydropower schemes.

# Vegetation Associations & Key Habitats

The Park contains three key vegetation associations comprising the following five key habitats:

- (i) Primary rainforest (medium-crowned lowland hill forest) including old regrowth forest (approximately 80% of the Park);
- (ii) Secondary forest dominated by Casuarina (*Gymnostoma papuana*) (approximately 18% of the Park);
- (iii) Eucalypt savannah (<2% of the Park);
- (iv) Aquatic habitats (streams and lakes); and
- (v) Disturbed habitats (landscaped gardens, roadside verges and other disturbed areas).

Medium-crowned lowland hill forest includes a rich diversity of tree species with oaks (Fagaceae), particularly Castanopsis acuminatissima and Lithocarpus celibicus often occurring along ridgelines. Forest structure is typically characterised by a closed canopy 25-30 m high, a dense understory of shrubs, small trees and lianas.

Secondary forest communities are dominated by Casuarina (*Gymnostoma papuana*) and the extent of these forests within the Park is remarkable. Through natural forest succession this habitat has expanded by more than 200 hectares in less than 50 years. Close proximity of a forest seed bank, an absence of fire and limited poaching of forest resources have largely facilitated the successful expansion of secondary forests within VNP.

At less than 2% of the Park's area, eucalypt savannah is poorly represented despite being a common habitat at low elevations in Central Province. It is however, important ecologically as several species with a restricted range in PNG only occur in these habitats. They include Ghost Gum (Corymbia papuana), Grey Gum (E. tereticornis) White Gum (E. alba), Weeping Paperbark (Melaleuca leucadendron) and the cycad (Cycas campestris), which is a regional endemic. Increasing the Park's footprint to cover a greater area of eucalypt savannah would comprise a valuable conservation initiative.

The aquatic habitats within the Park comprise Nairogo Creek and its tributaries, and the Lake Lifilikatabu complex. Several species are restricted in their distribution throughout the Park given their dependence on aquatic habitats. These include a species of sedge (*Eleocharis* sp.) from the lake and *Neonauclea* sp a medium sized riparian shrub and a native species from the genus *Impatiens*, which are largely confined to watercourses within the park.

Disturbed habitats including landscaped gardens of the Park's picnic areas and roadside verges are dominated by weed species and naturalised grasses.

## **VNP's Botanical Diversity**

PNG's tropical forests sit within the greater 'Papuasia Region' and are widely recognised as a major centre of plant diversity (Takeuchi, 2003b). Estimates of the New Guinea Island's plant diversity are significant and range from 11,000 (Collins et al. 1991) for PNG to 20,000-25,000 species for West Papua (Supriatna 1999).

Preparation of a species checklist for the known flora of PNG is currently in progress and comprises approximately 1,800 genera and 13,500 species of vascular plants (James, pers.comm). There is no doubt that these figures will rise given significant knowledge gaps associated with PNG's flora which remains poorly collected (Takeuchi, 2003b).

The first listing of vascular plant species from the Park is presented in this report and

currently contains 157 vascular plant families, 581 genera and 1,126 species. The checklist does include a number of taxa identified only to morpho-species. It is therefore likely that some of these are duplicates, however it is estimated that approximately 150 species of ferns, at least eight species of conifers, and between 700 and 900 species of flowering plants occur within VNP.

In broader context, the diversity of flora represented by species accounts from the Park to date is extraordinary. This survey has demonstrated that VNP, which currently only covers 1,063 ha and has negligible range in elevation (630 to 833 m) contains representatives from most of PNG's plant families, nearly a third of the vascular plant genera, and nearly 10% of PNG's vascular plant species. This represents a remarkable proportion of PNG's plant biodiversity. It is also expected that with further targeted field surveys, additional species records for flora will most certainly be added to the Park's checklists with the potential for describing species new to science considered to be very high.

# Species with Scheduled Conservation Significance

Six species of plants scheduled with conservation significance under the IUCN Red List are included in the Checklist.

One species is classified as Critically Endangered (Halfordia papuana) while a second species; Flindersia pimenteliana is scheduled as Endangered. Halfordia papuana is a synonym for H. kendack, which is widely distributed throughout PNG occurring in Morobe, Western Highlands, Eastern Highlands, Southern Highlands, Western, Central and New Britain Provinces. The IUCN assessment for this species requires revision because this plant is not considered to be under threat.

Neither *H. kendack* or *F. pimenteliana* were collected from the Park during the current surveys, although *F. pimenteliana* was

previously confirmed by Hopkins & Hisao (1994) as occurring within the Park.

Similarly, the distribution of *F. pimenteliana* is also widespread throughout PNG as this tree species occurs with medium crowned hill forest. The listing of this species in the IUCN Red List is also considered questionable.

Of the remaining four species (*Cycas campestris; Hopea forbesii; Myristica globosa;* and *Helicia albiflora*) all are scheduled as Endangered.

H. albiflora is commonly associated with Castanopsis and Nothofagus forest communities and has a broad distribution across PNG. Little is known regarding the population status of Myristica globosa and both species are considered to be 'low risk' under the 'Near Threatened' category.

Cycas campestris is endemic to PNG with its range largely confined to low altitudes in the Central Province. Habitat loss and frequent fire regimes are the primary threats to this species. Given that VNP contains less than 2% of eucalypt savannah habitat increasing the Park's footprint to include a greater proportion of savannah would be a tangible measure in affording a greater level of protection to this regionally endemic species.

The Dipterocarps (Family Dipterocarpaceae) are highly sought after by the logging industry given their high value as timber species. Hopea forbesii is native to the island of New Guinea (including West Papua) and has a broad distribution within PNG from Milne Bay Province to the Sepik and Western Provinces. It has been subjected to an estimated 25% decline in population in the last three generations due to loss of habitat and logging. These impacts have been most severe in Central and Milne Bay Provinces. As such, the IUCN indicate that this species is borderline 'Vulnerable'.

## **Introduced Species**

The introduced flora of VNP includes 51 species with six serious invasive species. The remaining 45 species of introduced plants with in Park are common non-invasive weeds and include the species of grasses that comprise the lawns around the picnic and housing areas and as well as many of the common weeds found which also occur in road verges and currently pose little threat to the native biota of VNP.

The six species of ecological concern comprise: Lantana (Lantana camara), Spiderwort (*Tradescantia* spp.) the African Tulip Tree (Spathodea campanulata) and Hemp Vine (Mikania micrantha). The remaining two species Clidemia (Miconia crenata) and Spiked Pepper (Piper aduncum) are well established in the Park. Clidemia in particular is a dominant groundcover in secondary forests with potential significantly impact floristic diversity and processes of forest succession. The Invasive Species Management Plan (IPCA, 2018d) and Environmental Monitoring Plan 2018a) detail further recommendations regarding the challenges associated with containing and managing these species in the Park.

At least four species of introduced and highly invasive plants also currently occur in areas surrounding the Park - on the Sogeri Plateau or in the Laloki Valley. These species include: Giant Sensitive Plant (Mimosa pigra), Sanchezia (Sanchezia speciosa), White Angel's Trumpet (Brugmansia candida) and the Mexican Sunflower (Tithonia diversifolia). ΑII are characteristically aggressive and have the potential to cause significant ecological impacts to the native floristic assemblages of the Park. Preventing establishment of these species in VNP is a significantly preferable option ecologically economically as opposed to attempting to manage infestations within the Park should they become established.

## **Ecological Value of VNP**

The expansion of secondary and primary forests combined with having largely avoided the negative ecological and social impacts associated with broad scale deforestation, and regular fire regimes adjacent typical in areas to metropolitan centres across the country has ensured that the Park's ecological integrity has been largely maintained since it's gazettal in 1973. This is remarkable given the Park's close proximity to Port Moresby and surrounding communities, which have concurrently undergone significant increases in population during the same period.

The Park's incredibly rich biodiversity, environmental values, cultural significance and educational and ecotourism potential dictates that Varirata National Park represents an outstanding natural asset of high ecological value in PNG's protected area portfolio.

Results of the Botanical Biodiversity Survey provide critical knowledge required to assist in the development of sound science based resource management strategies crucial to achieving the primary Project Objective of establishing a 'Conservation Management Framework' for Varirata National Park.

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in conjunction with Papua New Guinea's Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) formally partnered in June 2015 to develop and implement landmark biodiversity а conservation initiative for Protected Areas in PNG's Central Province (JICA, 2018). This initiative is formally referred to by JICA & CEPA as: 'The Project for Biodiversity Conservation through Implementation of the PNG Policy on Protected Areas' (herein referred to as the 'Project').

The Project has been specifically developed to align with the objectives of PNG's existing Policy on Protected Areas (PPA, 2014) and also adopts key principles of the UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Program with a strong focus on improving the livelihood of people and concurrently promoting sustainable resource conservation practices.

The Project comprises multiple stages and is scheduled for roll out over a 5 year period with the primary objective to establish an effective 'Conservation Management Framework' for Protected Areas through a combination of institutional strengthening, capacity building, landholder engagement, sound science and investment in infrastructure (JICA, 2018).

Establishing an effective 'Conservation Management Framework' for PAs requires that the Project be structured to deliver the following four key outcomes (JICA, 2018):

- Strengthen institutional frameworks including formulation of Policy on Protected Areas (PPA) Action Plan and establish a National Conservation Council:
- Enhance the terrestrial Protected Area (PA) management model for Varirata National Park (VNP) and the surrounding Koiari area;

- Develop a model of establishing a new Marine PA; and
- 4. Raise the awareness of the general public regarding the importance of biodiversity conservation.

## 1.1. Management Priorities for Varirata National Park

Investment and restoration of Varirata National Park and the surrounding Koiari area comprise key Conservation Management Priorities for the JICA-CEPA Project. The Project aims to re-establish the Park as a major recreational and educational resource for the people in Port Moresby City, National Capital District and Central Province (JICA, 2018).

Capacity building, institutional strengthening and implementation of practical science based resource management strategies for the Park and buffer zone (area surrounding the Park) have been flagged as critical strategies to drive the restoration program for VNP.

# 1.2. Biodiversity Survey Objectives & Scope

February 2017, the Indo-pacific (IPCA) Conservation Alliance was commissioned by JICA on behalf of CEPA to undertake Biodiversity Surveys of fauna and flora within VNP to document the Park's key taxa and concurrently provide a thorough appraisal of the Park's current ecological condition and habitat quality. Biodiversity Surveys comprise a crucial component of the overall Project. Results from these surveys provide the foundations necessary to develop science based resource management strategies crucial strengthening natural resource management functions within the Park.

Seven key Project objectives established through contract and consultation between JICA and IPCA broadly framed the parameters of the Biodiversity Surveys. They comprise:

- (i) Assess species richness of key taxa that occur within the park and buffer zone through conduct of a detailed literature review and intensive field survey program;
- (ii) Prepare a habitat classification map of key vegetation types within the park using satellite imagery and results from field surveys;
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- (v) Provide opportunity to capacity build with CEPA staff, which was extended to train local Koiari to assist in the conduct of biodiversity field surveys; and
- (vi) Prepare an Invasive Species Management Plan for introduced taxa (primarily Rusa Deer and invasive plants) that occur within and adjacent to VNP.
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This standalone document presents key findings associated with the project objectives detailed in items (i) to (iii) for the botanical survey (flora) component of scope (Appendix 1). Reporting requirements for items (iv), the Field Guide Brochures have been prepared as separate standalone documents and are also presented as appendices to this report.

# 1.3. Overview of Varirata National Park

Varirata National Park is Papua New Guinea's first National Park. It was declared on December 10, 1969 and was officially opened October 8, 1973, two years before Papua New Guinea (PNG) became an independent, sovereign nation. The Park is located approximately 23 km ENE from Port Moresby City (straight-line distance) at the edge of the Sogeri Plateau in the Astrolabe Range, and is accessible by vehicle from Sogeri Road (Figure 1). The Park borders on a prominent escarpment of the Astrolabe Range and occupies a total area of 1,063 hectares (ha) over undulating terrain ranging in elevation from 630 to 833 metres (m) (Figure 2). The Park today contains a mixture of eucalypt savannah, secondary forest in various stages of regeneration, and old-growth primary rain forest. It features picnic and camping areas together with more than 12 km of walking tracks.

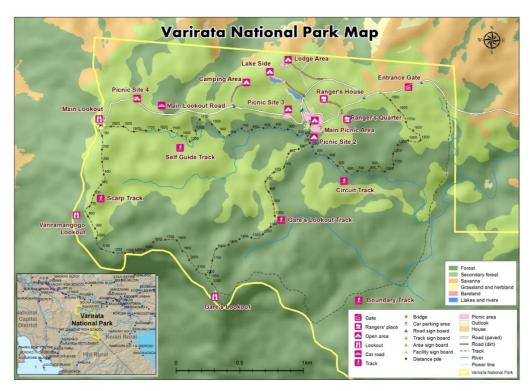


Figure 1: Location of VNP, Papua New Guinea

Source: JICA, 2017



Figure 2: Satellite Image of VNP Source: Phil Shearman, 2017

Much of the Parkland was purchased by the Crown from the traditional landowners, the Koiari people, who inhabit the Sogeri Plateau. An additional parcel – formerly a pig and poultry farm and now the central picnic and information area of the Park – was later purchased from Burns Philip and added to the Park.

Varirata National Park (VNP), because it is so close to Port Moresby, is the most visited protected area in the country. It offers easy access to a rich array of rain forests and is often the first true rain forest visited by school children growing up in the urban areas of Port Moresby. It is especially important as a model for protection of natural areas in PNG. Historically, a number of important scientific studies have been conducted in the Park, and it comprises an important educational resource for local universities and maintains high recreational values for local tourism and international ecotourism.

## 1.3.1. Key Vegetation Associations

Three key vegetation associations characterise the park: medium-crowned lowland hill forest (primary rainforest); secondary forest dominated by Gymnostoma papuana; and eucalypt savannah. Within these floristically diverse communities are five key habitats. They comprise the three forest types in addition to aquatic habitat (found within and adjacent to streams and lakes) and disturbed habitat (including landscaped gardens, and roadside verges). Both aquatic and disturbed habitats occur in all three forest types.

Approximately 80% of VNP is covered in medium-crowned lowland hill forest, including old re-growth forest rich in diversity but dominated by oaks (Fagaceae), particularly *Castanopsis acuminatissima* and *Lithocarpus celibicus* at higher elevations (Paijmans, 1973; 1975).

The percentage cover of secondary rainforest forest within the Park is truly remarkable given that this vegetation association has expanded markedly to reclaim more than 200 ha of grassland since 1973 through natural processes of forest succession, largely facilitated by an absence of fire. This is despite the Park's close proximity to Port Moresby and surrounding communities. which have concurrently undergone significant increases in population during the same period. VNP has avoided the ecological and social impacts associated with broad scale deforestation typical in areas adjacent to large metropolitan centres across the country.

## 1.3.2. Visitor Facilities and Use

There is a network of trails, camping and picnic areas, and staff housing and visitor facilities within the Park (Figure 1). The western boundary of the Park borders on the main escarpment of the Astrolabe Range. There are several lookouts that provide sweeping views of Port Moresby along the Boundary Track and from the Main Lookout, which is accessible by road (Figure 3 to Figure 6). Prior to JICA and CEPA's commitment to re-establishing VNP under the proposed 'Conservation Management Framework', Park facilities were in disrepair with the Park receiving a modest number of visitors, particularly on the weekends. The Park remains a favoured site for avid bird watchers, with 231 species of birds recorded.



Figure 3: Port Moresby from the Main Lookout, VNP
The Lookout is located at the edge of the main
escarpment of the Astrolabe Range. Vegetation on the
hills below the Lookout is mainly eucalypt savannah
(light green) with gallery forest (dark green) along
creeks). Photo credit: Allen Allison



Figure 4: Lower Laloki Valley & Mt Lawes from the VNP Main Lookout

Photo credit: Allen Allison



Figure 5: Eucalypt savannah below the VNP Main Lookout

Photo credit: Allen Allison



**Figure 6: Main Lookout, elevation 833 meters, VNP**Photo credit: Allen Allison

### 2. METHODOLOGY

The IPCA biodiversity surveys comprised a combination of detailed literature reviews and desktop studies in conjunction with field surveys conducted over a twelve month period commencing in mid-April 2017 and concluding in early April 2018. This has enabled the unique opportunity to collect rigorous data sets for key taxa allowing for seasonal (monsoon and dry season) variability. The results of these surveys comprise the first comprehensive assessment of biota in VNP.

CEPA approved IPCA's use of Monomu Lodge, which is located in the northern part of the Park, for use as a field survey base. The facilities included a building, which was converted into a mess and a specimen preparation facility. Several satellite bungalows comprised accommodation for the survey team

# 2.1. Biodiversity Field Survey Personnel

IPCA employed a field team comprising five land owners, one each from the four Koiari clans with land-owning interests in the Park and a technical officer from another Koiari clan who has been trained by IPCA in survey techniques during previous projects conducted on the Sogeri Plateau and elsewhere in PNG (Figure 7). The survey team included:

- Dabio Moi Technical Officer (Doe Village)
- Bali Korohi (Omani Clan)
- Gideon Warite (Nadeka Clan)
- Monobe Kisea (Ianari Clan)
- Noel Max (Narime Clan)



Figure 7: IPCA's Koiari Biodiversity Survey Team
Bali Korohi, Monobe Kisea, Gideon Warite, and Noel
Max. Photo credit: Angus Fraser

## 2.2. Botanical Survey Collections

In May 2017, Mr. Kore Maraia a qualified and well regarded botanists was mobilised from the University of Technology in Lae, to supervise construction of plant drying facilities and to train the field survey team on all aspects of plant collecting and specimen Written preparation. protocols were prepared and issued to the team for reference throughout the field survey program. Mr. Maraia has been trained by internationally renowned botanists working in New Guinea, including Ed de Vogel (Naturalis, Leiden) and Michael Sundue (University of Vermont, Burlington) during previous IPCA field survey campaigns.

The field team generally spent Monday to Friday of each week collecting plants and animal specimens and documenting key observations. By deploying the survey team on a nearly continuous basis over a twelve month period, IPCA were able to collect flowering plants as they came into season.

Flowering and fruiting cycles of tree species within VNP is irregular and does not occur in predictable seasonal cycles. Brown and Hopkins (1995) report that only 60% of individual trees flowered during their 26-month study period. This variation in flowering and fruiting cycles among species demonstrates that long-term, sustained monitoring effort is necessary to obtain biological data from PNG's tropical forests. The Hopkins study identified most specimens

collected to genus or morpho-species only. As such, further taxonomic effort is required to resolve the Hopkins collection to species level.

A total of 635 plant specimens were collected from various locations throughout the Park and Park buffer zone (Figure 8) during the course of the program. Specimens were pressed, dried and sorted in the field (Figure 9) and then sent to the UPNG Herbarium for identification by herbarium staff.



Figure 8: Plant collection sites for the botanical Biodiversity Survey.

Each point represents one or more collection points with multiple plants often collected from the same site.



Figure 9: Bali Korohi and Monobe Kisea sorting pressed botanical specimens

Photo credit: Dabio Moi

#### 2.3. Land Cover

JICA has obtained Worldview satellite coverage of the Park and has used that to classify land cover into nine land use categories (Figure 10). IPCA confirmed this classification by ground truthing areas within the Park and believe that these categories are appropriate for defining the major land use units present in the Park. IPCA have

therefore adopted this land cover classification (vegetation map) as the base map for use in introducing Park visitors to the various ecological associations in the Park and for use in monitoring and management programs.

#### 2.4. Literature Review

IPCA comprehensively searched the leading scientific literature databases, including Zoological Record, Web of Life and Google Scholar, for literature references relating to the biota of VNP. Further, the bibliographies of all major field guides were reviewed regarding the biota of PNG. This effort returned 354 references. These maintained in Endnote, the leading commercially available product for managing literature references and associated PDF files.

Given the lack of published lists of the vascular flora in VNP, specimen data was obtained from the University of PNG Herbarium and the PNG National Herbarium [Lae]. In addition, records were obtained from Cedric Carr's collections made from the Sogeri Plateau and surrounding area in 1935-36. These collections are housed in various international herbaria including the Singapore Botanical Garden, the Royal Kew Botanic Gardens, the Natural History Museum in London, the Naturalis Biodiversity Centre in Leiden, the Bishop Museum in Honolulu and other institutions. Data from these collections in combination with the UPNG data and data from our surveys comprised the basis of the composite database presented in Appendix 2 to Appendix 4.

IPCA used GIS species distribution shape files and an extensive review of the literature to prepare checklists of species that likely occurred in the Park. Continuous revision of the checklists was undertaken throughout the program based on the results of the field surveys.

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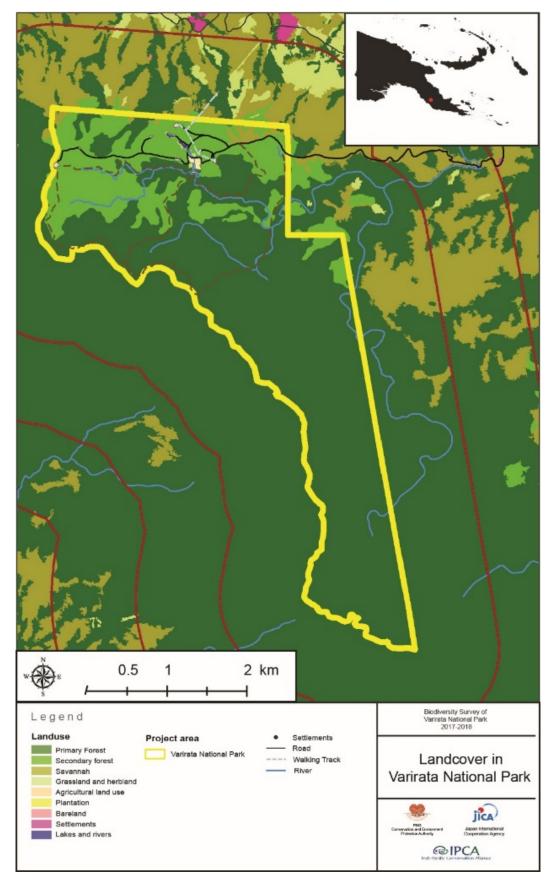


Figure 10: Land use in VNP and surrounding areas.

## 2.5. Community Outreach Program

Two former U.S. Peace Corps volunteers, Andrew McInnis and Christo Ferguson, joined the IPCA survey team for a three week period between mid-October 2017 to early November 2017. They assisted in determining the feasibility of eradicating Clidemia from the Park through the establishment of trial plots in secondary and primary forest habitats as part of IPCA's botanical survey program.

Upon completion of this component of the botanical survey, McInnis and Ferguson assisted in developing and implementing an educational outreach program on behalf of IPCA to surrounding villages, community groups and schools. The program was designed to raise environmental awareness and highlight ecological importance of VNP among neighbouring communities. Live specimens including frogs, lizards and snakes were carefully handled and promoted amongst audiences to emphasis PNG's extraordinary biodiversity and assist in promoting the benefits of community conservation practices (Appendix 5).

#### 3. RESULTS

Sixteen hundred days of fieldwork were amassed by the IPCA Field Team during conduct of the botanical and zoological biodiversity field surveys. At the conclusion of the botanical survey 635 plant specimens were collected with the majority having five replicate specimens when sufficient flower or fruiting material enabled the collection of replicates. Plants collected included ground cover, shrubs, epiphytes, lianas and flowering trees. The survey team also catalogued several hundred photos of plants in flower. Combined with herbaria data the results of the field survey program have contributed to the first comprehensive listing of vascular plant species from VNP (Appendix 2 to Appendix 4).

The vascular plant checklist comprises 157 vascular plant families, 581 genera and 1,126 species. The checklist includes a number of taxa identified only to morpho-species and it is likely that some of these are duplicates. As such, IPCA estimates that the Varirata flora comprises approximately 150 species of ferns, at least eight species of conifers, and between 700 and 900 species of flowering plants.

Although the Park and surrounding area are relatively well collected, much of the material in the UPNG herbarium is sterile and can only be identified to genus. The results from this project have added significant value to the knowledge base of VNP's biota.

# 4. BOTANICAL BIODIVERSITY IN VNP

VNP's monsoonal climate and its distinctive microclimate are key drivers (in addition to historical land use disturbances and current fire regimes) determining the distribution and composition of vegetation within the Park. Despite the lack of long-term rainfall or temperature data published for the Park Hopkins and Hiaso (1994) monitored rainfall from October 1990 to March 1993 suggesting that the Park receives approximately 1,500 mm of rain per year (Figure 11). This is only slightly greater than Port Moresby, which receives around 1,200 mm annually. The dry season extends from June to September and the wet season typically occurs from October to May. January is the wettest month with rainfall of nearly 300 mm. Temperatures during the day commonly reach 30° C and rarely drop below 16º C at night, with little annual variation.

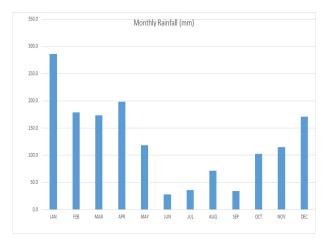


Figure 11: Monthly rainfall in VNP

Source: Hopkins and Hiaso, 1994

It is likely that rainfall totals for the rain forest areas of the Park exceed 2,000 mm annually, with a less pronounced dry season than in the savannah areas.

## 4.1. Key Vegetation Associations

For the purposes of conducting the botanical survey, IPCA confirmed the presence of three separate vegetation associations. Each is generally floristically unique (with some convergence at ecotones), however all three associations also contained both aquatic habitat and areas of disturbance. As such, five key habitats were identified and surveyed as follows:

- Eucalypt Savannah comprising <2% of the Park
- Secondary Forest dominated by Casuarina (Gymnostoma papuana) comprising approximately 18% of the Park;
- Medium-crowned Lowland Hill Forest (primary rainforest) comprising approximately 80% of the Park;
- 4. Aquatic Habitat\* (streams & lakes); and
- Disturbed Habitat\* (landscaped areas including picnic grounds and roadside verges and other 'disturbed areas').
- \* Estimates for the size of these habitats are not calculated given that they typically occur as small patches or areas within each of the three key habitats.

## 4.2. Eucalypt Savannah

The northern border of the Park is covered in eucalypt savannah (Paijmans, 1973; 1975) (Figure 12 to Figure 14) dominated by four myrtaceous trees, Ghost Gum (Corymbia papuana) (Figure 15), Grey Gum (*E.* tereticornis) (Figure 16), White Gum (E. alba) 17) and Weeping Paperbark (Melaleuca leucadendron) (Figure 18), with an understory of grasses, particularly Kangaroo Grass (Themeda triandra) (Figure 19) and Cogon Grass (Imperata cylindrica) (Figure 20), together with scattered shrubs, including Grassland Sheoak (Grevillea papuana), Tropical Banksia (Banksia dentata) (Figure 21 and Figure 22), and a cycad (Cycas campestris) (Figure 23). Other aspect dominants include species of Pandanus (Pandanus sp.).



Figure 12: Eucalypt Savannah, VNP

White Gum (*Eucalyptus alba*), cycad (*Cycas campestris*) in the lower right and a mixture of Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) and Congon Grass (*Imperata cylindrica*). Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 13: Eucalypt Savannah and Secondary Forest ecotone, VNP

Ecotone between savannah and secondary forest. The grass species in the foreground is mainly Congon Grass (*Imperata cylindrica*); the plants at the edge of the forest are cycads (*Cycas campestris*). Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 14: Eucalypt Savannah with White Gum and Grey Gum, VNP

White Gum (*Eucalyptus alba*), Grey Gum (*E. tereticornis*) and dominant grass species is Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*). Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 15: Corymbia papuana, VNP

Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 16: Eucalyptus tereticornis flower buds, VNP
Note the difference in operculum (flower bud) between
C. papuana and E. tereticornis. Photo credit: Angus
Fraser



**Figure 17:** *Eucalyptus alba* **woodland, VNP**Foreground grass species is mainly Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*). Photo credit: Angus Fraser

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Figure 18: Weeping Paperbark (*Melaleuca leucadendron*), VNP

Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 19: Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*), VNP Photo credit: Allen Allison



Figure 20: Cogon Grass (Imperata cylindrica), VNP

Photo credit: Allen Allison



Figure 21: Tropical Banksia (Banksia dentata)

This is the only species of *Banksia* found in New Guinea. The other 170 species occur in Australia. Tropical Banksia is widely distributed in PNG and is found in grasslands at mid-elevations. Photo credit: Allen Allison



**Figure 22:** *Banksia dentata* in inflorescence, **VNP** Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 23: Cycad (Cycas campestris), VNP

Taken along the roadside leading up to the entrance of the Park in the Park Buffer Zone at the beginning of the monsoon. Note the green grasses shooting after dry season grass fires. Photo credit: Angus Fraser

Hopkins and Hiaso (1994)mention populations of Pitcher Plants (Nepenthes) along some of the trails in the Park but these appear to have since disappeared. However, there is a sizable population of Nepenthes mirabilis in eucalypt savannah along the Varirata National Park entrance road at approximately a kilometre south of the junction with the Sogeri Road (9.4338S; 147.3969E) (Figure 16). Pitcher plants have modified leaves that form urn-shaped "pitchers" that trap and digest insects and other invertebrates (Figure 24).



Figure 24: Pitcher Plan (Nepenthes mirabilis), VNP Photo credit: Allen Allison

Eucalypt savannah covers < 2% of the overall Park area but is the dominant vegetation around Port Moresby and along the road to Sogeri, reflecting the monsoonal climate of the area. Eucalypts are particularly critical for a variety of mammals and birds, particularly parrots, which rely on hollows produced by these trees for nesting sites.

Eucalypt savannah is highly susceptible to fire and large tracts are burnt each year during the dry season. Savannah plant associations have adapted to a fire ecology with grassland species generally recovering within a year or two if not burned repeatedly (Figure 25 and Figure 26).

Tree density is approximately 150 trees per ha in these habitats, which makes for a very open canopy (Heyligers, 1966). The composition of the Eucalyptus species in the forest clearly depends on slope, aspect and drainage, with specific species becoming dominant and forming nearly pure stands in some areas. The overall plant species richness in these forests is low and comprises less than 1% of the plant species known from the Park.



Figure 25: Large tracts of Eucalypt Savannah burn during the dry season, VNP

Looking east towards the Sogeri Plateau from the VNP escarpment. Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 26: Grass fires along the VNP escarpment
Fires are deliberately lit during the dry season in the
Park Buffer Zone. Photo credit: Angus Fraser

## 4.3. Secondary Forest

Immediately south of the eucalypt savannah lies a band of mainly secondary forest dominated by *Gymnostoma* (*G. papuana*), a nitrogen fixing and pioneering tree species in the family Casuarinaceae (Figure 27 - Figure 28). Other common species include Ghost Gum (*C. papuana*), Grey Gum (*E. tereticornis*), sumac (*Rhus taitensis*) (Figure 29), *Macaranga* 

spp., Ficus spp (Figure 30) and Euodia spp (Figure 31).



Figure 27: Gymnostoma (Gymnostoma papuana) foliage and seedpods, VNP

Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 28: Secondary forest dominated by Gymnostoma papuana, Lake Lifilikatabu, VNP

Photo credit: Allen Allison



Figure 29: Sumac (*Rhus taitensis*) is prominent in mixed second growth forest, VNP

This tree was photographed in April 2017 near the Lodge. It was in flower throughout the Park and in the upper Laloki Valley. Photo credit: Allen Allison



Figure 30: Fig trees are a common element in secondary forest, VNP

This large fig tree is located in secondary forest along the Koiari Tree House Track near the Main Picnic Ground. Photo credit: Angus Fraser



**Figure 31:** *Euodia* **sp secondary forest, VNP**Photographed in secondary forest along the VNP northern escarpment. Photo credit: Angus Fraser

The central areas of the Park were cleared beginning in 1897 by Burns Philp for an arabica coffee plantation (Lewis, 1996). This area was later expanded to include vegetable gardens. However, a few years later, the coffee became infested with *Hemileia vastatrix*, a fungal disease that causes coffee

rust, and the area was leased to Warirata Estate, which developed it into a piggery. When the Park was officially opened by the Government in 1973, the former plantation areas had reverted to savannah grassland, which covered 220.7 hectares. By 2017 most of this grassland has been replaced by secondary forest through a process called ecological succession. Only 12.8 ha of savannah grassland remains in the Park today (Figure 33).

Gymnostoma forms nearly pure stands in over much of the secondary forest (Figure 61). The boundary between the secondary forest and eucalypt savannah is typically characterised with some mixing of species. In particular Ghost Gum (*C. papuana*) and Grey Gum (*E. tereticornis*) are common elements between the two vegetation types. The presence of the two species of eucalypts together with other typical savannah species, such as Weeping Paperbark (*M. leucadendron*) within the secondary forest likely represents remnants of the former savannah grassland that covered the area in 1973.

Some evidence of forest resource poaching was documented during survey with illegal harvesting of Gymnostoma (both green timber and firewood) observed along the Park Boundary (Figure 32). Interestingly, the trees were harvested using a chainsaw and not a bush knife or axe. Paperbark, which occurs in low densities in the Park, was also observed to have been harvested for building materials from trees within the Park Buffer Zone.



Figure 32: Poaching of forest resources, VNP

Gymnostoma (Yar in Tok Pisin) is highly valued timber for firewood given its superior capacity to generate heat compared with other local timbers. This tree was cut with a chainsaw in secondary forest along the Park Boundary just south of the main entrance along an old bush track accessible by vehicle. On other occasions pickup trucks were observed collecting dead yar within the Park for domestic firewood consumption.

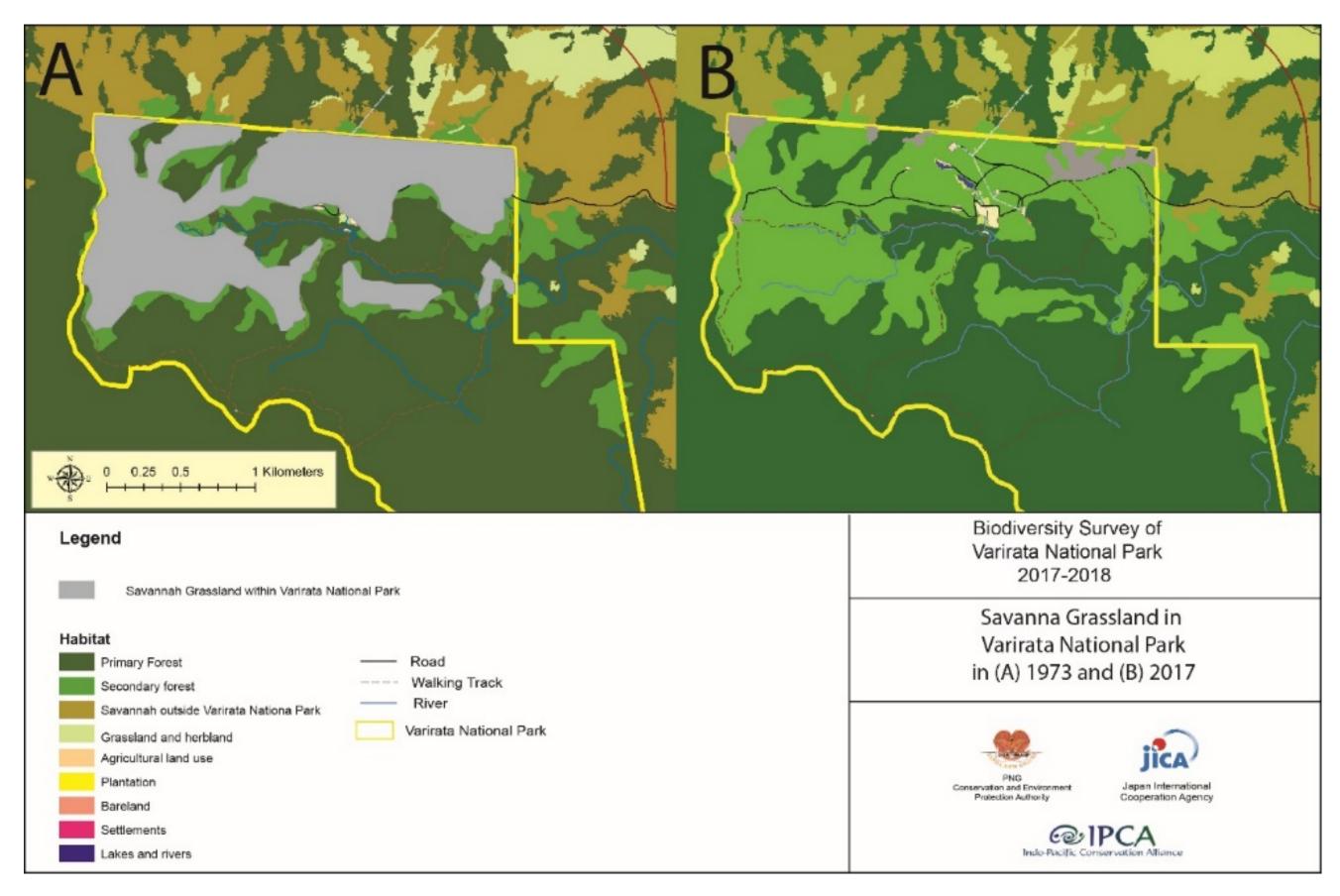


Figure 33: Comparison of savannah grasslands in 1973 and 2017

Sources: 1974 1:100,000 topographic sheet (8379 – Port Moresby) based on 1973 aerial photographs. 2017 WorldView Satellite Imagery (JICA, 2017).

In the absence of fire in areas with sufficient rainfall, a shield fern (Sticherus sp.) will tend to invade forest clearings. This fern (Figure 34), which forms dense thickets and helps reestablish soil, is eventually followed by other successional species, particularly Gymnostoma. This process of ecological succession can result in nearly pure stands of Gymnostoma with a ground layer of shield fern (Figure 35). The shade produced by the Gymnostoma canopy allows for the establishment of other tree species within the secondary forest, including sumac (Rhus taitensis), Albert Palm (Caryota rumphiana), Red Cedar (Toona sureni) and species of Macaranga, Pandanus, Syzygium, Neolitsea, Schizomeria, and Euodia.

Forest succession has also been quite evident along the access road near the Park's entrance as indicated by photographs taken in 1992 and 2017. This has resulted in secondary forests having a greater element of primary forest species (Figure 36 and Figure 37).



Figure 34: Early successional native shield fern (Sticherus sp), VNP

Sticherus is abundant in Varirata National Park and tends to invade clearings and open areas adjacent to forest and is eventually shaded out by pioneering tree species. Photo credit: Allen Allison



Figure 35: Shield Fern (*Sticherus sp*) comprising a dominant ground cover, VNP

Photo credit: Allen Allison



Figure 36: Entrance to VNP in 1992

This photo was taken in 1992 at approximately the same location as the 2017 photograph below. A comparison between the two images shows that the secondary forest is now much more diverse and dense than it was 25 years ago. Photo credit: Allen Allison



Figure 37: Entrance to VNP, 2017

Photo credit: Angus Fraser

Clidemia (*Miconia crenata*), an aggressive invasive shrub from South America, apparently became established in VNP around 2005-2006 (Figure 38). This species is commonly known as Clidemia and was formerly classified as *Clidemia hirta*.

Subsequent taxonomic classification resulted in the plant being reclassified as *Miconia crenata* (Mabberley, 2017), however the plant is still referred to as Clidemia.

Clidemia is now well established in the Park and appears to be replacing *Sticherus* as the dominant ground plant in the secondary forest. Although pure stands of *Sticherus* remain (Figure 35), some patches now contain a mixture of *Sticherus* and Clidemia (Figure 39). In some areas Clidemia forms nearly pure stands (Figure 40). A native species of *Rubus* is often found in association with both species and also appears to be an early successional pioneering species (Figure 41).



Figure 38: Clidemia (*Miconia crenata*) in flower, VNP Photo credit: Allen Allison



Figure 39: Shield Fern (*Sticherus* sp.) and Clidemia (*Miconia crenata*), VNP

Photo credit: Allen Allison



Figure 40: Clidemia (*Miconia crenata*) dominant in secondary forest, VNP

This image is taken between Lake Lifilikatabu and the Lodge. Photo credit: Allen Allison



Figure 41: Rubus (Rubus sp.) VNP

Rubus sp is common in the undergrowth of the secondary forest, occurring within stands of Clidemia and Sticherus. Photo credit: Allen Allison

In addition to Clidemia, another serious invasive shrub from Central and South America, Spiked Pepper (*Piper aduncum*) (

Figure 42), occurs throughout the secondary forest and in disturbed areas along roadsides and tracks. It has been in Papua New Guinea for decades and has spread throughout much of the country.



**Figure 42: Spiked Pepper (***Piper aduncum***), VNP** Photo credit: Allen Allison.

# 4.4. Primary Forest (Medium crowned lowland hill forest)

Although there are subtle differences in the occurrence and distribution of tree species within the primary forest, depending primarily on slope, aspect and other factors, these differences are ecologically minor with respect to the overall distribution of plants within the Park. Approximately 80% of the land area of the Park is covered in primary forest, including old re-growth forest, which includes a rich diversity of tree species and a dense understory of shrubs, small trees and lianas (Figure 43). These forests are dominated by ten plant families (Table 1) and are part of an association termed mediumcrowned lowland hill forest (Paijmans, 1973; 1975; Figure 45 to Figure 52). In addition, a conifer, Tulip (Gnetum gnemon) (Figure 49), is common throughout the forest, which is also rich in epiphytes, particularly ferns and orchids.



Figure 43: Aerial photograph of primary forest along VNP's Western Escarpment

Image taken near Gare's lookout. Several dozen tree genera are represented in the photo. Photo credit: JICA, 2017

Table 1: Dominant plant families by biomass in primary forests of Varirata National Park.

FAMILY	COMMON GENERA	
Fagaceae	Castanopsis, Lithocarpus	
Meliaceae	Aglaia, Chisocheton, Dysoxylum, Toona	
Elaeocarpaceae	Elaeocarpus, Sloanea	
Myrtaceae	Syzygium	
Myristicaceae	Myristica	
Annonaceae	Popowia	
Lauraceae	Cryptocarya, Litsea	
Moraceae	Ficus	
Burseraceae	Canarium	
Pandanaceae	Pandanus	



Figure 44: Strangling figs (*Ficus spp*) are a common element in primary forests, VNP

Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 45: Re-growth primary forest along the Scarp Track, VNP

The dominant tree is PNG Oak (*Castanopsis acuminatissima*). Forest mist is a regular occurrence throughout the year providing moisture and relatively cool conditions that influence the Park's micro-climate throughout the year compared with the seasonally hot dry conditions experienced in Port Moresby. Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 46: Aerial photograph of primary forest at Gare's Lookout, VNP

Gare's Lookout is on the edge of the escarpment of the Astrolabe Range. The dominant trees are PNG Oak (*Castanopsis acuminatissima*) and Lithocarpus (*Lithocarpus celibicus*). Photo credit: JICA, 2017



Figure 47: Aerial photograph of primary and secondary forest ecotone, VNP

This image was taken near the Digicel Tower (9.430232°S, 147.351295°E) showing the sharp separation (ecotone) between secondary forest dominated by Gymnostoma (*Gymnostoma papuana*) (left) and primary forest (right). The secondary forest now probably comprises the areas that were cleared for coffee plantations in the late 1800s. Photo credit: JICA, 2017

Oak forest occurs at higher elevations in the Park, particularly around Gare's Lookout and is dominated by two species: PNG Oak acuminatissima) (Castanopsis and Lithocarpus celibicus. These forests typically occur along ridgelines and comprise a distinctive element within the mediumcrowned lowland hill forest. The understory of these forests is generally less dense than other parts of the primary forest, with fewer lianas and epiphytes. The fruit, a spiny ovoid nut (Figure 52) is harvested by people throughout PNG for food and is also an important food source for many species of parrots. The distribution of Castanopsis forests within the Park is presented in Figure 53.



**Figure 48: Orchids are abundant and diverse in VNP**Epiphytes such as orchids (*Bulbophyllum* sp.) and fern occur throughout medium crowned lowland hill forest.
Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 49: Tulip (*Gnetum gnemon*) a common gymnosperm in VNP

Tulip is a common component of the primary forest within VNP. It is easily recognised by its distinctive ringed trunk (left). Although it is a gymnosperm, closely related to conifers, it has expanded, paired leaves resembling those of flowering plants. The fruit and foliage are edible and the bark is used to make billum twine. The fruit is bright red when ripe and is eaten by people and is also favoured by many species of birds including fruit doves, hornbills, pigeons and birds of paradise. Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 50: PNG Oak (Castanopsis acuminatissima), near Gare's Lookout, VNP

Photo credit: Allen Allison



Figure 51: A large PNG Oak (Castanopsis acuminatissima), Scarp Track, VNP

PNG Oak can be easily identified by its propensity to coppice (shoot multiple stems) from the base of the tree. Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 52: PNG Oak (Castanopsis acuminatissima) in fruit

Photo credit: NSW State Herbarium

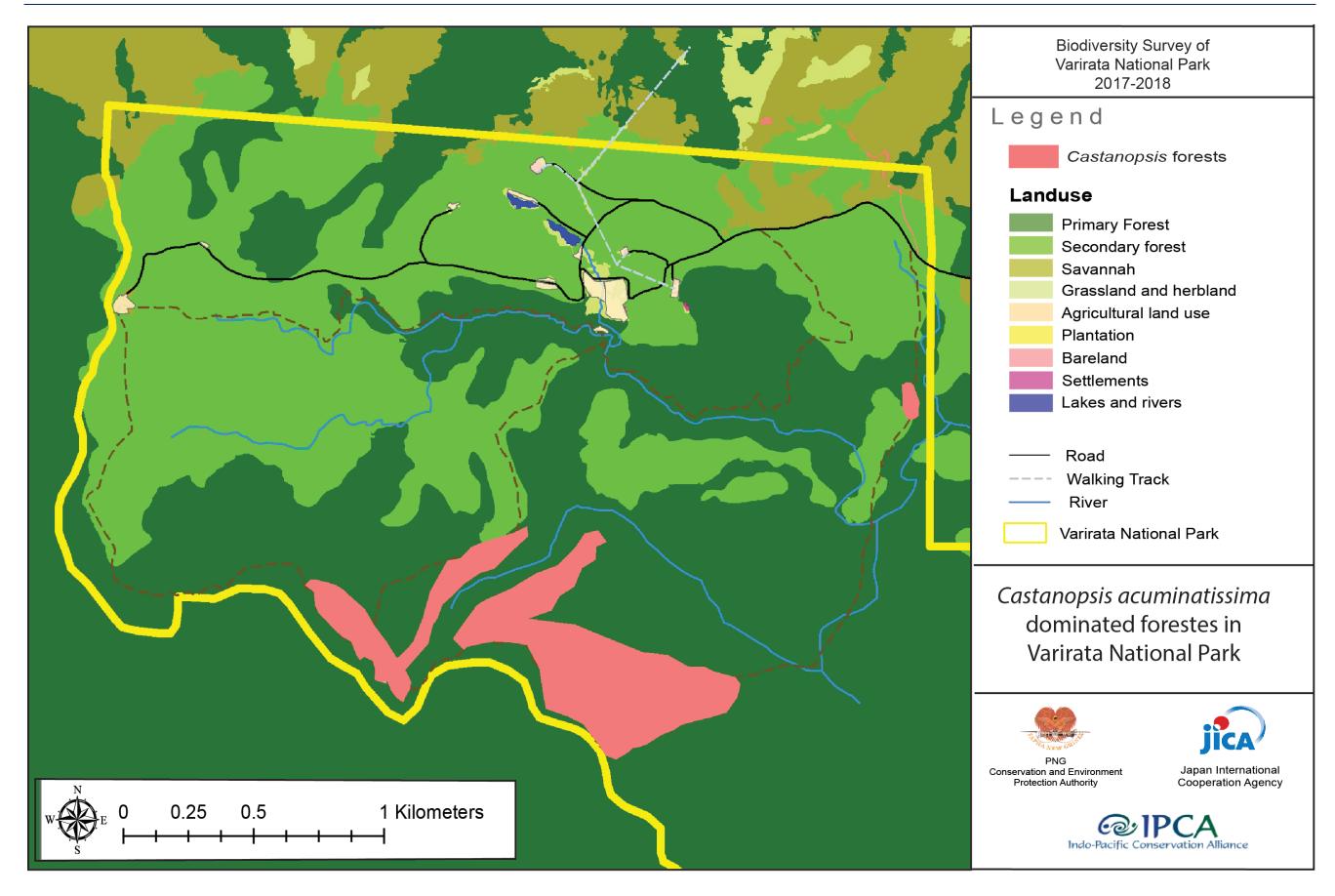


Figure 53: Distribution of Castanoipsis-dominated forests in VNP

## 4.5. Aquatic Habitat

Lotic habitat comprises Nairogo Creek, which is a small stream with several tributaries within the Park's catchment. The lentic habitat in the Park comprises two small lakes referred to as the Lake Lifilikatabu complex situated west of the Main Picnic Area.

#### 4.5.1. Streams

The Park is drained by Nairogo Creek, which originates in the Park's west from two main branches that flow eastwards and join near the Park's eastern boundary after which is joins the Laloki River. Some plants such as *Neonauclea* sp. and *Impatiens* sp. are restricted to the stream channels and others comprise the riparian vegetation along the stream banks (Figure 54 to Figure 60).



Figure 54: Primary re-growth riparian vegetation along Nairogo Creek, VNP

Nairogo Creek along the Circuit Track. Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 55: Alocasia sp. and Heliconia sp. adjacent to a tributary of Nairogo Creek, VNP

Primary forest. Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 56: Nairogo Creek in secondary forest, VNP

This image is taken in the Park Buffer Zone Photo after the confluence of the two main branches. Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 57: Neonauclea sp. in inflorescence, VNP
This common riparian shrub (Family Rubiaceae) occurs

along the watercourses throughout VNP. Photo credit: Allen Allison



Figure 58: New Guinea Impatiens sp., VNP

New Guinea *Impatiens sp* is common along watercourses in primary and secondary forest. Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 59: Nairogo Creek tributary in Primary Forest, VNP

Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 60: Dense stands of Kanda (*Calamus* sp.) along a tributary of Nairogo Creek, VNP

Primary forest. Photo credit: Angus Fraser

#### 4.5.2. Lakes

The Lake Lifilikatabu complex (Figure 61) is believed to have been built when the area supported a piggery (Hopkins & Hiaso, 1994). However, members of the Koiari Field Survey Team believe that the upper lake is natural and that the lower lake is artificial. Both are shallow and vary in size with rainfall. They are generally less than 0.5 ha in total area and have historically gone dry. The lower lake has a fine stand of Pandanus at the northern end (Figure 62 and Figure 63).



Figure 61: Aerial photo of the Lake Lifilikatabu complex and secondary forest, VNP

Lake Lifilikatabu is surrounded by almost pure stands of *Gymnostoma papuana* approximatekly 50 years old. Photo credit: JICA, 2017



Figure 62: Upper Lake Lifilikatabu in the dry season, VNP

Photo credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 63: Pandanus (*Pandanus* sp.) bordering upper Lake Lifilikatabu, VNP

Photo credit: Angus Fraser

There are a number of species of plants that in the Park are restricted to the lakes. These include a small aquatic fern, Azola (Azola sp.) and sedges (Eleocharis sp.) that line the water's edge (Figure 64). The lakeside

vegetation is otherwise unremarkable and consists mostly of introduced weeds.



Figure 64: Sedges (*Eleocharis* sp.) in upper Lake Lifilikatabu

This is prime habitat for a frog (Litoria *chloristona*), recorded from the lakes. Photo credit: Angus Fraser

#### 4.6. Disturbed Habitat

Open grassy areas, such as the Main Picnic Area and grounds around Monomu Lodge, tend to be dominated by introduced (nonnative) weeds generally restricted to landscaped garden areas and roadside verges (Figure 65 and Figure 66; Table 2). These species are discussed further in the Introduced Plants section of this Chapter (Section 4.10. Introduced Species) with a detailed account also provided in the Invasive Species Management Plan (IPCA, 2018d).



Figure 65: Landscaped gardens around the Main Picnic Area, VNP

Photo credit: Nittya Simard



Figure 66: Roadside verge of entrance road into the Park, VNP

Roadside verges characteristically have a high abundance of weed species. Photo credit: Angus Fraser

Table 2: Common weeds in VNP

Table 2. Common weeds in vivi		
FAMILY	COMMON GENERA	
ASTERACEAE	Ageratum conyzoides	
u	Bidens pilosa	
u	Crassophyllum crepidoides	
u	Elephantophus mollis	
u	Eleutheranthra ruderalis	
u	Erechtites valerianifolia	
u	Mikania micrantha	
u	Syndrella nodiflora	
CLEOMACEAE	Clemone viscosa	
FABACEAE	Mimosa pudica	
u	Senna alata	
ONOGRACEAE	Ludwigia octovalnis	
OXALIDACEAE	Oxalis corniculata	
PASSIFLORACEAE	Passiflora foetida	
POACEAE	Eleusine indica	
u	Paspalum conjugatum	
u	Sporobolis sp.	
POLYGALACEAE	Polygala paniculata	
RUBIACEAE	Spermacoce laevis	

# 4.7. Species with Scheduled Conservation Significance

The IUCN Red List establishes seven categories of 'extinction risk', which can only be applied to a species if sufficient ecological data is available to make an informed

decision against established assessment criteria (Figure 67).

Species that have been assigned as Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN), or Critically Endangered (CR) are classified as 'Threatened'. If threatening processes continue unmitigated these species are expected to become extinct.

Species, which have been assigned a Near Threatened (NT) status, have been assessed against established criteria and do not currently meet any of the 'Threatened' categories. However, Near Threatened taxa are considered to be of high risk in subsequently being classified as 'Threatened' in the absence of mitigating strategies.

# 4.7.1. Critically Endangered & Endangered

A species of tree *Halfordia papuana*, (Family Rutaceae) known from the Sogeri Plateau is scheduled as Critically Endangered under the IUCN Red List. *Halfordia papuana* is a synonym for *H. kendack*, which is widely distributed throughout PNG occurring in Morobe, Western, Eastern and Southern Highlands, and Western, Central and New Britain Provinces. The IUCN assessment for this species requires revision given that this plant is not considered to be under threat. It could be reasonably expected to occur within the Park, although this was not confirmed during the Biodiversity Survey (Figure 68).

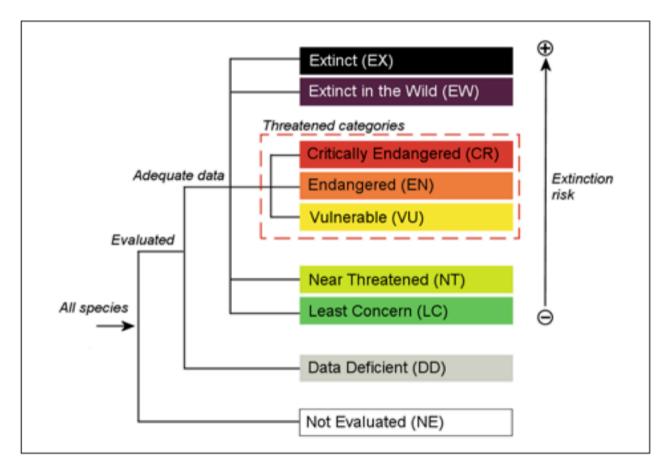


Figure 67: IUCN Red List Conservation Categories

Source: IUCN, 2018



Figure 68: *Halfordia papuana*, Critically Endangered under the IUCN Red List

Source: Botanic Illustrations.org

A widespread tree species *Flindersia pimenteliana* (Rutaceae) recorded from the Park by Hopkins and Hiaso (1994) is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List (Figure 69). Hopkins and Hiaso provide a drawing of a mature Flindersia pimenteliana tree growing near Picnic Area 2 in 1991, however this tree could not be located during the Biodiversity (Flora) Survey. *F. pimenteliana* is widely distributed in hill forests throughout Papua New Guinea, Indonesian New Guinea and Australia.

Both *H. papuana* and *F. pimenteliana* are widely distributed in New Guinea and neither appears to be endangered throughout their range. They have both been scheduled on the IUCN Red List primarily because of overexploitation in the Wau – Bulolo area of the Morobe Province. There is no compelling reason to treat these species as species of importance within the Park. It is strongly believed that the IUCN acounts for both species require revision.

Appendix 6 presents the IUCN Fact sheet for each species.



Figure 69: Flindersia pimenteliana, Endangered under the IUCN Red List

Source: Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants CSIRO, 2018

#### 4.7.2. Near Threatened

Four species from the Park's checklist (Appendix 2 and Appendix 6) are scheduled as Near Threatened. They comprise the locally common cycad (*Cycas campestris*) (Family Cycadaceae); a Dipterocarp, (*Hopea forbesii*) which is a lowland timber species; *Myristica globosa* (Family Myristicaceae) and *Helicia albiflora* (Family Proteaceae).

Cycas campestris is endemic to PNG with its range largely confined to low altitudes in the Central Province. Habitat loss through clearing and burning of savannah grasslands where it occurs are primary threats to this species.

The Dipterocarps (Family Dipterocarpaceae) are highly sought after by the logging industry throughout PNG and South East Asia given their high value as timber species. Hopea forbesii is native to the island of New Guinea (including West Papua) and has a broad distribution from Milne Bay Province to the Sepik and Western Provinces. It has been subjected to an estimated 25% decline in population in the last three generations due to loss of habitat and logging. These impacts have been most severe in Central

and Milne Bay Provinces. The IUCN indicate that this species is borderline 'Vulnerable' (Figure 67).

Myristica globosa is a large mid montane (up to 1,200 m) tree species to 30 m without commercial logging value. Very little data is available regarding its status and key threatening processes.

Helicia albiflora is widespread throughout PNG where it is typically associated with Castanopsis and Nothofagus dominant forests (PNGTrees, 2018). Little information is available regarding its status in the wild. Appendix 6 presents the IUCN Fact Sheets for each species.

#### 4.8. Endemic Species

There are no species of plants endemic to Varirata National Park, however the locally common cycad *Cycas campestris* is restricted in distribution to the Central Province. Savannah comprises less than 2% of VNP and significant ecological value would be achieved by extending the Park's boundary to include a larger proportion of this habitat.

## 4.9. Important Species

Several important plant species occur throughout the Park, which comprise critical food sources for a variety of animals within the Park. A selection of these plants is discussed in the following sections.

# 4.9.1. Sogeri Velvet Bean (*Mucuna macropoda*)

Mucuna macropoda (Figure 70) is a leguminous vine that was collected in 1885 by Henry Forbes from the Sogeri Plateau and named in 1923 (Baker, 1923). It was known only from the holotype until it was rediscovered in 1988 by Helen and Michael Hopkins (Hopkins and Hopkins, 1993).

The genus *Mucuna* includes around 100 species that occur in both the Old World and New World tropics. It includes the familiar Flame of the Forest from New Guinea and

many species are pollinated by bats. Hopkins and Hopkins (1993) reported that *Mucuna macropoda* was pollinated by a small bat (*Syconycteris australis*) that occurs from the Moluccas, throughout New Guinea, including the Bismarck Archipelago, and along the east coast of Australia from Cape York south to the Sydney region. It is abundant throughout much of its range and is one of the most common species of bats found in the Park. *Mucuna macropoda* appears to be restricted, within Varirata National Park, to *Castanopsis* forests (Figure 53).



Figure 70: Common Blossom Bat (Syconycteris australis) feeding on Mucuna macropoda, VNP Mucuna macropoda is a vine endemic to the Sogeri

Mucuna macropoda is a vine endemic to the Soge Plateau. Photo credit: M.J.G. Hopkins

# 4.9.1. Birthwort (*Aristolochia momandol*)

Aristolochia momandol is the only known food plant within the Park of the large iconic birdwing butterfly, *Ornithoptera priamus*. This plant is relatively common within primary and late secondary forest within the Park (Figure 71).



Figure 71: Aristolochia momandol in secondary forest, VNP

A. momandol is the primary host plant for the Birdwing Butterfly. Photo credit: Angus Fraser



**Figure 72: Birdwing Butterfly (***Ornithoptera priamus***)** Photo credit: Dan Polhemus

## 4.9.2. Tulip (Gnetum gnemon)

Gnetum gnemon, a gymnosperm that occurs throughout New Guinea and much of Southeast Asia, is common in the primary forests of Varirata National Park. It is easily recognised by raised rings around the otherwise smooth trunk (Figure 49) and by its paired, expanded leaves, which has given it the Pidgin name of Tulip. The fruits and leaves are edible and the bark is used to produce billum string. Tulip is also an important food plant for many of the frugivorous birds that occur in VNP.

# 4.9.3. PNG Oak (Castanopsis acuminatissima)

The genus *Castanopsis*, a member of the oak family, Fagaceae, includes around 120 species of trees and shrubs concentrated in tropical and subtropical Asia but with a few

species occurring in Japan and close relatives in North America. There is a single species in New Guinea, *Castanopsis acuminatissima*, (Figure 50 - Figure 52) which occurs throughout the island, mostly in lower montane forest from elevations of 800 to 1,800 m, but it can range in some areas down to sea-level and up to around 2,200 m. The fruit, a spiny ovoid nut, is harvested by people in many areas and is an important source of food to many species of parrots. It is common at higher elevations in the Park, particularly in areas around Gare's lookout.

## 4.9.4. Fruiting Trees

There are at least 26 species of frugivorous birds occurring in Varirata National park (Frith et al., 1998), including, five species of birds of paradise, pigeons, berrypeckers and a diversity of other species. These birds are dependent on fruit produced by various species of primary rain forest trees. Two species of meliaceous trees, Chisocheton lasiocarpus and Dysoxylum pettigrewianum (Meliaceae) (Figure 73) and a species of Myristica (Myristicaceae) are visited almost exclusively by birds of paradise (Beehler and Dumbacher, 1996). Birds of paradise also feed heavily on the fruits from a fig, Ficus cf. obliqua and from a conifer, Podocarpus nereifolius (Podocarpaceae).



Figure 73: Fruit of *Dysoxylum pettigrewianum* (Family Meliaceae).

Source: Cooper and Cooper (1994)

There are, at least 42 species of Ficus found within the Park. One of these species, with small, bright orange fruits, is common at the forest edge. A tree, near the Lodge, was in fruit during November – December 2017 and was commonly visited by Raggiana Birds of Paradise, Brown Orioles, and several species of fruit doves and pigeons (Figure 74). Species of *Syzygium* (Figure 75) produce large, reddish fruit on the lower trunks of the trees; these are eaten by cassowary and other frugivorous birds and mammals.



Figure 74: Ficus sp., probably Ficus rhizophoriphylla, located near the Lodge, VNP

This species was frequently visited by a number of frugivorous birds, including the Pink-spotted Fruit Dove (*Ptilinopus perlatus*). Photo credit: Allen Allison



**Figure 75:** *Syzygium* sp., Primary forest, VNP Photo credit: Angus Fraser

## 4.10. Introduced Species

IPCA have documented at least 51 species of introduced plants to occur within the Park (Appendix 4).

The introduced flora of VNP includes many of the same species, which occur along the Kokoda Track (Allison et al., 2015). These are mostly restricted to disturbed areas along roads and tracks and include many species of grasses together with a number of common herbaceous weeds such as Tobacco Weed (Elephantophis mollis) and Synedrella (Synedrella nodiflora). These and other weeds are common around the Main Picnic Area, the lakes, Monomu Lodge, roadside verges and other disturbed areas within VNP.

Of the introduced flora, six species have been recorded which warrant Park Management attention. These species comprise: African Tulip Tree (*Spathodea campanulata* Figure 76); lantana (*Lantana camara* Figure 77); Spiderwort (*Tradescantia* sp Figure 78) in addition to Hemp Vine (*Mikania micrantha* Figure 79) and two highly invasive and

problematic species: Spiked Pepper (*Piper aduncum*) and Clidemia (*Miconia crenata*). Both are widely established in secondary forests (Figure 40 and (Figure 42).



Figure 76: African Tulip Tree (Spathodea campanulata), VNP

Photo Credit: Allen Allison



Figure 77: Lantana (Lantana camara), VNP

Photo Credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 78: Spiderwort (*Tradescantia* sp.) surrounding Clidemia (Miconia crenata), VNP

Photo Credit: Angus Fraser



Figure 79: Hemp Vine (*Mikania micrantha*) in flower, VNP

Hemp Vine (*Mikania micrantha*) occurs around the shoreline of the Lake Lifilikatabu complex. Photo credit: Angus Fraser

## 4.11. Potential Invasive Species

There are at least four species of introduced, highly invasive plants growing in the areas surrounding the Park — on the Sogeri Plateau or in the Laloki Valley. These species must be prevented from establishing in the Park, given their significant ecological risk to biodiversity. These species comprise Mexican Sunflower (*Tithonia diversifolia*), Giant Sensitive Plant (*Mimosa pigra*), Sanchezia (*Sanchezia speciosa*), and White Angel's Trumpet (*Brugmansia candida*).

A detailed discussion on the ecology, potential environmental impacts and proposed management strategies are provided in the Invasive **Species** Management Plan (ISMP) prepared by IPCA (IPCA, 2018d).



Figure 80: Mexican Sunflower (Tithonia diversifolia)

Source: CABI Data Sheet, 2018



Figure 81: Giant Sensitive Plant (*Mimosa pigra*), lower Laloki Valley

The Giant Sensitive Plant does not currently occur in VNP. Image taken in the lower Laloki Valley. Nittya Simard in frame. Photo credit: Allen Allison



Figure 82: Sanchezia (Sanchezia speciosa), Kokoda Track

Sanchezia is common in parts along the Kokoda Track. Photo credit: Allen Allison



Figure 83: White Angel's Trumpet (Brugmansia candida)

Photographed along Nairogo Creek, Sogeri Road outside VNP. Photo credit: Allen Allison.

# 4.12. Composition and Species Richness of Vascular Plant Flora

PNG's tropical forests sit within the greater 'Papuasia Region' including West Papua, the Bismarck Archipelago, and the Solomon Islands and are widely recognised as a major centre of plant diversity (Takeuchi, 2003b). Estimates of the New Guinea Island's plant diversity are significant and range from 11,000 (Collins et al. 1991) for PNG to 20,000-25,000 species for West Papua (Supriatna 1999).

Dr. Shelley James, formerly of Bishop Museum and now with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney (NSW State Herbarium) is currently compiling a checklist for the flora of PNG. Although this work is still in progress there are approximately 1,800 genera and 13,500 species of vascular plants in PNG. There is no doubt that these figures will rise given there are significant knowledge gaps associated with PNG's flora, which remains poorly collected to date (Takeuchi, 2003b).

The 15 most speciose families occurring within the Park are listed in Table 3. IPCA's checklist of the vascular plants found in the Park includes 157 families, 581 genera and 1,126 species. The species total is considered conservative given previous botanical surveys have identified many taxa only to genus and morpho-species. Many of these likely represent the same taxon.

Based on IPCA's literature reviews and field surveys it is estimated that approximately 150 species of ferns, at least eight species of conifers, and between 700 and 900 species of flowering plants occur within VNP. These totals do not include the two species of Araucaria that were planted near the main lookout.

As such, the Park includes representatives from most PNG plant families, nearly a third of the vascular plant genera, and nearly 10% of PNG's vascular plant species. This is extraordinary diversity for a Park that is only

1,063 ha in total area and has negligible variation in elevation (630 to 833 m).

Table 3: Plant Families ranked according to species richness, VNP

NAME	NO.
Orchidaceae	71
Moraceae	55
Rubiaceae	48
Fabaceae	46
Lauraceae	41
Myrtaceae	30
Elaeocarpaceae	25
Poaceae	25
Apocynaceae	24
Phyllanthaceae	24
Euphorbiaceae	24
Malvaceae	23
Rutaceae	23
Sapindaceae	23
Meliaceae	22

PNG's orchids have been a topic of great interest from botanists and collectors and have been the

focus of taxonomic interest for decades. PNG's orchids are relatively well known compared with the majority of the country's other plant taxa. This is reflected in their representatuion within literature and databases investigated by IPCA when compiling the check lists of plants for VNP.

Alwin Gentry of the Missouri Botanical Garden examined diversity in 226 temperate and tropical forests around the world. In 1989 he worked with Mike Hopkins of UPNG to examine diversity in VNP. Using a standardised protocol of identifying each species of tree with diameter at breast height (dbh) > 10 cm within ten plots of 100 m each, he determined that there were 209 species of trees and lianas within a hectare of primary forest in VNP. The Park was among the five richest forests surveyed worldwide by Gentry (Figure 84).

#### Gentry Tropical Tree Plots (-22° to 22°) Varirata National Park in Red

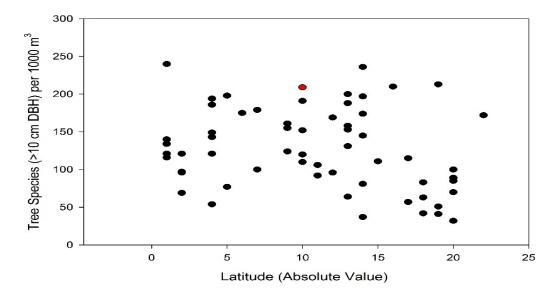


Figure 84: Tropical forest tree species diversity

Tree species diversity in 59 tropical forests of Africa, Indo-Pacific, Australia and the Americas. The result for Varirata National Park is indicated in red in the above figure, it is among the 5th most diverse forest system of those studied by Alwin Gentry (Phillips, O., and J.S. Miller, 2002).

## 4.12.1. Phenology

Brown and Hopkins (1995; 1996; 2002) established a 3 ha plot in primary forest near Gare's Lookout in late 1990 and assessed tree flowering and fruiting phenology over 26 months. Their plot included 2,300 individual (permanently tagged) trees with circumference of 20 cm (roughly a diameter at breast height of 7 cm) represented by 274 species. During their study a few species flowered continuously, some sporadically, some only once during a particularly intense wet season one year and many not at all. Overall, only 60% of the species produced flowers and fruit during the study period.

The proportion of the flora in the primary forest bearing fruit – a general indication of tree phenology – ranged from around 5% to approximately 16% with a peak during the dry season. At least some trees were bearing fruit

at any given time of the year and those with flowers ranged from 10% to 20% with a similar seasonal pattern to the fruiting trees.

These findings in conjunction with the results of IPCA's field survey suggest that in primary forest flowers and fruit are readily available year-round, as are the nectivorous and frugivorous birds that are dependent on these resources. Although there is clearly a seasonal pattern (Figure 85) it is not particularly pronounced. As Brown and Hopkins (1995; 1996; 2002) demonstrate, unpredictable variation in annual rainfall has a pronounced effect on some plant species and on the nomadic species of birds that depend on them.

The eucalypts (Grey Gum, Ghost Gum and White Gum) that dominate the savannah vegetation generally flower during the dry season.

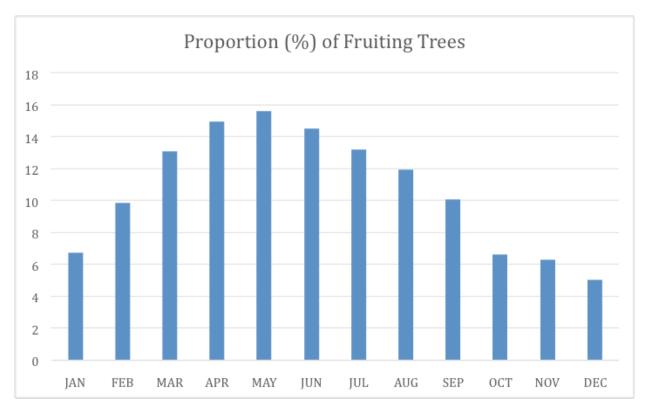


Figure 85: Percentage of trees in primary forest with fruit in VNP Source: Hopkins & Hiaso, 1994.

# 4.13. Natural History Field Guide Brochures

In addition to the checklists prepared for each group of taxa, six separate Field Guide Brochures have been prepared for a selection of common and intriguing species likely to be of interest to Park patrons. These brochures briefly describe key characteristics of a number of species to assist Park visitors in their identification of species contained within each brochure. The Field Guide Brochures are as follows:

- 1. Plants;
- 2. Invertebrates;
- 3. Frogs;
- 4. Reptiles (turtles, lizards and snakes);
- 5. Birds; and
- 6. Mammals.

The first Field Guide Brochure issued for Plants of VNP is presented in Appendix 7. The Field Guide Brochures for the fauna species are presented in IPCA's Biodiversity (Fauna) Survey Report (IPCA, 2018c).

#### 5. CONCLUSIONS

PNG's tropical forests sit within the greater 'Papuasia Region' including West Papua, the Bismarck Archipelago, and the Solomon Islands and are widely recognised as a major centre of plant diversity (Takeuchi, 2003b). This places PNG in the centre a 'mega diversity hotspot' (UNEP, 2010). Plant diversity within PNG is significant with estimates ranging from 11,000 (Collins et al. 1991) for PNG to 20,000-25,000 which have been suggested for West Papua alone (Supriatna, 1999). Preparation of a species checklist for the flora of PNG is in progress and currently comprises approximately 1,800 genera and 13,500 species of vascular plants (James, pers.comm). There is no doubt that these figures will rise given there are significant knowledge gaps associated with PNG's flora, which remains poorly collected to date (Takeuchi, 2003b).

The highest diversity of flora is recorded from PNG's lowland forests, which decreases increasing elevation. The medium crowned lowland hill forests that comprise approximately 80% of VNP are species rich and generally poorly known (Takeuchi, 2003b). These forests throughout PNG are subject to a several threatening processes, which are primarily habitat loss and logging.

## 5.1. Key Vegetation Associations

The botanical survey of the Park confirms three key vegetation associations and five key habitats. Medium crowned lowland hill forest (primary forest), secondary Forest and eucalypt savannah comprise approximately 80%, 18% and <2% of the Park's total area respectively. Aquatic and Disturbed habitats occur in all three associations.

Medium-crowned lowland hill forest includes a rich diversity of tree species with oaks (Fagaceae), particularly Castanopsis acuminatissima and Lithocarpus celibicus often occurring along ridgelines. Forest structure is typically characterised by a closed canopy 25-30 m high, a dense understory of shrubs, small trees and lianas.

Secondary forest communities are dominated by Casuarina (Gymnostoma papuana) and the extent of these forests within the Park is remarkable. Through natural forest succession this habitat has expanded by more than 200 hectares in less than 50 years. Much of these forests now occupy areas of former grassland from when the Park was officially opened in 1973. Close proximity of a forest seed bank, an absence of fire and limited poaching of forest resources have largely facilitated the successful expansion of secondary forests within VNP. Similarly, since 1992 changes in old secondary forests such as those adjacent to the Main entrance are evident as they now contain a greater composition of primary forest species compared with the almost pure stands of Gymnostoma that occur around the Lake Lifilikatabu complex in the Main Picnic Area.

At less than 2% of the Park's area, eucalypt savannah is poorly represented despite being a common habitat at low elevations in Central Province. It is however, important ecologically as several species with a restricted range in PNG only occur in these habitats. They include Ghost Gum (Corymbia papuana), Grey Gum (E. tereticornis) White Gum (E. alba), Weeping Paperbark (Melaleuca leucadendron) and the cycad (Cycas campestris), which is a regional endemic. Furthermore, the eucalypts are particularly critical for a variety of mammals and birds, particularly parrots, which rely on hollows produced by these trees for nesting sites. Increasing the Park's footprint to cover a greater area of eucalypt savannah would comprise a valuable conservation initiative.

The Aquatic habitats within the Park comprise Nairogo Creek and its tributaries, and the Lake Lifilikatabu complex. Several species are restricted in their distribution throughout the Park given their dependence on aquatic habitats. These include a species of sedge (Eleocharis sp.) from the lake and Neonauclea sp a medium sized riparian shrub and native species from the genus Impatiens, which are largely confined to watercourses within the park.

Disturbed habitats including landscaped gardens of the Park's picnic areas and roadside verges are dominated by weed species and naturalised grasses.

## **5.2.** Species Richness

IPCA's botanical surveys in conjunction with a detailed analysis of literature including records of past collections undertaken from the Park and the Sogeri Plateau confirm at least 1,126 plant species comprising 581 genera and 157 families. This is considered to be conservative given many of the collection specimens were not identified to species level given an absence of flower or fruit at the time of collection. Brown and Hopkins (1995) demonstrated that flowering and fruiting cycles of tree species within VNP is irregular and does not occur in predictable seasonal cycles reporting only 60% of individual trees flowered during their 26month study. This variation in flowering and fruiting cycles among species demonstrates that long-term, sustained monitoring effort is necessary to obtain biological data from PNG's tropical forests.

The IPCA 2017-2018 study collected 635 plant specimens, including ground cover, shrubs, epiphytes, lianas and flowering trees. Both studies have contributed greatly to our current understanding of floristics within VNP. There are undoubtedly many new species records to be obtained for the Park with the potential for describing plant species new to science from the Park equally very high.

In broader context, the diversity of flora represented by species accounts from the Park to date is extraordinary. This survey has demonstrated that VNP, which currently only covers 1,063 ha and has negligible range in elevation (630 to 833 m) contains representatives from most of PNG's plant families, nearly a third of the vascular plant genera, and nearly 10% of PNG's vascular plant This species. represents а remarkable plant biodiversity. proportion of PNG's Furthermore, when compared with 59 other tropical forests, VNP ranked within the top 5 for the highest diversity of tree species in

tropical forest ecosystems (Phillips, O., and J.S. Miller. 2002).

It is expected that with further targeted field surveys, additional species records for flora will most certainly be added to the Park's checklists with the potential for describing species new to science considered to be very high.

# 5.3. Species with Conservation Significance

Six species of plants scheduled with conservation significance under the IUCN Red List are included in the first Checklist of Plants for VNP.

One species is classified as Critically Endangered (Halfordia papuana) while a second species, Flindersia pimenteliana is scheduled as Endangered. Neither species was collected from the Park during the current surveys, although *F.* pimenteliana confirmed by Hopkins & Hisao (1994) as occurring within the Park. The distributions of both species co-occur with medium crowned hill forest, which is widely distributed across the country and it is expected that these species are also widely distributed. Their listing under the IUCN Red List is therefore considered questionable and it is believed that these IUCN records require revision.

Of the remaining four species (*Cycas campestris; Hopea forbesii; Myristica globosa;* and *Helicia albiflora*) all are scheduled as Endangered.

H. albiflora is commonly associated with Castanopsis and Nothofagus forest communities and has a broad distribution across PNG. Little is known regarding the population status of Myristica globosa and both species are considered to be 'low risk' under the 'Near Threatened' category.

The population status of *C. campestris* is comparatively better understood. *Cycas campestris* is endemic to PNG with its range largely confined to low altitudes in the Central Province. Habitat loss through clearing and frequent burning of savannah grasslands where it occurs are the primary threats to this species.

Given that VNP contains less than 2% of eucalypt savannah habitat increasing the Park's footprint to include a greater proportion of savannah would be a tangible measure in affording a greater level of protection to this regionally endemic species.

Hopea forbesii is native to the island of New Guinea (including West Papua) and has a broad distribution from Milne Bay Province to the Sepik and Western Provinces, it has been subjected to an estimated 25% decline in population in the last three generations due to loss of habitat and logging. These impacts have been most severe in Central and Milne Bay Provinces. The IUCN indicate that this species is borderline 'Vulnerable'.

# 5.4. Introduced Flora & Invasive Species

The introduced fauna of Varirata National Park includes 51 species of exotic plants, the majority (45 species) are common weeds generally associated with roadside verges, and landscaped gardens of the Park's picnic areas. Regular lawn maintenance ensures these species pose little ecological risk to the native plant assemblages in the Park.

The remaining six species are widely recognised as invasives with potential to cause serious ecological impact. Three of these represented by small populations or individual and specimens can be quickly, economically eradicated from the Park as strongly recommended. They comprise African Tulip Tree (Spathodea campanulata); Spiderwort (Tradescantia spp) and Lantana (Lantana camara).

The fourth species, Hemp Vine (*Mikania micrantha*) was documented from the foreshore of Lake Lifilikatabu. Further information is required regarding the extent of its distribution throughout the Park.

The remaining two species comprise Clidemia (*Miconia crenata*) and Spiked Pepper (*Piper aduncum*) and both are well established in the Park. Clidemia in particular is a dominant groundcover in secondary forests with

potential to significantly impact floristic diversity and processes of forest succession. The Invasive Species Management Plan (IPCA, 2018d) and Environmental Monitoring Plan (IPCA, 2018a) detail further recommendations regarding the challenges associated with containing and managing these species in the Park.

## 5.5. Ecological Value of Varirata National Park

The Biodiversity (Flora) Survey has provided critical knowledge required to assist in the development of sound science based resource management strategies crucial to achieving the primary Project Objective of establishing a 'Conservation Management Framework' for Varirata National Park.

The Park's incredible biodiversity, environmental values, cultural significance and educational and ecotourism potential dictates that Varirata National Park represents an outstanding natural asset of high ecological value in PNG's protected area portfolio.

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#### 7. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Biomass:** The total mass of organisms in a given area.

**Disturbed Areas:** Areas that extensively altered by human activity.

**Endemic:** refers to whether an organism is native to and restricted to a specific geographic area. For example, a species endemic to Varirata National would be found only there; similarly a species endemic to Papua New Guinea would be found only within the political borders of PNG; a species endemic to New Guinea would restricted to the island of New Guinea.

**Ecosystem:** The complete assemblage of plants and animals in an area.

**Ecotone:** A region of transition between two biological communities.

**Introduced:** A species of plant of animal that is not native to an area and has been has been accidently or deliberately introduced by human activity.

**Invasive:** An introduced species of plant or animal that is able to spread into and adversely impact native ecosystems.

**Native:** A species of plant or animal that occurs naturally in a given area.

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# **Appendix 1. Scope of Work**

Section	Fauna	Flora
4.1 (a)	Conduct a literature review of relevant scientific publications, reports, GIS shape files, specimen database records, on the fauna diversity of VNP and prepare a check list of species	Conduct a literature review of relevant scientific publications, reports, GIS shape files, specimen database records, on the fauna diversity of VNP and prepare a check list of species
4.2 (a)	Preparation of a habitat classification map: Prepare a habitat classification map based on satellite imagery and ground truthing techniques. A high resolution satellite image (World View 2) will be provided by the consultant	Preparation of a vegetation map and habitat classification map:  Prepare a vegetation map based on satellite imagery and ground truthing techniques. A high resolution satellite image (World View 2) will be provided by the consultant
4.3	Conduct field surveys targeting the following:  a) Vertebrate taxa;  (i) Freshwater fishes  (ii) Amphibians;  (iii) Reptiles;  (iv) Birds;  (v) Mammals  b) Invertebrate taxa; Insects (visually appealing, iconic, or scientifically interesting species)  Other invertebrates of interest	Conduct field surveys targeting the following:  (a) Vascular plant taxa;
4.4 (a)	Not Stated	Development of a monitoring program  Prepare a comprehensive monitoring program targeting indicator species of <b>fauna and flora</b> for the National Park and surrounding area.  Assess specific ecological requirements of selected groups of <b>fauna</b> and <b>flora</b> which may require specific management measures and are potential targets for ecotourism  Propose a management actions for conservation and protection of selected groups of flora and fauna
4.5	Not Stated	Production of Field Guide Brochures  a) Produce field guides / Biodiversity Information Brochures for selected groups of fauna and flora below, with a brief description of their natural history will be printed for visitors to learn about the biodiversity of VNP for VNP:  b) The field guide will be used for the general public, tourists and students, hence the descriptions must be simplified without too much scientific jargon.  Common Vascular Plants  Vertebrate  Amphibians  Common reptiles  Common birds  Common invertebrates

Section	Fauna	Flora
4.6	NA	Biodiversity Seminar  a) A biodiversity (fauna & flora) seminar aiming to disseminate information obtained through the project will be conducted in POM at the end of the project. The target audience will be 80 people and stakeholders will include
		researchers, students, residents of the Koairi LLG etc. Details to be confirmed with the CEPA – JICA team. b) A seminar report will be prepared

# Appendix 2. Check List of Plant Species of VNP

#### Notes:

- 1. All non-native plants are indicated with an \* in the checklist of vascular plants from the Park;
- 2. Species shaded in grey are native species listed under the IUCN Red List. Refer to Appendix 6 for further information on each species.

VASCULAR PLANT SPECIES OF VARIRATA NATIONAL PARK

THIS RUN ON 31/07/2018 04:14:16 PM

TOTAL NUMBER OF GENERA = 581

TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES = 157

TOTAL NUMBER OF SPECIES = 1126

TOTAL NUMBER OF WEEDS = 51

#### **FERNS**

#### **ASPLENIACEAE**

Asplenium bipinnatifidum

Asplenium kelelense

Asplenium lobatum

Asplenium ludens

Asplenium nidus

Asplenium pellucidum

Asplenium phyllitidis

Asplenium polyodon

Asplenium sancti-christofori

Asplenium spathulinum

Asplenium tenerum

Asplenium sp.

Diplora durvillaei

#### **ATHYRIACEAE**

Diplazium cordifolium

Diplazium crenato-serratum

Diplazium sorzogonense

#### **BLECHNACEAE**

Blechnum orientale

#### **CYATHEACEAE**

Cyathea contaminans

Cyathea fusca

Cyathea macrophylla

Cyathea rumphiana

Cyathea sp.

#### **CYSTODIACEAE**

Cystodium sorbifolium

#### **DAVALLIACEAE**

Davallia denticulata

Davallia parvula

Davallia pectinata

Davallia solida

#### **DENNSTAEDTIACEAE**

Dennstaedtia ampla

Dennstaedtia novoguineensis

Dennstaedtia scandens

#### **DICKSONIACEAE**

Calochlaena straminea

#### **DRYOPTERIDACEAE**

Dryopteris concolor

#### **GLEICHENIACEAE**

Dicranopteris linearis

Gleichenia sp.

Stichurus milnei

#### **HYMENOPHYLLACEAE**

Abrodictyum obscurum

Cephalomanes acrosorum

Cephalomanes atrovirens

Cephalomanes javanicum

Crepidomanes bilabiatum

Crepidomanes bipunctatum

Crepidomanes kurzii

Crepidomanes venulosum

Trichomanes bimarginatum

Trichomanes diffusum

Trichomanes saxifragoides

Vandenboschia maxima

#### **LINDSAEACEAE**

Bierhorstia chinensis

Lindsaea lucida

Lindsaea obtusa

Lindsaea repens

Sphenomeris sp.

#### **LYCOPODIACEAE**

Huperzia phlegmaria

Lycopodiella cernua

Lycopodium nummularifolium

Lycopodium squarrosum

#### **LYGODIACEAE**

Lygodium circinatum

Lygodium dimorphum

Lygodium microphyllum

#### **MARATTIACEAE**

Angiopteris evecta

#### **NEPHROLEPIDACEAE**

Nephrolepis biserrata

Nephrolepis hirsutula

Nephrolepis obliterata

#### **OPHIOGLOSSACEAE**

Ophioderma pendula

#### **POLYPODIACEAE**

Aglaomorpha parkinsonii

Calymmodon mnioides

Drynaria quercifolia

Goniophlebium verrucosum

Lemmaphyllum accedens

Loxogramme scolopendrioides

Microsorum membranifolium

Microsorum papuanum

Microsorum pteropus

Microsorum punctatum

Microsorum rampans

Microsorum sp.

Phymatosorus scolopendria

Pyrrosia lanceolata

Pyrrosia longifolia

Pyrrosia princeps

Schizaea dichotoma

Schizaea digitata

#### **PSILOTACEAE**

Psilotum nudum

#### **PTERIDACEAE**

Antrophyum callifolium

Cheilanthes distans

Monogramma dareicarpa

Pneumatopteris sogerensis

Pteris papuana

Syngramma quinata

Taenitis blechnoides

Taenitis mediosora

Vaginularia junghuhnii

Vittaria ledermannii

#### **SELAGINELLACEAE**

Selaginella hieronymi

Selaginella kaernbachii

Selaginella muelleri

Selaginella purpuripes

Selaginella velutina

Selaginella sp.

#### **TECTARIACEAE**

Arthropteris articulata

Tectaria bamleriana

Tectaria barclayi

Tectaria ferruginea

Tectaria pubescens

#### **THELYPTERIDACEAE**

Adiantum caudatum

Adiantum diaphanum

Adiantum neoguineense

Adiantum philippense

Ampelopteris prolifera

Macrothelypteris polypodioides

Plesioneuron tuberculatum

Pronephrium triphyllum

Sphaerostephanos arfakianus

Sphaerostephanos heterocarpus

#### **CONIFERS**

#### **CYCADACEAE**

Cycas campestris (EN)

#### **GNETACEAE**

**Gnetum costatum** 

Gnetum gnemon

Gnetum latifolium

Gnetum sp.

#### **PODOCARPACEAE**

Decussocarpus sp.

Podocarpus neriifolius

Podocarpus sp.

#### **FLOWERING PLANTS**

#### **ACANTHACEAE**

Calophanoides sp.

Calycacanthus magnusianus

Dicliptera sp.

Graptophyllum pictum

Graptophyllum sp.

Hemigraphis sp.

Hygrophila sp.

Jadunia sp.

Justicia sp.

Lepidagathis sp.

Leptosiphonium versicolor

Phlogacanthus novoguineensis

Pseuderanthemum sp.

Ptyssiglottis pubisepala

Rungia diversiformis

Rungia sp.

#### **ACHARIACEAE**

Erythrospermum sp.

Pangium edule

#### **ACTINIDIACEAE**

Saurauia conferta

Saurauia dufaurii

Saurauia sp.

#### **AMARANTHACEAE**

Achyranthes bidentata

Alternanthera sessilis\*

#### **ANACARDIACEAE**

Buchanania amboinensis

Buchanania macrocarpa

Campnosperma montana

Dracontomelon brinco

Dracontomelon sp.

Euroschinus papuanus

Euroschinus sp.

Mangifera minor\*

Mangifera sp.

Rhus taitensis

Semecarpus cassuvium

Semecarpus magnificus

Semecarpus schlechteri

Semecarpus sp.

Spondias sp.

#### **ANNONACEAE**

Artabotrys sp.

Cyathocalyx petiolatus

Goniothalamus aruensis

Goniothalamus species 1

Goniothalamus sp.

Haplostichanthus longirostris

Maasia glauca

Meiogyne sp.

Mitrella sp.

Polyalthia forbesii

Polyalthia sclerophylla

Polyalthia species 1

Polyalthia sp.

Popowia sp

Popowia species 1

Popowia sp.

Pseuduvaria sp.

Uvaria rosenbergiana

Uvaria sp.

Xylopia sp.

#### **APIACEAE**

Centella asiatica\*

Oenanthe javanica

#### **APOCYNACEAE**

Alstonia scholaris

Alstonia sp.

Asclepias curassavica\*

Dischidia major

Dischidia nummularia

Dischidia cf. papuana

Dischidia sp.

Ervatamia coronaria

Ervatamia sp.

Gymnanthera sp.

Gymnema sp.

Hoya nicholsoniae

Hoya sp.

Ichnocarpus frutescens

Melodinus australis

Melodinus forbesii

Ochrosia ficifolia

Ochrosia sp.

Papuechites aambe

Parsonsia buruensis

Parsonsia oligantha

Tabernaemontana aurantiaca

Tabernaemontana pandacaqui

Urceola javanica

#### **APONOGETONACEAE**

Aponogeton loriae

#### **AQUIFOLIACEAE**

Ilex sp.

#### **ARACEAE**

Amydrium magnificum

Cyrtosperma carrii

Epipremnum papuanum

Homalomena davidiana

Homalomena schlechteri

Lasia spinosa

Pothos hellwigii

Schismatoglottis potamophila

#### **ARALIACEAE**

Arthrophyllum macranthum

Boerlagiodendron novoguineense

Mackinlaya celebica

Osmoxylon species 1

Osmoxylon sp.

Polyscias ledermanii

Schefflera actinophylla

Schefflera bractescens

Schefflera elliptica

Schefflera stahliana

Schefflera thaumasiantha

Schefflera versteegii

Schefflera species 1

Schefflera sp.

#### **ARECACEAE**

Calamus aruensis

Calamus sp.

Calyptrocalyx forbesii

Calyptrocalyx sp.

Caryota rumphiana

Caryota sp.

Cyrtostachys Ioriae

Heterospathe sp.

Hydriastele cf. beccariana

Hydriastele sp.

Korthalsia brassii

Orania sp.

Paralinospadix sp.

Ptychosperma sp.

#### **ARISTOLOCHIACEAE**

Aristolochia momandul

#### **ASPARAGACEAE**

Cordyline fruticosa

Cordyline sp.

Dracaena angustifolia

Dracaena sp.

#### **ASPHODELACEAE**

Geitonoplesium cymosum

#### **ASTERACEAE**

Acmella grandiflora

Ageratum conyzoides\*

Bidens pilosa\*

Blumea riparia

Blumea saxatilis

Crassocephalum crepidioides\*

Elephantophus mollis\*

Eleutheranthera ruderalis\*

Erechtites valerianifolia\*

Gynura procumbens

Microglossa pyrifolia

Mikania cordata

Mikania micrantha\*

Synedrella nodiflora\*

Tithonia diversifolia\*

Vernonia lanceolata

Wedelia spilanthoides\*

#### **BALSAMINACEAE**

Impatiens hawkeri

#### **BEGONIACEAE**

Begonia sp.

#### **BIGNONIACEAE**

Deplanchea tetraphylla

Deplanchea sp.

Neosepicaea sp

Neosepicaea sp.

Pandorea sp.

Spathodea campanulata\*

Tecomanthe dendrophila

#### **BIXACEAE**

Bixa orellana\*

#### **BURSERACEAE**

Canarium acutifolium

Canarium asperum

Canarium cestracion

Canarium hirsutum

Canarium indicum

Canarium kaniense

Canarium maluense

Canarium cf. moluense

Canarium species 1

Canarium sp.

Garuga floribunda

Haplolobus furfuraceus

Haplolobus sp.

Protium macgregorii

Protium species 1

Protium sp.

Santiria sp.

#### **CALOPHYLLACEAE**

Calophyllum soulattri

Calophyllum trachycaule

Calophyllum sp.

#### **CANNABACEAE**

Aphananthe philippinensis

Trema orientalis

#### **CARDIOPTERIDACEAE**

Gonocaryum sp.

Pseudobotrys dorae

Pseudobotrys sp.

#### **CARYOPHYLLACEAE**

Drymaria cordata\*

#### **CASUARINACEAE**

Gymnostoma papuana

#### **CELASTRACEAE**

Bhesa archboldiana

Celastrus novoguineensis

Celastrus sp.

Salacia erythrocarpa

Salacia sp.

#### **CHLORANTHACEAE**

Chloranthus erectus

Chloranthus officinalis

#### **CHRYSOBALANACEAE**

Hunga papuana

#### **CLEOMACEAE**

Cleome viscosa\*

#### **CLUSIACEAE**

Garcinia assugu

Garcinia dulcis

Garcinia hollrungii

Garcinia sp

Garcinia subtilinervis

Garcinia sp.

#### **COMBRETACEAE**

Terminalia archboldiana

Terminalia kaernbachii

Terminalia species 1

Terminalia sp.

#### **COMMELINACEAE**

Commelina sp.

Dictyospermum sp.

Floscopa scandens

Pollia secundiflora

Tradescantia sp.\*

#### **CONNARACEAE**

Rourea minor

Rourea cf. simnlans

#### **CONVOLVULACEAE**

Ipomoea eriocarpa

Ipomoea sp.

Lepistemon urceolatus

Merremia gemella

Merremia peltata

Merremia umbellata

#### **CRYPTERONIACEAE**

Crypteronia cumingii

#### **CUCURBITACEAE**

Neoalsomitra pilosa

Papuasicyos papuana

#### **CUNONIACEAE**

Caldcluvia nymanii

Caldcluvia papuana

Caldcluvia sp.

Schizomeria floribunda

Schizomeria serrata

Schizomeria sp.

#### **CYPERACEAE**

Carex cryptostachys

Cyperus cf. brevifoli

Cyperus compressus

Cyperus digitatus

Cyperus halpan

Cyperus laxus

C	Cyperus tenuiculmis	
Ε	Eleocharis dulcis	
F	-imbristylis dichotoma*	
F	Fuirena umbellata	
F	Hypolytrum nemorum	
K	(yllinga brevifolia*	
٨	Mapania anomala	
٨	Mapania cuspidata	
P	Paramapania parvibractea	
R	Rhynchospora corymbosa	
R	Rhynchospora rubra	
S	Scleria lithosperma	
S	Scleria polycarpa	
S	Scleria scrobiculata	
DIGU	ADETAL ACEAE	
	APETALACEAE	
	Dichapetalum papuanum	
E	Dichapetalum sp.	
DILLE	ENIACEAE	
	Fetracera nordtiana	
,	etracera noratiana	
DIOS	COREACEAE	
E	Dioscorea nummularia	
E	Dioscorea pentaphylla	
DIPE	NTODONTACEAE	
P	Perrottetia alpestris	
P	Perrottetia species 1	
P	Perrottetia sp.	
DIPT	EROCARPACEAE	
F	Hopea forbesii (NT)	
	Hopea similis	
	нореа sp.	
,		
EBENACEAE		
E	Diospyros cordato-oblonga	

Cyperus meistostylus

Diospyros humilis

Diospyros novoguineensis

Diospyros sp.

#### **ELAEAGNACEAE**

Elaeagnus triflora

#### **ELAEOCARPACEAE**

Aceratium archboldianum

Aceratium muellerianum

Aceratium oppositifolium

Aceratium species 1

Aceratium species 2

Aceratium sp.

Elaecarpus sp

Elaeocarpus angustifolius

Elaeocarpus culminicola

Elaeocarpus dolichostylus

Elaeocarpus hartleyi

Elaeocarpus ledermannii

Elaeocarpus stenodactylus

Elaeocarpus womersleyi

Elaeocarpus species 1

Elaeocarpus species 2

Elaeocarpus species 4

Elaeocarpus sp.

Sloanea forbesii

Sloanea paradisearum

Sloanea sogerensis

Sloanea species 3

Sloanea species 4

Sloanea species 5

Sloanea sp.

#### **ERYTHROXYLACEAE**

Erythroxylum ecarinatum

Erythroxylum sp.

#### **ESCALLONIACEAE**

Polyosma forbesii

Polyosma sp.

#### **EUPHORBIACEAE**

Acalypha hellwigii

Alchornea rugosa

Aleurites moluccana

Claoxylon ledermannii

Claoxylon tenerifolium

Codiaeum variegatum

Croton choristadenius

Croton hirtus\*

Croton prunifolius

Endospermum medullosum

Endospermum myrmecophilum

Endospermum sp.

Euphorbia sp.

Homalanthus novoguineensis

Macaranga aleuritoides

Macaranga densiflora

Macaranga glaberrima

Macaranga punctata

Macaranga quadriglandulosa

Macaranga sp.

Mallotus floribundus

Mallotus sp.

Pimelodendron amboinicum

#### **EUPOMATIACEAE**

Eupomatia laurina

Eupomatia sp.

#### **FABACEAE**

Albizia papuensis

Archidendron lucyi

Archidendron sp.

Cajanus reticulatus

Calopogonium mucunoides\*

Canavalia papuana

Cassia grandis\*

Cassia javanica

Castanospermum australe\*

Castanospermum sp.

Centrosema pubescens\*

Crotalaria albida

Crotalaria chinensis

Crotalaria sessiliflora

Cynometra minutiflora

Derris rubrocalyx

Desmodium gyroides

Desmodium microphyllum

Desmodium pulchellum

Desmodium pullenii

Desmodium sequax

Desmodium velutinum

Dioclea hexandra

Erythrina merrilliana

Falcataria moluccana

Flemingia macrophylla\*

Indigofera linifolia

Macropsychanthus lauterbachii

Maniltoa cynometroides

Maniltoa psilogyne

Maniltoa sp.

Mimosa pudica\*

Mucuna stanleyi

Mucuna sp.

Phaseolus lunatus\*

Phylacium bracteosum

Phyllodium pulchellum

Pterocarpus sp.

Pueraria montana

Rhynchosia acuminatissima

Senna alata\*

Strongylodon lucidus

Stylosanthes humilis\*

Stylosanthes sp.

Tephrosia vestita Zornia gibbosa **FAGACEAE** Castanopsis acuminatissima Lithocarpus celebicus Lithocarpus sp. **FLAGELLARIACEAE** Flagellaria indica **GENTIANACEAE** Fagraea berteriana Fagraea ceilanica Fagraea gracilipes Fagraea racemosa Fagraea sp. Lisianthius sp. **GESNERIACEAE** Aeschynanthus hartleyi Boea lawesii Cyrtandra sp. Rhynchotechum discolor **GOODENIACEAE** Scaevola oppositifolia Searda sp **HIMANTANDRACEAE** Galbulimima belgraveana Galbulimima sp. **HYDROCHARITACEAE** Blyxa aubertii

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**HYPOXIDACEAE** 

Curculigo capitulata Curculigo orchioides

#### **ICACINACEAE**

Gomphandra papuana

Phytocrene interrupta

Platea excelsa

Platea latifolia

Platea sp.

Polyporandra scandens

Rhyticaryum longifolium

#### **JUGLANDACEAE**

Engelhardia rigida

#### **LAMIACEAE**

Callicarpa longifolia

Callicarpa pentandra

Clerodendrum buruanum

Clerodendrum costatum

Clerodendrum cf. tracyanum

Clerodendrum sp.

Faradaya splendida

Faradaya sp.

Gmelina sp.

Leucas flaccida

Mesosphaerum suaveolens\*

Plectranthus congestus

Plectranthus scutellarioides

Plectranthus sp.

Pogostemon stellatus

Premna regularis

Premna serratifolia

Premna sp.

#### **LAURACEAE**

Beilschmiedia sp

Beilschmiedia sp.

Cinnamomum grandiflorum

Cinnamomum massoia

Cinnamomum sp.

Cryptocarya alleniana

Cryptocarya apamifolia

Cryptocarya cf. apamifolia

Cryptocarya cagayanensis

Cryptocarya forbesii

Cryptocarya ledmannii

Cryptocarya massoy

Cryptocarya cf. multinerva

Cryptocarya novo-guineensis

Cryptocarya papuana

Cryptocarya splendens

Cryptocarya sulcata

Cryptocarya species 1

Cryptocarya species 2

Cryptocarya species 3

Cryptocarya species 4

Cryptocarya species 5

Cryptocarya species 7

Cryptocarya species A

Cryptocarya sp.

Endiandra faceta

Endiandra ledermannii

Endiandra species 1

Endiandra sp.

Litsea communis

Litsea densiflora

Litsea elliptica

Litsea engleriana

Litsea firma

Litsea galorei

Litsea guppyi

Litsea timoriana

Litsea species 1

Litsea sp.

Neolitsea australiensis

Neolitsea sp.

#### **LECYTHIDACEAE**

Barringtonia calyptrocalyx

Barringtonia sp.

Planchonia papuana

#### **LENTIBULARIACEAE**

Utricularia striatula

#### **LINACEAE**

Hugonia jenkinsii

#### **LOGANIACEAE**

Fragraea ceilanica

Geniostoma rupestre

Neuburgia corynocarpa

Neuburgia sp.

#### **LORANTHACEAE**

Amyema cf. friesiana

Amyema rigidiflora

Amyema sp.

Decaisnina hollrungii

Decaisnina pedicellata

Dendrophthoe gjellerupii

Sogerianthe sogerensis

#### **LYTHRACEAE**

Lagerstroemia piriformis

#### **MAGNOLIACEAE**

Magnolia tsiampacca

Magnolia sp.

#### **MALPIGHIACEAE**

Stigmaphyllon timoriense

#### **MALVACEAE**

Abelmoschus manihot

Brachychiton carruthersii

Commersonia bartramia

Grewia sp.

Melochia corchorifolia\*

Melochia odorata

Melochia umbellata

Microcos sp.

Scaphium sp.

Sida acuta\*

Sida cordifolia\*

Sida rhombifolia\*

Sterculia schumanniana

Sterculia shillinglawii

Sterculia species 1

Sterculia species 2

Sterculia species 3

Sterculia sp.

Trichospermum burretii

Trichospermum pleiostigma

Trichospermum sp.

Triumfetta sp.

Urena lobata\*

#### **MARANTACEAE**

Donax canniformis

Phrynium sp.

#### **MELASTOMATACEAE**

Astronia brunneoaenea

Astronia sp.

Astronidium sp.

Creochiton novoguineensis

Medinilla forbesii

Medinilla sp.

Melastoma malabathricum

Melastoma polyanthum

Miconia crenata\*

Osbeckia chinensis

#### **MELIACEAE**

Aglaia flavescens

Aglaia leucoclada

Aglaia mariannensis

Aglaia sp.

Aphanamixis lauterbachii

Aphanamixis sp.

Chisocheton novoguineensis

Chisocheton species 1

Chisocheton sp.

Dysoxylum alliaceum

Dysoxylum excelsum

Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum

Dysoxylum kaniense

Dysoxylum parasiticum

Dysoxylum pettigrewianum

Dysoxylum species 1

Dysoxylum species 2

Dysoxylum species 3

Dysoxylum sp.

Toona sureni

Toona sp.

Vavaea sp.

#### **MENISPERMACEAE**

Arcangelisia tympanopoda

Macrococculus sp.

#### **MONIMIACEAE**

Kairoa suberosa

Kibara katikii

Kibara species 1

Kibara species 2

Kibara sp.

Levieria sp.

Palmeria gracilis

Palmeria sp.

Steganthera cf. salomonensis

Steganthera sp.

#### **MORACEAE**

Artocarpus vriesianus\*

Artocarpus sp.

Ficus adenosperma

Ficus albipila

Ficus archboldiana

Ficus baeuerlenii

Ficus benjamina

Ficus bernaysii

Ficus botryocarpa

Ficus caulocarpa

Ficus congesta

Ficus copiosa

Ficus crassiramea

Ficus disticha

Ficus distichoidea

Ficus drupacea

Ficus erythrosperma

Ficus glandulifera

Ficus gul

Ficus hesperidiiformis

Ficus hispidioides

Ficus itoana

Ficus mafuluensis

Ficus microcarpa

Ficus odoardii

Ficus opposita

Ficus pachyrrhachis

Ficus pantoniana

Ficus patellata

Ficus prasinicarpa

Ficus pungens

Ficus rhizophoriphylla

Ficus ribes

Ficus scratchleyana

Ficus semilanata

Ficus septica

Ficus subcordata

Ficus subtrinervia

Ficus subulata

Ficus tinctoria

Ficus trachypison

Ficus variegata

Ficus virens

Ficus virgata

Ficus xylosycia

Ficus species 1

Ficus species 2

Ficus species 3

Ficus species 4

Ficus sp.

Parartocarpus venenosus

Parartocarpus sp.

Prainea limpato

Streblus glaber

Trophis scandens

#### **MYRISTICACEAE**

Endocomia macrocoma

Gymnacranthera farquhariana

Horsfieldia hellwigii

Horsfieldia sinclairii

Horsfieldia spicata

Horsfieldia subtilis

Horsfieldia sp.

Myristica globosa (NT)

Myristica longipes

Myristica subalulata

Myristica undulatifolia

Myristica species 1

Myristica species 2

Myristica species 3

Myristica species 4

Myristica sp.

#### **MYRTACEAE**

Corymbia confertiflora

Corymbia papuana

Decaspermum bracteatum

Decaspermum parviflorum

Decaspermum sp.

	Eucalyptus alba
	Eucalyptus tereticornis
	Eugenia sp.
	Melaleuca dealbata
	Melaleuca sp.
	Octamyrtus sp.
	Rhodamnia glauca
	Rhodamnia latifolia
	Rhodomyrtus elegans
	Rhodomyrtus trineura
	Rhodomyrtus sp.
	Syzygium acuminatissimum
	Syzygium furfuraceum
	Syzygium gonatanthum
	Syzygium jambos
	Syzygium lagerstmemioides
	Syzygium longipes
	Syzygium porphyrocarpum
	Syzygium pyrocarpum
	Syzygium roemeri
	Syzygium species 1
	Syzygium species 2
	Syzygium species 3
	Syzygium species 4
	Syzygium sp.
NEF	PENTHACEAE
	Nepenthes mirabilis
	Nepenthes sp.
NYC	CTAGINACEAE
	Pisonia longirostris
	Pisonia umbellifera
NYS	SSACEAE
	Mastixia kaniensis
	Mastixia sp.

#### **OCHNACEAE**

Schuurmansia henningsii

Schuurmansia sp.

#### **OLEACEAE**

Chionanthus sp.

Jasminum elongatum

Jasminum papuasicum

Ligustrum glomeratum

#### **ONAGRACEAE**

Ludwigia octovalvis\*

#### **ORCHIDACEAE**

Acriopsis liliifolia

Agrostophyllum elongatum

Appendicula sp.

Bulbophyllum cimicinum

Bulbophyllum clandestinum

Bulbophyllum desmotrichoides

Bulbophyllum ebulbe

Bulbophyllum fractiflexum

Bulbophyllum gerlandianum

Bulbophyllum globiceps

Bulbophyllum hirudiniferum

Bulbophyllum infundibuliforme

Bulbophyllum manobulbum

Bulbophyllum sp.

Cadetia sp.

Calanthe sp.

Ceratostylis sp.

Cleisostoma firmulum

Coelogyne asperata

Coelogyne carinata

Crepidium brachycaulos

Dendrobium axillare

Dendrobium bracteosum

Dendrobium calceolum

Dendrobium capituliflorum

Dendrobium discolor

Dendrobium mirbelianum

Dendrobium smillieae

Dendrobium sp.

Dendrochilum longifolium

Didymoplexis sp.

Diplocaulobium sp.

Dipodium squamatum

Eria sp.

Eulophia bicallosa

Flickingeria comata

Flickingeria convexa

Geodorum sp.

Glossorhyncha sp.

Grammatophyllum sp.

Habenaria sp.

Hetaeria sp.

Hippeophyllum micranthum

Hippeophyllum sp.

Lecanorchis sp.

Liparis barbata

Luisia sp.

Malaxis zippelii

Micropera fasciculata

Oberonia sp.

Peristylus sp.

Pholidota imbricata

Phreatia micrantha

Phreatia paleata

Phreatia sp.

Plocoglottis moluccana

Podochilus scalpelliformis

Rhinerrhizopsis moorei

Sarcanthopsis nagarensis

Schoenorchis micrantha

Spathoglottis papuana

Spathoglottis parviflora

Taeniophyllum sp.

Thelasis sphaerocarpa

Thrixspermum sp. Trichoglottis sp. Trichotosia flexuosa Trichotosia iodantha Tropidia disticha Tuberolabium sp. Vanda hindsii **OROBANCHACEAE** Striga parviflora **OXALIDACEAE** Oxalis barrelieri\* Oxalis corniculata\* **PANDACEAE** Galearia sp. **PANDANACEAE** Benstonea stenocarpa Freycinetia lalokiensis Freycinetia pseudoinsignis Pandanus tectorius Pandanus sp. **PASSIFLORACEAE** Hollrungia aurantioides Passiflora aurantia Passiflora foetida\* **PENTAPHYLACACEAE** Adinandra sp. Eurya sp. Ternstroemia merrilliana

## **PHYLLANTHACEAE**

Ternstroemia sp.

Antidesma excavatum

Antidesma ghaesembilla

Antidesma polyanthum Antidesma species 1

Antidesma species 2

Antidesma sp.

Aporosa brassii

Aporosa species 1

Aporosa sp.

Breynia cernua

Breynia sp.

Bridelia insulana

Bridelia tomentosa

Bridelia sp.

Cleistanthus inglorius

Glochidion benthamianum

Glochidion eucleoides

Glochidion cf. eucleoides

Glochidion fulvirameum

Glochidion ramiflorum

Glochidion sp.

Phyllanthus ciccoides

Phyllanthus reticulatus

Phyllanthus sp.

#### **PINACEAE**

Pinus kesiya

#### **PIPERACEAE**

Peperomia blanda

Peperomia gemella

Peperomia parvibacca

Peperomia sp

Piper aduncum\*

Piper caninum

Piper macropiper

Piper sp.

#### **PITTOSPORACEAE**

Pittosporum ferrugineum

Pittosporum ramiflorum

Pittosporum sinuatum

Pittosporum sp.

#### **POACEAE**

Bambusa sp.

Centotheca lappacea

Coix lacryma-jobi

Cyrtococcum accrescens

Cyrtococcum trigonum

Eleusine indica\*

Eriachne squarrosa

Eulalia irritans

Garnotia stricta

*Isachne myosotis* 

Microstegium spectabile

Oplismenus compositus

Panicum sarmentosum

Panicum sp

Paspalum conjugatum\*

Paspalum sp.

Pogonatherum crinitum

Polytoca macrophylla

Pseudechinolaena polystachya

Sacciolepis myosuroides

Scrotochloa urceolata

Setaria palmifolia

Sporobolus sp.\*

Themeda triandra

Themeda villosa

#### **PODOSTEMACEAE**

Torrenticola queenslandica

#### **POLYGALACEAE**

Epirixanthes papuana

Polygala paniculata\*

Polygala persicariifolia

Polygala triflora

Securidaca sp.

Xanthophyllum papuanum Xanthophyllum suberosum

#### **PRIMULACEAE**

Ardisia cf. tristanioides

Ardisia venusta

Ardisia sp.

Conandrium polyanthum

Embelia cotinoides

Maesa edulis

Myrsine acrosticta

Myrsine leucantha

Myrsine sp.

#### **PROTEACEAE**

Banksia dentata

Finschia carrii

Grevillea papuana

Grevillea pinnatifida

Helicia albiflora (NT)

Helicia sp.

#### **PUTRANJIVACEAE**

Drypetes longifolia

Drypetes neglecta

Drypetes sp.

#### **RANUNCULACEAE**

Clematis papuasica

#### **RHAMNACEAE**

Alphitonia excelsa

Alphitonia incana

Alphitonia macrocarpa

Alphitonia sp.

Gouania exilis

Gouania sp.

#### **RHIZOPHORACEAE**

Carallia brachiata

Carallia sp.

Gynotroches axillaris

#### **ROSACEAE**

Prunus dolichobotrys

Prunus turneriana

Prunus sp.

Rubus ledermannii

Rubus moluccanus

Rubus rosifolius

#### **ROUSSEACEAE**

Carpodetus sp.

#### **RUBIACEAE**

Amaracarpus attenuatus

Atractocarpus albituba

Canthium caudatum

Canthium megistocarpum

Canthium sp.

Coptosapelta carrii

Cyclophyllum barbatum

Gardenia species 1

Gardenia sp.

Geophila repens

Geophila zollingeriana

Hedyotis auricularia

Hydnophytum radicans

Ixora sp.

Lasianthus chlorocarpus

Lasianthus clementis

Morinda jasminoides

Morinda sp.

Mussaenda ferruginea

Mussaenda whitei

Mussaenda sp.

Mycetia javanica

Myrmecodia platytyrea

Myrmecodia tuberosa

Neonauclea acuminata

Neonauclea chalmersii

Oxyceros bispinosus

Porterandia macroptera

Psychotria micrococca

Psychotria papuana

Psychotria sp.

Randia ixoriflora

Randia pseudoixoraeflora

Randia sp

Randia sp.

Saprosma subrepandum

Spermacoce laevis\*

Tarenna buruensis

Tarenna sp.

Timonius pubistipulus

Timonius timon

Timonius sp.

Uncaria lanosa

Uncaria orientalis

Uncaria sp.

Wendlandia paniculata

Wendlandia sp.

Wrightia sp.

#### **RUTACEAE**

Clausena sp.

Euodia alata

Euodia elleryana

Euodia species 1

Euodia species 2

Euodia species 3

Euodia sp.

Evodiella muelleri

Flindersia pimenteliana (EN)

Flindersia species 1

Flindersia sp.

Glycosmis sp.

#### Halfordia papuana (CE)

Halfordia sp.

Lunasia amara

Melicope denhamii

Melicope cf. muelleri

Melicope xanthoxyloides

Melicope sp.

Murraya paniculata

Murraya sp.

Zanthoxylum ovalifolium

Zanthoxylum sp.

#### **SABIACEAE**

Meliosma sp.

Sabia pauciflora

#### **SALICACEAE**

Casearia carrii

Casearia sp.

Flacourtia zippelii

Flacourtia sp.

Xylosma papuanum

#### **SANTALACEAE**

Dendromyza ledermannii

Dendromyza reinwardtiana

Viscum ovalifolium

#### **SAPINDACEAE**

Alectryon ferrugineum

Alectryon species 1

Alectryon sp.

Allophylus sp.

Cupaniopsis curvidens

Cupaniopsis sp.

Dictyoneura obtusa

Elattostachys sp.

Ganophyllum sp.
Guioa comesperma
Guioa sp.
Harpullia carrii
Harpullia ramiflora
Harpullia species 1
Harpullia species 2
Harpullia sp.
Lepidopetalum species 1
Mischocarpus lachnocarpus
Mischocarpus sp.
Pometia pinnata
Pometia sp.
Toechima erythrocarpum
Toechima sp
SAPOTACEAE
Palaquium sp.
Planchonella obovoidea
Planchonella cf. sarcospermoides
Planchonella sp
Planchonella species 1
Planchonella species 2
Planchonella species 3
Planchonella sp.
Pouteria anteridifera
Pouteria suboppositifolia
SCROPHULARIACEAE
Vandellia anagallis
SIMAROUBACEAE
Picrasma sp.
SMILACACEAE
Smilax calophylla
Smilax sp.

#### **SOLANACEAE**

Solanum cf. anfractum

Solanum erianthum

Solanum lasiocarpum

Solanum torvoideum

Solanum torvum\*

#### **STAPHYLEACEAE**

Turpinia sp.

#### **SYMPLOCACEAE**

Symplocos pulvinata

Symplocos sp.

#### **THEACEAE**

Gordonia papuana

Gordonia sp.

#### **THYMELAEACEAE**

Phaleria macrocarpa

Phaleria sp.

Pimelea cornucopiae

#### **URTICACEAE**

Elatostema integrifolium

Elatostema rigidum

Elatostema sesquifolium

Leucosyke capitellata

Oreocnide sp.

Pipturus sp.

Poikilospermum inaequale

Poikilospermum sp.

Pouzolzia hirta

Procris frutescens

Procris sp.

#### **VERBENACEAE**

Lantana camara\*

Stachytarpheta mutabilis

#### **VIOLACEAE**

Rinorea horneri

#### **VITACEAE**

Cayratia japonica

Cissus conchigera

Cissus discolor

Cissus sp.

Leea indica

Leea sp

Leea sp.

Tetrastigma maluense

Tetrastigma pisicarpum

Tetrastigma schraderi-montis

Tetrastigma sp.

#### **XANTHORRHOEACEAE**

Dianella ensifolia

#### **ZINGIBERACEAE**

Alpinia sp.

Etlingera sp.

Hornstedia sp.

Riedelia sp.

# Appendix 3. Plant Family Species Richness, VNP

#### PLANT FAMILY SPECIES RICHNESS IN VARIRATA NATIONAL PARK

Plant Families of Varirata National Park with number of species per family. Listed in descending order by number of species per family.

FAMILY	No of Species
Orchidaceae	71
Moraceae	55
Rubiaceae	48
Fabaceae	46
Lauraceae	41
Myrtaceae	30
Elaeocarpaceae	25
Poaceae	25
Apocynaceae	24
Phyllanthaceae	24
Euphorbiaceae	23
Malvaceae	23
Rutaceae	23
Sapindaceae	23
Meliaceae	22
Cyperaceae	21
Annonaceae	20
Lamiaceae	18
Polypodiaceae	18
Asteraceae	17
Burseraceae	17
Acanthaceae	16
Myristicaceae	16
Anacardiaceae	15
Araliaceae	14
Arecaceae	14
Aspleniaceae	13
Hymenophyllacea	12
Urticaceae	11
Vitaceae	11
Melastomataceae	10
Monimiaceae	10
Pteridaceae	10
Sapotaceae	10
Thelypteridacea	10
Primulaceae	9
Araceae	8
Piperaceae	8

FAMILY	No of Species
	No of Species
Bignoniaceae	7
Icacinaceae	7
Loranthaceae	7
Polygalaceae	7
Clusiaceae	6
Convolvulaceae	6
Cunoniaceae	6
Gentianaceae	6
Proteaceae	6
Rhamnaceae	6
Rosaceae	6
Selaginellaceae	6
Celastraceae	5
Commelinaceae	5
Cyatheaceae	5
Lindsaeaceae	5
Pandanaceae	5
Salicaceae	5
Solanaceae	5
Tectariaceae	5
Asparagaceae	4
Combretaceae	4
Davalliaceae	4
Ebenaceae	4
Gesneriaceae	4
Gnetaceae	4
Loganiaceae	4
Lycopodiaceae	4
Oleaceae	4
Pentaphylacacea	4
Pittosporaceae	4
Zingiberaceae	4
Actinidiaceae	3
Athyriaceae	3
Calophyllaceae	3
Cardiopteridace	3
Dennstaedtiacea	3
Dipentodontacea	3
Dipterocarpacea	3
Fagaceae	3
Gleicheniaceae	3
Lecythidaceae	3
·	

FAMILY	No of Species
Lygodiaceae	3
Nephrolepidacea	3
Passifloraceae	3
Podocarpaceae	3
Putranjivaceae	3
Rhizophoraceae	3
Santalaceae	3
Thymelaeaceae	3
Achariaceae	2
Amaranthaceae	2
Apiaceae	2
Cannabaceae	2
Chloranthaceae	2
Connaraceae	2
Cucurbitaceae	2
Dichapetalaceae	2
Dioscoreaceae	2
Erythroxylaceae	2
Escalloniaceae	2
Eupomatiaceae	2
Goodeniaceae	2
Himantandraceae	2
Hypoxidaceae	2
Magnoliaceae	2
Marantaceae	2
Menispermaceae	2
Nepenthaceae	2
Nyctaginaceae	2
Nyssaceae	2
Ochnaceae	2
Oxalidaceae	2
Sabiaceae	2
Smilacaceae	2
Symplocaceae	2
Theaceae	2
Verbenaceae	2
Aponogetonaceae	1
Aquifoliaceae	1
Aristolochiacea	1
Asphodelaceae	1
Balsaminaceae	1
Begoniaceae	1
	l

FAMILY	No of Species
Bixaceae	1
Blechnaceae	1
Caryophyllaceae	1
Casuarinaceae	1
Chrysobalanacea	1
Cleomaceae	1
Crypteroniaceae	1
Cycadaceae	1
Cystodiaceae	1
Dicksoniaceae	1
Dilleniaceae	1
Dryopteridaceae	1
Elaeagnaceae	1
Flagellariaceae	1
Hydrocharitacea	1
Juglandaceae	1
Lentibulariacea	1
Linaceae	1
Lythraceae	1
Malpighiaceae	1
Marattiaceae	1
Onagraceae	1
Ophioglossaceae	1
Orobanchaceae	1
Pandaceae	1
Pinaceae	1
Podostemaceae	1
Psilotaceae	1
Ranunculaceae	1
Rousseaceae	1
Scrophulariacea	1
Simaroubaceae	1
Staphyleaceae	1
Violaceae	1
Xanthorrhoeacea	1

### **Appendix 4. Introduced Species, VNP**

### LIST OF INTRODUCED PLANTS RECORDED FROM VARIRATA NATIONAL PARK

### **AMARANTHACEAE** Alternanthera sessilis **ANACARDIACEAE** Mangifera minor **APIACEAE** Centella asiatica **APOCYNACEAE** Asclepias curassavica **ASTERACEAE** Ageratum conyzoides Bidens pilosa Crassophyllum crepidoides Elephantophus mollis Eleutheranthra ruderalis Erechtites valerianifolia Mikania micrantha Syndrella nodiflora Tithonia diversifolia Wedelia spilanthoides Spathodea campanulata Bixa orellana Drymaria cordata Clemone viscosa Tradescantia spp. **CYPERACEAE**

Fimbristylis dichotoma

Kyllinga brevifolia

### Croton hirtus **FABACEAE** Calopogonium mucunoides Cassia grandis Castanospermum australe Centrosema pubescens Flemingia macrophylla Mimosa pudica Phaseolus lunatus Senna alata Stylosanthes humilis **LAMIACEAE** Mesosphaerum suaveolens **MALVACEAE** Melochia corchorifolia Sida acuta Sida cordifolia Sida rhombifolia Urena lobata **MELASTOMATACEAE** Miconia crenata **MORACEAE** Artocarpus vriesianus **ONOGRACEAE** Ludwigia octovalnis **OXALIDACEAE** Oxalis barrelieri Oxalis corniculata **PASSIFLORICACEAE** Passiflora foetida

**EUPHORBIACEAE** 

#### **PIPERACEAE**

Piper aduncum

#### **POACEAE**

Eleusine indica

Paspalum conjugatum

Sporobolis sp.

#### **POLYGALACEAE**

Polygala paniculata

#### **RUBIACEAE**

Spermacoce laevis

#### **SOLANACEAE**

Solanum torvum

#### **VERBENACEAE**

Lantana camara

# Appendix 5. IPCA Community Outreach Program

#### **Outreach Program to Local Schools**

Andrew McInnis and Christo Ferguson conducted an outreach program to local schools and villages from 1-8 November.

Given that local people and villages play an integral part in the Park's future success IPCA felt it important to engage with the community to share some key findings and images from the project. A presentation was created to share the scope and importance of the Park's biodiversity, the benefits of the Park's ecosystem goods and services, threats to the Park, future opportunities for Park collaboration, and potential livelihood activities from the Park's unique biodiversity. The program was implemented to achieve three main goals:

- 1. Community Engagement
- 2. Youth Environmental Education
- 3. Field Team Growth and Experience

#### **Community Engagement**

At the community level, a presentation was given to a local women's group affiliated with the United Church. A short introductory talk was also provided to a woman's group in Bisiatabu, affiliated with the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Both meetings were held in collaboration with SERACS.

#### Youth Environmental Education

A total of four schools participated in our youth outreach effort: Depo Elementary School, Sogeri Elementary School, Sogeri Primary School, and Iarowari Secondary School.

#### November 2nd, 2017

Presenters: Andrew McInnis, Christopher Ferguson and Noel Max.

At Depo Elementary IPCA completed an interactive presentation with a total of 40 students, grades included: Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2.

At Iarowari Secondary IPCA completed two interactive presentations. One session included Grade 9 with a total of 50 students in attendance and the second session included Grade 11 with a total of 35 students in attendance.

#### November 3rd, 2017

Presenters: Andrew McInnis, Christopher Ferguson and Noel Max.

At Sogeri Elementary IPCA completed two interactive presentations. One session included Grade 1 with a total of 30 students in attendance; Second session included Prep and Grade 2 with a total of 50 students in attendance.

At Iarowari Secondary IPCA completed one interactive presentation with a total of 70 students, grades included: Grade 9 and Grade 11.

#### November 7th, 2017

Presenters: Andrew McInnis, Christopher Ferguson, and Monobe Kisea.

At Sogeri Primary School IPCA completed three interactive presentations. One session included Grade 7 with a total of 45 students in attendance the second session included

Grade 6 with a total of 60 students in attendance and the third session included Grade 5 with a total of 65 students in attendance.

#### November 8th, 2017

Presenters: Andrew McInnis, Christopher Ferguson and Bali Korohi.

At Sogeri Primary School IPCA completed two interactive presentations. One session included Grade 4 with a total of 40 students in attendance and the second session included Grade 3 with a total of 50 students in attendance.

All schools noted that they would be interested in participating in future events with the Park and CEPA, including school field trips to the Park, student projects, volunteering projects, and further environmental education presentations in the schools.

A total of **535** students received environmental education through IPCA's Community Outreach Program from the following schools:

Depo Elementary: 40 students Sogeri Elementary: 80 students Sogeri Primary: 260 students

Iarowari Secondary: 155 students

Two additional schools also expressed interest in receiving presentations and attending field trips to VNP, these comprised: Sogeri National High School and Seven Adventist School Bisiatabu. These schools should be included in future programs.

#### Field Team Growth & Experience

Five local Koiari field assistants were trained in Environmental Education concepts, activities and techniques. In addition, three local team members assisted and facilitated presentations with local youths at community schools. The presentation was created so team members and park rangers can continue to use the provided information for school and tourist groups in the future.

#### Contacts

#### **School Contacts**

- 1. Depo Elementary: Head Master Mr. Arue Uwea. No cell # at this time.
- 2. Sogeri Elementary: Head Teacher Mr. Womae Degini. Cell: 7212-3978
- 3. Sogeri Primary: Head Master Mr. Maima Iamuia. Cell: 7659-7714; 7908-4850
- 4. Iarowari Secondary: Head Master Mr. Andrew Moava. Cell: 7113-9016

#### **Future Contacts**

- 1. Sogeri National High School: Deputy Master Ms. Ellen Toti. Cell: 7255-3173; Direct: 325-1095; General: 325-1526
- 2. Seven Adventist School Bisiatabu: awaiting contact information, see Dr. Rodney Kameata.

# Varirata National Park Biodiversity Project

Led by: Dr. Allen Allison and IndoPacific Conservation Alliance

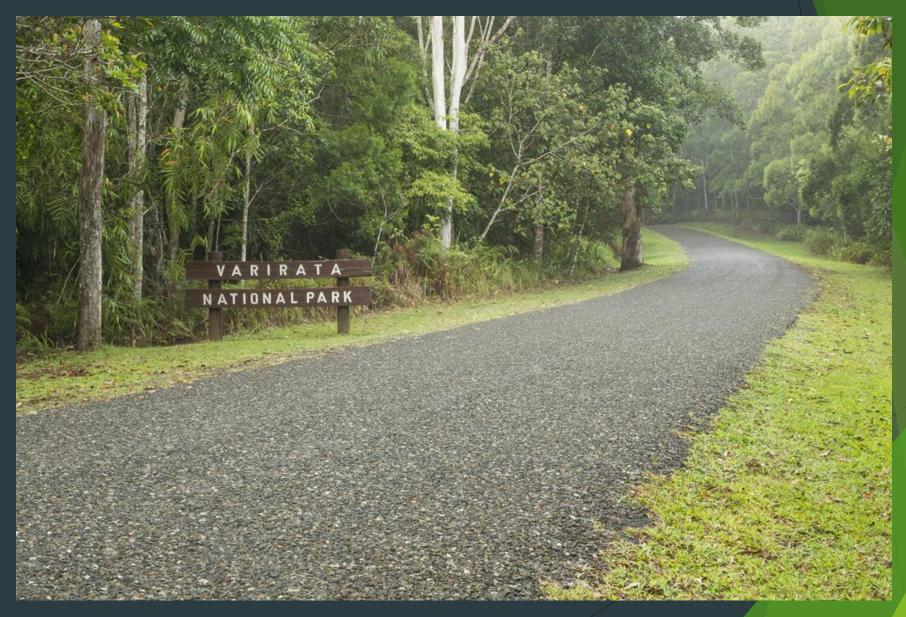
Presentation by: Andrew McInnis and Christo Ferguson

Field team: Bali, Monobe, Dabio, Gilliam, Noel

Support from JICA, CEPA

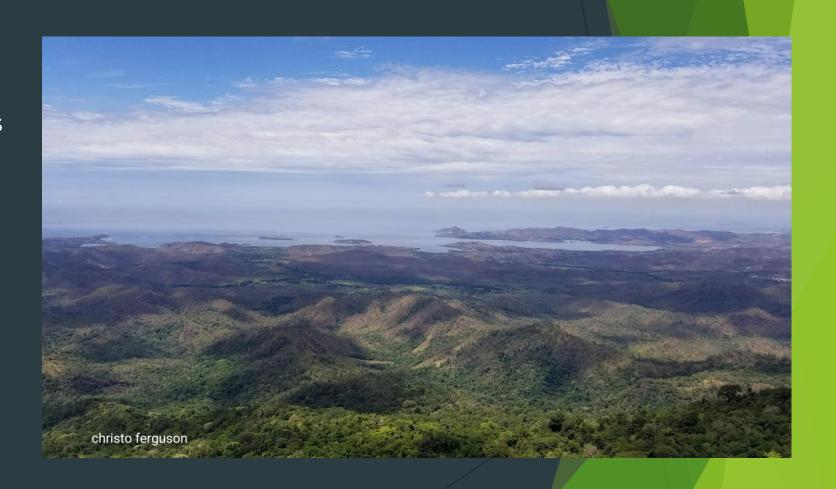
Photography: Angus Fraser

### What is a Park?



### Why are Parks Important?

- Biodiversity
- Ecosystem goods and services
  - Watersheds
  - ► Clean Air and Water
- Science
- Recreation
- Culture





# Map

- Covers an area of 1,063 ha
- 600-800m in elevation



### History

- Land was locally called Wodobonomu
- In 1950's sections had coffee nursery, piggery and poultry farm
- ▶ 8<sup>th</sup> of October 1973
  - ► First official National Park in PNG









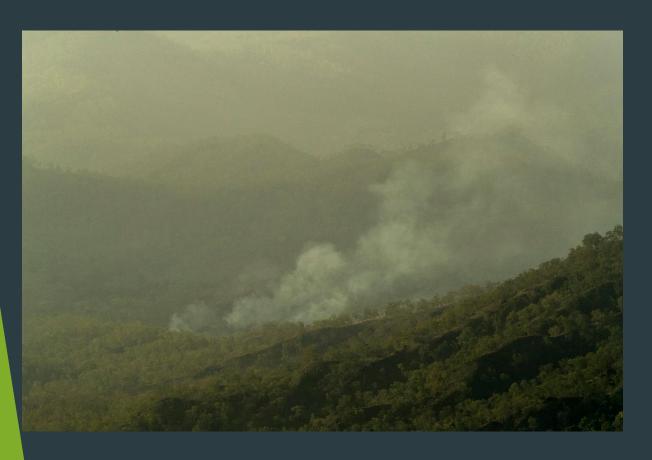


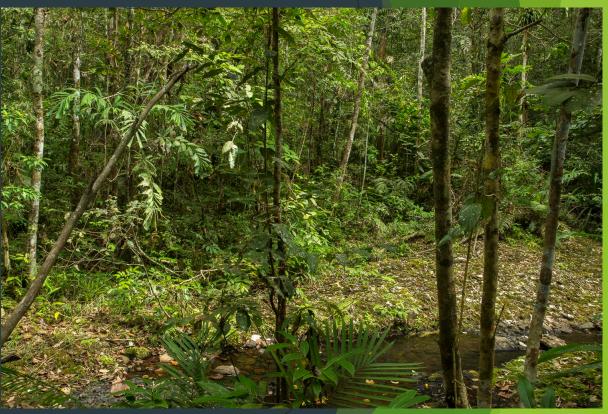
### Threats to the Park: Invasive Species \*add clidemia





### Threats to Park





### Our Project

- PNG Policy on the Protected Areas in 2014
- Ridge to Reef w/ Bootless Bay
- Biodiversity Survey
  - Plants
  - Animals
- CEPA/JICA
- Indo-Pacific Conservation Alliance

### Our Team: PNG Local Field Team



# Our methods

- Plant
  - Press and dry specimens
    - Museums
    - Studies
  - ► All parts of plant (flower, leaf, fruits, ect)
    - season
- Animals
  - ► Catch, Bag
  - Genetics
  - Gps
  - Handling
  - Documentation

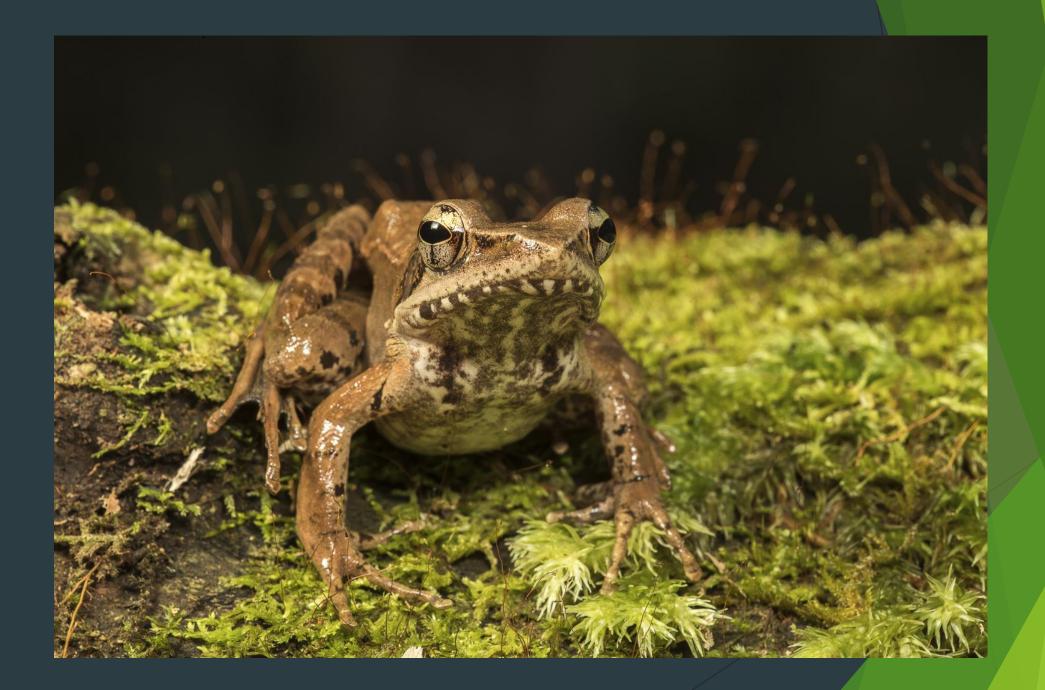




# Animals

- Endangered
- Endemic
- Vertebrates 355



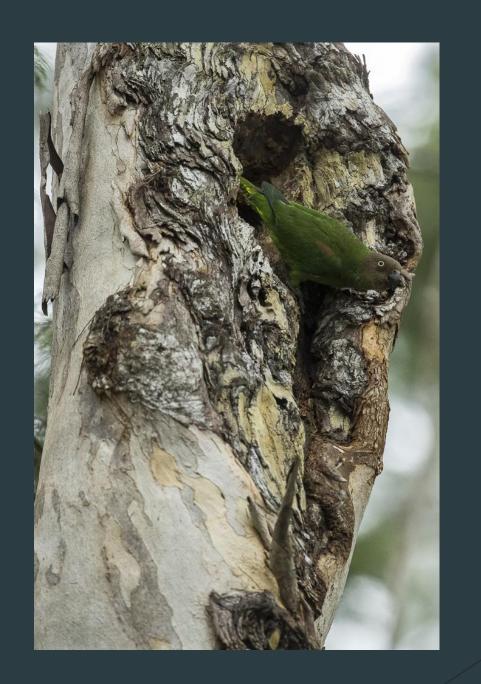




## Birds









## Reptiles







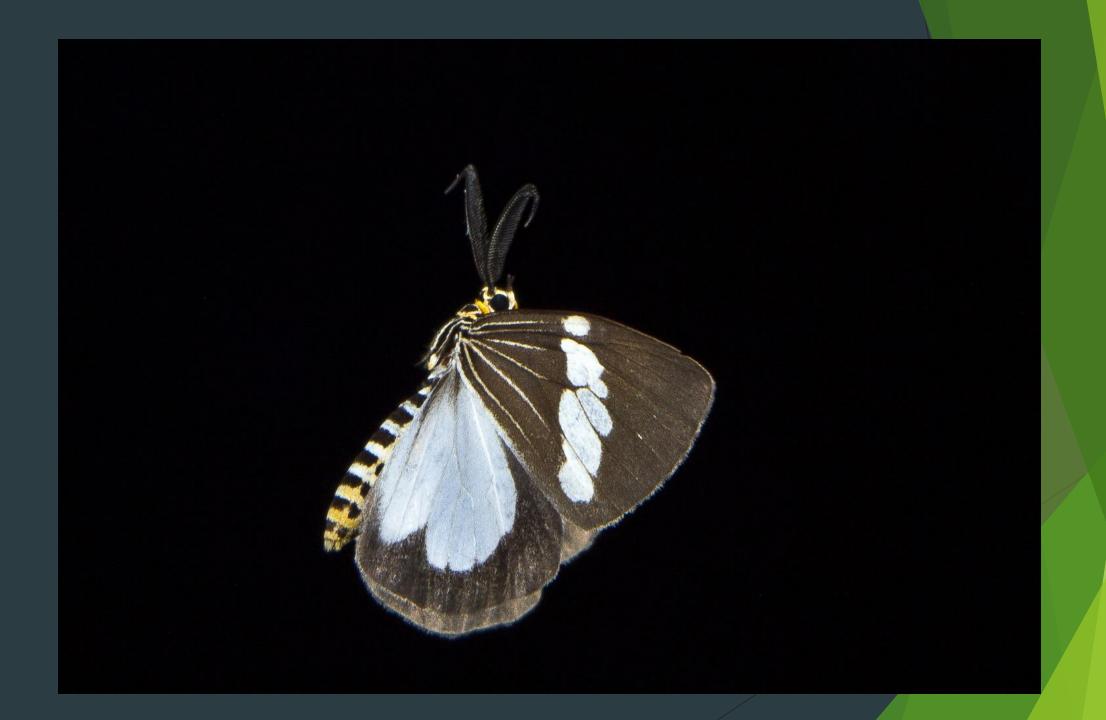






### Insects







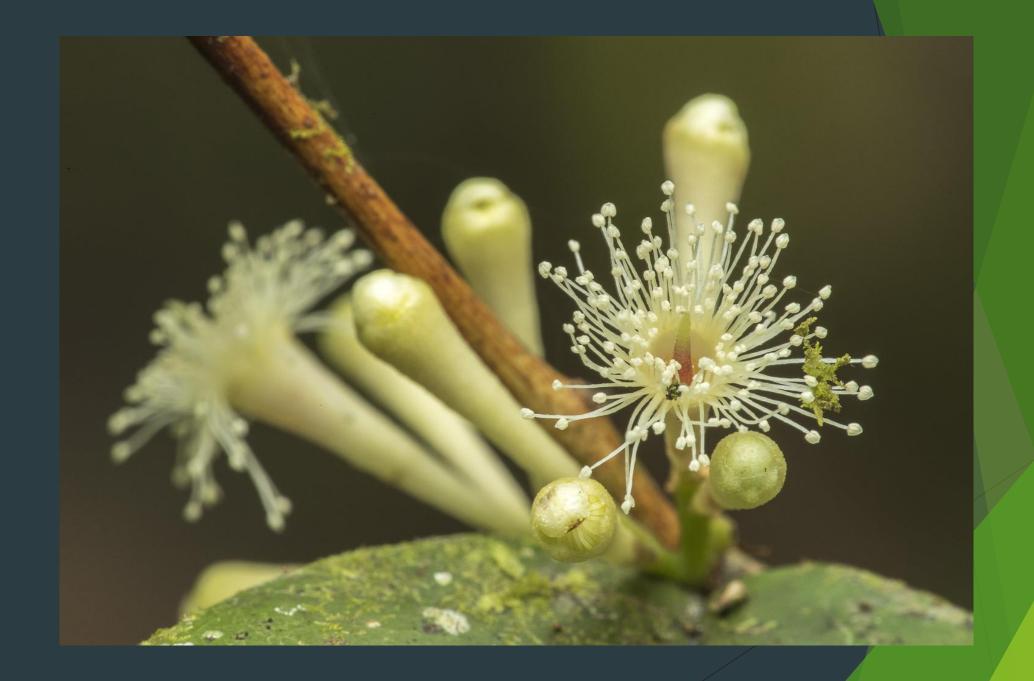


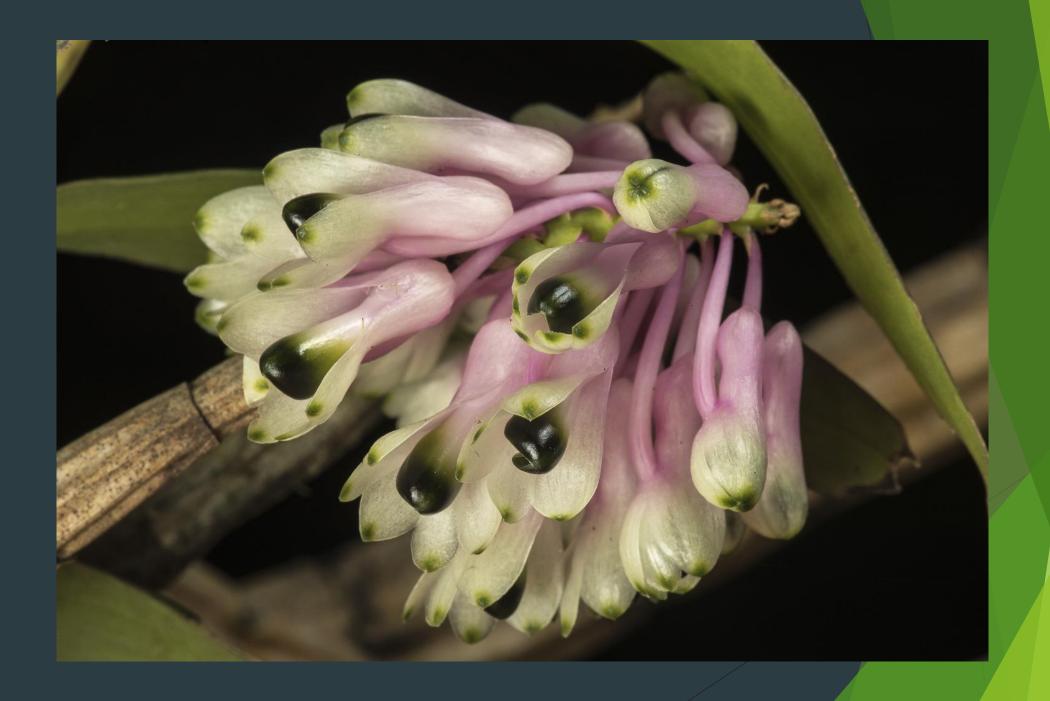
## Mammals





## Plants





# How can you get involved

- Student Projects
- Practicums
- Volunteering

# Future opportunities

- Park ranger
- Scientist
- CEPA

# Thank You

Questions?

# Appendix 6. Species Scheduled With IUCN Red List Conservation Significance

# SUMMARY OF THE FIVE CRITERIA (A-E) USED TO EVALUATE IF A TAXON BELONGS IN AN IUCN RED LIST THREATENED CATEGORY (CRITICALLY ENDANGERED, ENDANGERED OR VULNERABLE).<sup>1</sup>

	<b>Critically Endangered</b>	Endangei	ed	Vulnerable
A1	≥ 90%	≥ 70%		≥ 50%
A2, A3 & A4	≥ 80%	≥ 50%		≥ 30%
<ul> <li>A1 Population reduction observed, estimated, inferred, the past where the causes of the reduction are clear understood AND have ceased.</li> <li>A2 Population reduction observed, estimated, inferred, or past where the causes of reduction may not have ceas understood OR may not be reversible.</li> </ul>	ly reversible AND suspected in the ed OR may not be	(b) (c) based on	an in appropr a declin (AOO),	bservation [except A3] dex of abundance riate to the taxon e in area of occupancy extent of occurrence nd/or habitat quality
A3 Population reduction projected, inferred or suspected future (up to a maximum of 100 years) [(a) cannot be use	to be met in the /	any of the following: (d)	-	or potential levels o
A4 An observed, estimated, inferred, projected or susp reduction where the time period must include both the (up to a max. of 100 years in future), and where the cause	past and the future	(e)	effects hybridiz pollutar	

B. Geographic range in the form of either B1 (extent of occurrence) AND/OR B2 (area of occupancy)					
	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable		
B1. Extent of occurrence (EOO)	< 100 km <sup>2</sup>	< 5,000 km <sup>2</sup>	< 20,000 km <sup>2</sup>		
B2. Area of occupancy (AOO)	< 10 km <sup>2</sup>	< 500 km <sup>2</sup>	< 2,000 km <sup>2</sup>		
AND at least 2 of the following 3 conditions:					
(a) Severely fragmented <b>OR</b> Number of locations	= 1	≤ 5	≤ 10		
(b) Continuing decline observed, estimated, inferred or projected in any of: (i) extent of occurrence; (ii) area of occupancy; (iii) area, extent and/or quality of habitat; (iv) number of locations or subpopulations; (v) number of mature individuals					
(c) Extreme fluctuations in any of: (i) extent of occurrence; (ii) area of occupancy; (iii) number of locations or subpopulations; (iv) number of mature individuals					

parasites.

not have ceased OR may not be understood OR may not be reversible.

C. Small population size and decline					
		Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable	
Number of mature individuals		< 250	< 2,500	< 10,000	
AND at least one of C1 or C2					
	An observed, estimated or projected continuing decline of at least (up to a max. of 100 years in future):	25% in 3 years or 1 generation (whichever is longer)	20% in 5 years or 2 generations (whichever is longer)	10% in 10 years or 3 generations (whichever is longer)	
	An observed, estimated, projected or inferred continuing decline AND at least 1 of the following 3 conditions:				
(a)	(i) Number of mature individuals in each subpopulation	≤ 50	≤ 250	≤ 1,000	
	(ii) % of mature individuals in one subpopulation =	90–100%	95–100%	100%	
(b)	Extreme fluctuations in the number of mature individuals				

D. Very small or restricted population			
	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable
D. Number of mature individuals	< 50	< 250	<b>D1.</b> < 1,000
<b>D2.</b> Only applies to the VU category  Restricted area of occupancy or number of locations with a plausible future threat that could drive the taxon to CR or EX in a very short time.	-	-	D2. typically: AOO < 20 km² or number of locations ≤ 5

E. Quantitative Analysis			
	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable
Indicating the probability of extinction in the wild to be:	≥ 50% in 10 years or 3 generations, whichever is longer (100 years max.)	≥ 20% in 20 years or 5 generations, whichever is longer (100 years max.)	≥ 10% in 100 years

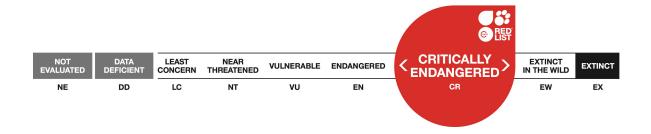
Use of this summary sheet requires full understanding of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria and Guidelines for Using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria.

Please refer to both documents for explanations of terms and concepts used here.



#### Halfordia papuana

Assessment by: Eddowes, P.J.



View on www.iucnredlist.org

**Citation:** Eddowes, P.J. 1998. *Halfordia papuana. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 1998*: e.T38151A10103085. <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.1998.RLTS.T38151A10103085.en">http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.1998.RLTS.T38151A10103085.en</a></sup>

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If you see any errors or have any questions or suggestions on what is shown in this document, please provide us with <u>feedback</u> so that we can correct or extend the information provided.

#### **Taxonomy**

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Sapindales	Rutaceae

Taxon Name: Halfordia papuana Laut.

#### **Assessment Information**

Red List Category & Criteria: Critically Endangered C2a ver 2.3

Year Published: 1998

Date Assessed: January 1, 1998

Annotations: Needs Updating

#### **Geographic Range**

#### **Range Description:**

Mostly confined to the Bulolo/Wau region in Morobe Province. It is not certain how many mature specimens remain but it is certainly less than 250.

#### **Country Occurrence:**

Native: Papua New Guinea

#### **Habitat and Ecology**

This tree is scattered in submontane and montane rainforest between 1,200 and 2,700 m.

Systems: Terrestrial

#### Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

The region has been heavily exploited, logged and converted into *Araucaria* plantations.

#### **Credits**

**Assessor(s):** Eddowes, P.J.

#### **Bibliography**

Eddowes, P.J. 1997. Completed data collection forms for New Guinea.

Oldfield, S., Lusty, C. and MacKinven, A. (compilers). 1998. *The World List of Threatened Trees*. World Conservation Press, Cambridge, UK.

#### Citation

Eddowes, P.J. 1998. *Halfordia papuana. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 1998*: e.T38151A10103085. http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.1998.RLTS.T38151A10103085.en

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#### **External Resources**

For <u>Images and External Links to Additional Information</u>, please see the Red List website.

#### **Threats**

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
5. Biological resource use -> 5.3. Logging & wood harvesting -> 5.3.5. Motivation Unknown/Unrecorded	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		ystem degradation

#### The IUCN Red List Partnership

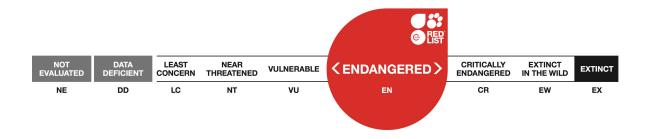


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#### Flindersia pimenteliana

Assessment by: Eddowes, P.J.



View on www.iucnredlist.org

**Citation:** Eddowes, P.J. 1998. *Flindersia pimenteliana. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 1998*: e.T38149A10102702. http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.1998.RLTS.T38149A10102702.en

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If you see any errors or have any questions or suggestions on what is shown in this document, please provide us with <u>feedback</u> so that we can correct or extend the information provided.

#### **Taxonomy**

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Sapindales	Rutaceae

Taxon Name: Flindersia pimenteliana F. Muell

#### **Assessment Information**

Red List Category & Criteria: Endangered C2a ver 2.3

Year Published: 1998

Date Assessed: January 1, 1998

Annotations: Needs Updating

#### **Geographic Range**

#### **Range Description:**

In Papua New Guinea, the species is widespread but uncommon and sporadic. The population status in Australia is not taken into consideration in this evaluation.

#### **Country Occurrence:**

Native: Australia (Queensland); Indonesia (Papua); Papua New Guinea

# **Habitat and Ecology**

A large tree found mainly in lower montane rainforest or in foothill rainforest.

**Systems:** Terrestrial

# Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

It has been heavily exploited in the Bulolo/Wau region of Morobe Province. Populations on spurs and ridges of mountain ranges may be spared from future exploitation.

#### **Credits**

**Assessor(s):** Eddowes, P.J.

# **Bibliography**

Eddowes, P.J. 1997. Completed data collection forms for New Guinea.

Oldfield, S., Lusty, C. and MacKinven, A. (compilers). 1998. *The World List of Threatened Trees*. World Conservation Press, Cambridge, UK.

#### Citation

Eddowes, P.J. 1998. Flindersia pimenteliana. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 1998: e.T38149A10102702. http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.1998.RLTS.T38149A10102702.en

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(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
5. Biological resource use -> 5.3. Logging & wood harvesting -> 5.3.5. Motivation Unknown/Unrecorded	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		

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# PNGTreesKey 🏵 Flindersia pimenteliana F.Muell.

Barry Conn (NSW) & Kipiro Damas (LAE). Guide to trees of Papua New Guinea Copyright held by the authors, National Herbarium of New South Wales, and Papua New Guinea National Herbarium

# Flindersia pimenteliana F.Muell.

Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae Vol. 9: 132 (1875)

Other Literature: D.J. Boland et al., Forest Trees of Australia 620-621 (1984) Fig. 621 (page).

Family: Rutaceae Dicotyledon

**Timber Group:** Minor hardwood

**Field Characters:** Large canopy tree (up to 40 m high) or Small sub-canopy tree; Bole cylindrical (up to c. 100 cm diam.); straight (mostly bole up to 20 m long); buttresses buttresses absent; spines spines absent; aerial roots aerial roots absent; stilt roots stilt roots absent; Bark grey or brown, slightly rough, pustular or slightly cracked, lenticels elongated vertically; Subrhytidome (under-bark) sometimes green or dark red; less than 25 mm thick, (6.0-) 8.0-14.0; bark blaze consisting of one layer; strongly aromatic or faintly to non-aromatic; pleasant (fruity); outer blaze white, yellow (pale (straw-coloured), red, or pink, with stripes (white), fibrous; inner blaze pink, red, white, or yellow (pale (straw-coloured), with stripes (white), fibrous; bark exudate (sap) present, colourless, not readily flowing (spotty), colour not changing on exposure to air, not sticky; terminal buds not enclosed by leaves.

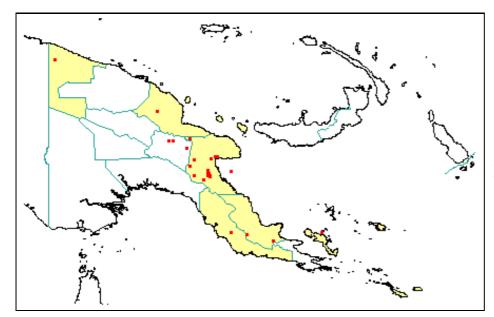
**Indumentum:** Complex hairs absent; stinging hairs absent; mature twig indumentum (hairs) absent.

**Leaves:** Leaves spaced along branches, opposite (in pairs, opposite one another on the branchlet) (to subopposite), compound (a leaf made up from two or more leaflets); petiole present, not winged, attached to base of leaf blade, not swollen; leaves pinnate (unbranched with more than three leaflets); petiolule not swollen; rachis present, absent, absent; leaves with a terminal leaflet (the number of leaflets odd - imparipinnate), broadest below middle, 8.0-34.0 cm, 2.0-5.0 cm, leaflets opposite, symmetric (to slightly asymmetric), terminal developing leaflet buds straight; venation pinnate, secondary veins open, not prominent, but visible, intramarginal veins absent; leaves lower surface pale green or yellowish green, upper surface dark green, indumentum (hairs) absent; absent or present; domatia absent; stipules absent.

**Flowers:** Inflorescence terminal, flowers on a branched axis, cones absent; flowers bisexual, stalked, flowers with many planes of symmetry, 2.5-4.0 mm long, diameter small (up to 10 mm diam.) (c. 3 mm diam.); perianth present, with distinct sepals and petals whorls, inner perianth red (dark towards base) or white (on inner surface); 5, some or partly joined (shortly at base) or free; stamens 5, present, free of each other, free of the perianth; ovary superior, carpels joined (when more than one), locules 10 (2 per carpel); styles solitary, 1.

**Fruits:** Infrutescence arranged on branched axis, fruit 50.0-120.0 mm long, 40.0-60.0 mm diam., brown, spiny (with blunt spines), non-fleshy, simple, dehiscent, capsule; seeds 30 (c.), much more than 10 mm long (40-60 mm long), winged (at both ends), narrow (longer than wide), seed 1-10 mm diam. (c. 10 mm diam.).

**Distribution:** West Sepik, Madang, Morobe, Central, Northern & Papuan Islands.



Botanical records in *PNGplants* database

Map details









PNGtrees Home >> Tree Descriptions >> Taxa Listed by Species | Taxa Listed by Family >> Data Sheets



# Cycas campestris

Assessment by: Hill, K.D.



View on www.iucnredlist.org

**Citation:** Hill, K.D. 2010. *Cycas campestris. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2010*: e.T42072A10618293. http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2010-3.RLTS.T42072A10618293.en

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<u>International</u>; <u>Botanic Gardens Conservation International</u>; <u>Conservation International</u>; <u>Microsoft</u>; <u>NatureServe</u>; <u>Royal Botanic Gardens</u>, <u>Kew</u>; <u>Sapienza University of Rome</u>; <u>Texas A&M University</u>; <u>Wildscreen</u>; <u>and Zoological Society of London</u>.

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#### **Taxonomy**

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Cycadopsida	Cycadales	Cycadaceae

Taxon Name: Cycas campestris K.D.Hill

#### **Assessment Information**

Red List Category & Criteria: Near Threatened ver 3.1

Year Published: 2010

**Date Assessed:** October 31, 2009

#### Justification:

Assessed as Near Threatened because of ongoing decline and the extent of occurrence being less than 20,000 km², but the population is not severely fragmented and is found at more than ten locations. Almost qualifies as threatened under criterion B1ab(iii,v).

#### **Previously Published Red List Assessments**

2003 - Near Threatened (NT)

#### **Geographic Range**

#### **Range Description:**

This species is endemic to Papua New Guinea, where it occurs in the Central Province, particularly around Port Moresby, extending from Kairuku to Abau.

#### **Country Occurrence:**

Native: Papua New Guinea (Papua New Guinea (main island group))

#### **Population**

The population size is not well known but is estimated to exceed 10,000 plants in the wild.

**Current Population Trend:** Decreasing

#### Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is locally abundant but sporadic and it occurs in savanna woodland country. Plants are often in more open and grassy areas prone to frequent fire. Occurs only at low altitudes on the coastal plain.

**Systems:** Terrestrial

#### Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

This species may be subject to over-collecting for ornamental purposes. Fire may also be a problem as in other *Cycas* species, frequent fires have led to decline.

#### **Conservation Actions** (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is listed on Appendix II of the CITES Appendices.

#### **Credits**

Assessor(s): Hill, K.D.

**Reviewer(s):** Donaldson, J.S. & Bösenberg, J.D.

# **Bibliography**

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Hill, K.D. and Stevenson, D.W. 1998-2006. The Cycad Pages. Available at: <a href="http://plantnet.rbgsyd.gov.au/PlantNet/cycad/">http://plantnet.rbgsyd.gov.au/PlantNet/cycad/</a>.

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#### Citation

Hill, K.D. 2010. *Cycas campestris. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2010*: e.T42072A10618293. http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2010-3.RLTS.T42072A10618293.en

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# **Appendix**

#### **Habitats**

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
1. Forest -> 1.5. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Suitable	-
2. Savanna -> 2.1. Savanna - Dry	-	Suitable	-
4. Grassland -> 4.5. Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Suitable	-

#### **Use and Trade**

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

End Use	Local	National	International
Pets/display animals, horticulture	No	Yes	Yes

#### **Threats**

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
5. Biological resource use -> 5.2. Gathering terrestrial plants -> 5.2.1. Intentional use (species is the target)	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	2. Species St	resses -> 2.1. Species	mortality
7. Natural system modifications -> 7.1. Fire & fire suppression -> 7.1.1. Increase in fire frequency/intensity	Future	-	-	-
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem	stresses -> 1.2. Ecosy	ystem degradation

#### **Conservation Actions in Place**

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Education
Included in international legislation: Yes
Subject to any international management/trade controls: Yes

# **Conservation Actions Needed**

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

#### **Conservation Actions Needed**

- 1. Land/water protection -> 1.1. Site/area protection
- 4. Education & awareness -> 4.3. Awareness & communications

#### **Research Needed**

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

#### **Research Needed**

- 1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
- 1. Research -> 1.6. Actions

#### **Additional Data Fields**

#### Distribution

Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km2): 9250

#### **Population**

Number of mature individuals: 10000-12000

Population severely fragmented: No

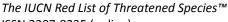
#### **Habitats and Ecology**

Generation Length (years): 40

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ISSN 2307-8235 (online) IUCN 2008: T36291A68070385

Scope: Global Language: English



# Hopea forbesii, Giam

Assessment by: Barstow, M.



View on www.iucnredlist.org

**Citation:** Barstow, M. 2018. *Hopea forbesii*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2018: e.T36291A68070385. <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2018-1.RLTS.T36291A68070385.en">http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2018-1.RLTS.T36291A68070385.en</a>

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#### **Taxonomy**

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Malvales	Dipterocarpaceae

Taxon Name: Hopea forbesii (Brandis) Slooten

Synonym(s):

• Shorea forbesii Brandis

Common Name(s):

• English: Giam

#### **Assessment Information**

Red List Category & Criteria: Near Threatened <u>ver 3.1</u>

Year Published: 2018

Date Assessed: May 23, 2017

#### Justification:

This species is a large tree native to the lowland evergreen forests of Papua New Guinea and east Irian Jaya. It has an estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) of 85,000 km². As well as confirmation of the species range, population size and volume of species harvested for timber also requires investigation. The species is suspected to be in decline due to the loss of lowland forest within its native range which is estimated to be at least 25% over the last three generations. The species is also exploited for its timber which is a growing threat particularly within Central and Milne bay provinces where harvest is greatest. Due to this, it is estimated that the species has experienced at least 25% population decline over the last three generations. The species is therefore globally assessed as Near Threatened as it almost meets the criteria for Vulnerable under criterion A2.

# **Geographic Range**

#### **Range Description:**

This species is native to Papua New Guinea (PNG) along the coast of the Papuan Islands, Milne Bay Province, and the inland and coastal forest of Central Province, Morobe Province and Western Province (T. Jimbo pers. comm. 2018). The species is also present within Irian Jaya. More sampling across New Guinea is required to confirm the species range. The species has an estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) of around 285,000 km².

#### **Country Occurrence:**

Native: Indonesia (Papua); Papua New Guinea (Papua New Guinea (main island group))

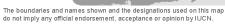
# **Distribution Map**

Hopea forbesii



Range Extant (resident) Compiled by: BGCI







#### **Population**

The species is considered locally common in lowland rain forests (ITTO 2017). Shearman *et al.* (2009) estimated that between 1972 and 2002 the Milne Bay region experienced forest decline of 27.28% and in Central Province deforestation was slightly lower at 25.15%. Overall in Papua New Guinea, there was 15% forest decline from 1972 to 2002. The greatest amount of decline occurred in lowland areas and the greatest cause of forest loss was logging (Shearman *et al.* 2009). The highest rates of timber extraction in PNG are in Central and Milne provinces were this species is found (T. Jimbo pers. comm. 2018). As *Hopea forbesii* is used as a timber and is found in lowland forest it is likely that its population has been adversely effected by this decline. It is also predicted that 49% of remaining unlogged forests will be logged and subject to degradation in the future (Shearman *et al.* 2009). We therefore infer that population is currently in decline and may have declined by at least 25% in the last 300 years based on this information. Population decline may continue into the future due to commercial logging and due to growth of urban and agricultural areas.

**Current Population Trend:** Decreasing

#### Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

Hopea forebesii is a large tree species, growing up to 32 m in height and up to 100 cm in diameter (ITTO 2017). This species is found in lowland seasonal semi-evergreen forest. It is sometimes the dominant tree on ridges (ITTO 2017) and is an under canopy species (Ashton 1988). The species does not have a persistent seed bank instead many seedling of the species persist in the undergrowth as they are shade tolerant. These then rapidly grow upon an opening in the canopy (Sist et al. 2003). Pollination is by insects and flowering most often occurs in a mast year. Seedling recruitment is greatest this year and is often local to the mother tree due to poor wind dispersal of winged fruits (Sist et al. 2003). The species habitat is declining in area due to the expansion of subsistence agriculture in the area as a consequence of a growing population (Shearman et al. 2009). Lowland forests are also subject to degradation due to the loss of canopy covered caused by logging and also destruction of the under-story vegetation due to the heavy machinery used for timber extraction.

**Systems:** Terrestrial

#### Use and Trade

Hopea forbesii is a commercially important timber species (Mark et al. 2014). The wood is used for making window frames, doors and marine constructions (ITTO 2017). In PNG, the species is traded under the name 'Light Hopea' alongside other species of *Hopea*, it may also be called 'Heavy Hopea'. From 1995 to 2017 SGS (PNG) shipment records found Milne Bay recorded a volume of 7,284 log pieces of 'Heavy Hopea' were logged and 15,348 log pieces of 'Light Hopea'. In Central Province 49,777 pieces of log were recorded as being felled (T. Jimbo pers. comm. 2018). If this rate of extraction continues population will continue to decline in the future.

# Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is threatened by habitat loss and degradation within the lowland forests of PNG. Deforestation is occurring as a consequence of the need to expand agricultural areas to cope with a growing population. This is a particular threat in Milne Bay and Central province for both large and small

scale agricultural expansion (T. Jimbo pers. comm. 2018). It is also caused by the increase in commercial logging within the country which began to grow in the nineties (Shearman *et al.* 2009). Logging may be a particular threat to the species as it is a desirable timber, but this has yet to be confirmed and the effect of the extraction on the population is not known. Also due to logging practice the regeneration of the species may be adversely affected as the machinery can destroy seedlings persisting in the under growth (Bryan *et al.* 2013). Forests are becoming more susceptible to forest fires due to the decline in canopy cover and due to the growing occurrence of extreme El Niño years which causes forests to become dry (Shearman *et al.* 2009).

#### **Conservation Actions** (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is not reported from any *ex situ* collections (BGCI 2017). Seed collections of this species should be made to ensure the genetic conservation of this species and to contribute to *ex situ* conservation efforts. More information on the population size and trend of this species is needed as well as the localities of individuals. The species should be identified within current protected areas and habitat protection should also be expanded. The harvest and trade of the species requires monitoring and sustainable management plans should be established to insure the current and future use of the species.

#### **Credits**

**Assessor(s):** Barstow, M.

Reviewer(s): Jimbo, T.

### **Bibliography**

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Soerianegara, I. and Lemmens, R.H.M.J. (eds) 1993. *Plant Resources of South-East Asia* 5(1). Timber trees: major commercial timbers. Pudoc Scientific Publishers, Wageningen.

#### Citation

Barstow, M. 2018. *Hopea forbesii*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2018: e.T36291A68070385. http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2018-1.RLTS.T36291A68070385.en

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# **Appendix**

# **Habitats**

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
1. Forest -> 1.6. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland	-	Suitable	-

#### **Threats**

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.2. Small-holder farming	Ongoing	Unknown	Slow, significant declines	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem	stresses -> 1.1. Ecosyst	em conversion
		1. Ecosystem s	stresses -> 1.2. Ecosyst	em degradation
		2. Species Stre	esses -> 2.1. Species m	ortality
		2. Species Stre	esses -> 2.2. Species di	sturbance
5. Biological resource use -> 5.3. Logging & wood harvesting -> 5.3.5. Motivation Unknown/Unrecorded	Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	2. Species Stre	esses -> 2.1. Species m	ortality
7. Natural system modifications -> 7.1. Fire & fire suppression -> 7.1.1. Increase in fire frequency/intensity	Ongoing	Unknown	Very rapid declines	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
		2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		

#### **Conservation Actions in Place**

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Species Management
Subject to ex-situ conservation: No

#### **Conservation Actions Needed**

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

#### **Conservation Actions Needed**

- 1. Land/water protection -> 1.1. Site/area protection
- 3. Species management -> 3.4. Ex-situ conservation -> 3.4.2. Genome resource bank

#### **Research Needed**

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

#### **Research Needed**

- 1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
- 3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends
- 3. Monitoring -> 3.2. Harvest level trends
- 3. Monitoring -> 3.3. Trade trends
- 3. Monitoring -> 3.4. Habitat trends

#### **Additional Data Fields**

#### Distribution

Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km²): 285000

Upper elevation limit (m): 1000

#### **Habitats and Ecology**

Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Yes

Generation Length (years): 100

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# Myristica globosa

#### **Assessment by: World Conservation Monitoring Centre**



View on www.iucnredlist.org

**Citation:** World Conservation Monitoring Centre. 1998. *Myristica globosa. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 1998*: e.T37876A10077890.

http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.1998.RLTS.T37876A10077890.en

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# **Taxonomy**

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Magnoliales	Myristicaceae

Taxon Name: Myristica globosa Warb.

#### **Assessment Information**

**Red List Category & Criteria:** Lower Risk/near threatened <u>ver 2.3</u>

Year Published: 1998

Date Assessed: January 1, 1998

Annotations: Needs Updating

# **Geographic Range**

**Country Occurrence:** 

Native: Papua New Guinea (North Solomons); Solomon Islands

# **Habitat and Ecology**

Confined to evergreen rainforest up to 1,200 m.

**Systems:** Terrestrial

# **Credits**

Assessor(s): World Conservation Monitoring Centre

# **Bibliography**

Lemmens, R.H.M.J., Soerianegara, I. and Wong, W.C. (eds) 1995. *Timber Trees: Major Commercial Timbers (Plant Resources in South-East Asia, No. 5[2])*. Backhuys Publishers, Leiden.

Oldfield, S., Lusty, C. and MacKinven, A. (compilers). 1998. *The World List of Threatened Trees*. World Conservation Press, Cambridge, UK.

#### **Citation**

World Conservation Monitoring Centre. 1998. *Myristica globosa. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 1998*: e.T37876A10077890.

http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.1998.RLTS.T37876A10077890.en

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# PNGTreesKey Myristica globosa Warb.

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# Myristica globosa Warb.

Nova Acta Academiae Caesareae Leopoldino-Carolinae Germanicae Naturae Curiosorum. Abhandlungen der Kaiserlichen Leopoldinisch-Carolinischen Deutschen Akademie der Naturforscher Vol. 68: 540

Other Literature: W.J.J.O. De Wilde, Flora Malesiana, Series 1 480-483 (2000)

Family: Myristicaceae

Dicotyledon

**Timber Group:** Non-timber species

**Field Characters:** Large canopy tree (up to 30 m high) or Small sub-canopy tree; Bole cylindrical (mostly 40-70 cm diam.); straight (bole up to c. 5 m long); buttresses buttresses absent (sometimes slightly spurred near base); spines spines absent; aerial roots aerial roots absent; stilt roots sometimes stilt roots present or stilt roots absent; Bark brownish grey or brown, rough or almost smooth, slightly scaly or flaky or fissured; Subrhytidome (under-bark) red or brown; less than 25 mm thick, 5.0-8.0; bark blaze consisting of one layer; faintly to non-aromatic; pleasant; outer blaze pale pink, red, or brown, markings absent, fibrous; inner blaze pale pink, red, or brown, markings absent, fibrous; bark exudate (sap) present, colourless (watery), flowing or not readily flowing (spotty), colour changing on exposure to air, to red, not sticky or sticky; terminal buds not enclosed by leaves.

**Indumentum:** Complex hairs absent; stinging hairs absent; mature twig indumentum (hairs) present when young or absent, hairs sparse.

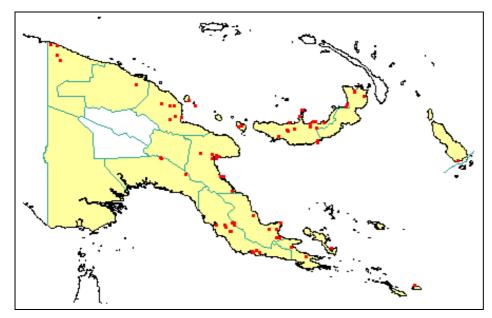
**Leaves:** Leaves spaced along branches, spiral (leaves occurring singly at a node and arranged spirally up the branchlet), simple (a leaf composed of a single blade); petiole present, not winged, attached to base of leaf blade, not swollen; leaves sometimes broadest below middle or equally broad throughout much of length, (6.0-) 7.0-16.0 (-21.0) cm, 2.0-7.0 (-8.0) cm; symmetric, entire, not dissected or lobed, acute or acuminate, venation pinnate, secondary veins open, prominent, intramarginal veins absent; leaves lower surface blue-green, pale green, or slightly grey, upper surface dark green (glossy) or slightly grey, indumentum (hairs) absent or present when young, indumentum (hairs) sparse; absent; domatia absent; stipules absent.

**Flowers:** Inflorescence axillary (and below leaves), flowers on a branched axis, cones absent; flowers unisexual, unisexual with male and female flowers on different plants, stalked, flowers with many planes of symmetry, 4.0-6.5 mm long, diameter small (up to 10 mm diam.) (c. 3 mm diam.); perianth present, with all sepals and/or petals (hence tepals) similar, inner perianth cream-coloured, pale yellow, or green; 2-3, some

or partly joined; stamens 10-?-16 (-20), absent, joined (to form a central staminal column), free of the perianth; ovary superior, carpels joined (when more than one), locules 1; styles absent.

**Fruits:** Infrutescence arising from single point (usually (usually 1-3 fruits per infructescence), fruit 15.0-32.0 (-40.0) mm long, 20.0 (c.) mm diam., yellow, red, or brown (with nut meg aroma), not spiny, fleshy, simple, dehiscent, capsule; seeds 1, much more than 10 mm long (10-22 mm long), not winged, narrow (longer than wide), seed more than 10 mm diam. (10-20 mm diam.).

**Distribution:** West Sepik, East Sepik, Madang, Morobe, Eastern Highlands, Western, Gulf, Central, Northern, Milne Bay, Papuan Islands, New Britain & Bougainville.



Botanical records in PNGplants database

Map details

**Notes:** Notes WJ.J.O de Willde, 2000 (*Flora Malesiana*, Series 1, volume 14, pp. 482-483) recognises two subspecies, namely, subsp. *globosa* and subsp. *chalmersii*. The differences between these two subspecies appears to be slight with subsp. globosa having slightly larger fruit (at least 2.5 cm long), with pericarp 3-5 mm thick, whereas subsp. chalmersii has fruits up to 2.4 cm long and pericarp up to 3 mm thick.

PNGtrees Home >> Tree Descriptions >> Taxa Listed by Species | Taxa Listed by Family >> Data Sheets



# Helicia albiflora

Assessment by: Eddowes, P.J.



View on www.iucnredlist.org

**Citation:** Eddowes, P.J. 1998. *Helicia albiflora. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 1998*: e.T32940A9743886. <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.1998.RLTS.T32940A9743886.en">http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.1998.RLTS.T32940A9743886.en</a>

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If you see any errors or have any questions or suggestions on what is shown in this document, please provide us with <u>feedback</u> so that we can correct or extend the information provided.

# **Taxonomy**

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Proteales	Proteaceae

Taxon Name: Helicia albiflora Sleumer

#### **Assessment Information**

Red List Category & Criteria: Lower Risk/near threatened ver 2.3

Year Published: 1998

Date Assessed: January 1, 1998

Annotations: Needs Updating

# **Geographic Range**

#### **Range Description:**

Known from the East and Western Highlands, Morobe, Northern and Central provinces of Papua New Guinea.

1

#### **Country Occurrence:**

Native: Papua New Guinea

# **Habitat and Ecology**

A tree often found in *Castanopsis-Nothofagus* rainforest from 900 to 2,000 m.

**Systems:** Terrestrial

# Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Its conservation is dependent upon the conservation of its montane habitat.

#### **Credits**

**Assessor(s):** Eddowes, P.J.

# **Bibliography**

Conn, B.J. (ed.) 1995. Handbooks of the Flora of Papua New Guinea. Melbourne University Press.

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Oldfield, S., Lusty, C. and MacKinven, A. (compilers). 1998. *The World List of Threatened Trees*. World Conservation Press, Cambridge, UK.

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#### Citation

Eddowes, P.J. 1998. *Helicia albiflora. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 1998*: e.T32940A9743886. http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.1998.RLTS.T32940A9743886.en

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#### **External Resources**

For <u>Images and External Links to Additional Information</u>, please see the Red List website.

#### **Threats**

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
Residential & commercial development -> 1.1.     Housing & urban areas	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion		
		1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.4. Scale Unknown/Unrecorded	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion		
		1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.3. Livestock farming & ranching -> 2.3.4. Scale Unknown/Unrecorded	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	1. Ecosyster	m stresses -> 1.1. Ecos	ystem conversion
		1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.3. Logging & wood harvesting -> 5.3.5. Motivation Unknown/Unrecorded	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	1. Ecosyster	n stresses -> 1.2. Ecos	ystem degradation

# The IUCN Red List Partnership



The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is produced and managed by the IUCN Global Species Programme, the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and The IUCN Red List Partnership. The IUCN Red List Partners are: BirdLife International; Botanic Gardens Conservation International; Conservation International; Microsoft; NatureServe; Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Sapienza University of Rome; Texas A&M University; Wildscreen; and Zoological Society of London.

# Appendix 7. Field Guide Brochure for Common Plants of VNP

When learning about the plants of Varirata National Park it is useful to know a little plant classification. Plants that can internally transport nutrients and water are vascular plants. This group includes ferns, which reproduce from spores, and also plants that produce seeds. This latter group includes gymnosperns, which produce seeds in unprotected structures such as cones, and plants with flowers that produce seeds within a fleshy ovary or fruit

Ferns are generally easy to recognise by their feathery or leafy fronds and often by the appearance of yellow or golden spores on their undersides. They are mostly found in the forest interior, particularly in damp areas, but some species have adapted to seasonally dry habitats and are common in the savannah grasslands in the northern parts of the Park. One species, a shield fern (*Stichurus*) covers large areas of the floor of secondary forest. Most fern species grow in soil but many species are epiphytes which means that they grow on another plant, usually a tree, which provides support.

There are only a few species of gymnosperms occurring the Park. These include cycads, fern-like plants restricted in the Park to the savannah grasslands, and well known rainforest trees such as tulip - a species that has leaf-like foliage and is often mistaken for a flowering plant. The Klinki and Hoop Pines planted around the main lookout are also gymnosperms.

The flowering plants in VNP include at least 300 different kinds of trees, a large number of shrubs, a profusion of vines and at least 70 species of orchids, most of which are epiphytic. Many of the trees produce large, fleshy fruits that are eaten by mammals and birds including honeyeaters, birds of paradise and cassowaries.

A list of all the different plants from a geographic area is termed a *Flora*. The world flora, for example, includes around 300,000 different vascular plants. Around 5% of

these (about 14,000) are found in Papua New Guinea. The flora of VNP includes about 150 species of ferns, at least five species of gymnosperms, and around 850 to 900 species of flowering plants. This is an extraordinarily diverse assemblage that represents around 7% of all the different kinds of plants found in Papua New Guinea.

The physical or structural appearance of a plant community is generally referred to as *Vegetation*. The type of vegetation found in an area is strongly influenced by climate, mainly temperature and rainfall. There are three main types of vegetation found in the Park. These include *Eucalypt Savannah* which is the dominant plant community found around Port Moresby and characterized by scattered gum trees with an understory of grasses. Secondary forests, readily recognized in the Park by the presence of the dominant species, Gymnostoma (Gymnostoma papuana), which is recolonizing areas that were formerly cleared for a coffee plantation. *Primary* forest or Rainforest is the largest and most diverse assemblage of plants in the Park, and covers most of the areas along the walking tracks and the entire area south of the main picnic ground.

There are also more than 50 different kinds of introduced plants found in the Park. Introduced plants are those that do not occur naturally in an area but have become established, deliberately or accidently, by people. These plants are found mostly around public use areas such as the main lookout and picnic grounds but two of them, Clidemia and Spiked Pepper, are invading the forests and displacing native species. These are considered serious pests in Papua New Guinea. Please be careful not to spread them to other areas.

The following letter keys are used in the photo captions: I: introduced, PF: primary forest, SF: secondary forest, ES: eucalypt savannah



Varirata National Park (VNP) is PNG's first national park, declared on 10th December 1969 and officially opened on 18th October 1973. It is on state land on the Sogeri Plateau at an elevation of 600–900 m and covers an area of 1,063 ha. It is 48 km east of Port Moresby City and accessible by road. The land was locally called *Wodobonomu* and was the traditional hunting ground of the Koiari people.

VNP has scenic views and beautiful rainforests, savannah grasslands and secondary regrowth. The average annual rainfall is 1400–2000 mm. The Park is inhabited by some unique plants and animals such as forest wallabies, possums, bandicoots, cassowaries, the raggiana bird of paradise, as well as many extraordinary reptile and frog species, and a rich variety of remarkable insects.

The Park is one of the best places in the country to learn about biodiversity. It is visited by dozens of nature tours each year and attracts researchers from throughout the world. It is also an important training site for students from surrounding universities.

Conservation & Environment Protection Authority Level 5 Dynasty Tower A Savannah Heights Waigani Drive P.O Box 6601 BOROKO NCD Papua New Guinea Tel: (+675) 301 4500 email: kkalim@dec.gov.pg

www.jica.go.jp/png/english/activities/activity18.html www.facebook.com/pngbiodiv/

Photography Angus Fraser, Allen Allison, Text Allen Allison, Design Mike McCoy Publication funded by JICA











Oakleaf Fern Drynaria quercifolia (Polypodiaceae) PF, SF, ES
Common on boulders in eucalypt woodland; basket-forming
epiphyte or climber, also found on trees throughout the Park.

Tree to 40~m; distinctive white trunk; whitish flowers an important source of nectar for honeyeaters and lorikeets.



Cymnosperm; tree up to 20 m; distinctive raised rings around trunk; broad leaves; red fruit; bark used for bilum twine.



Sumac Rhus taitensis (Aracardiaceae) SF
Tree to 30 m, common in secondary forest and forest edge, large clusters of white flowers in early dry season; fruit black.



Cymnostoma Cymnostoma papuana (Casurinaceae) SF Pioneering tree to 30 m; dominant tree in secondary forest; fruit cone-like, this is a flowering plant, not a gymnosperm.



Tree to 10 m; common at forest edges; palm-shaped leaves; small reddish flowers produced on spikes; fruit a black berry.



Branching fern; pioneering species that forms dense thickets up to 3 m in forest gaps and open areas.



Butterfly Tree Evodiella muelleri (Rutaceae) SF
Tree to 10 m; flowers in conspicuous bunches, pink; leaves
with three leaflets; source of nectar for butterflies & birds.



Grass up to 1.5 m; reddish spikelets produced on branched stems. It has deep roots, grows back quickly following fires.



Vine with heart-shaped leaves. Flowers prominent, purplish. This is the primary food plant of the Birdwing Butterfly.

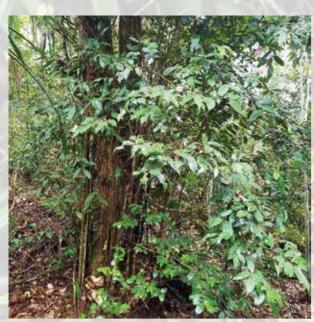


Clidemia Miconia crenata (Melastomitaceae) I, PF, SF Shrub up to 5 m, flowers small, white. Fruit a small purple berry. An invasive species originally from South America.



An epiphyte with small white flowers and a swollen base that is inhabited by ants, a relationship known as mutalism.





**Papuan Oak** *Castanopsis acuminatissima* (Fagaceae) PF Tree to 35 m; easily recognized by ring of root suckers around the trunk; fruit a spiny nut that is eaten by people as well as parrots.



Bottlebrush Orchid *Dendrobium smillieae* (Orchidaceae) PF Epiphytic, with grass-like leaves. Flowers grow in clusters with distinctive green, hooded lip; pollinated by birds.



Cycad Cycas campestris (Cycadaceae) ES
Plants up to 2.5 m, with a single shaggy trunk topped with a crown of fern-like leaves; fruit an ovoid nut, toxic; fire resistant.





**Spiked Pepper** *Piper adnucum* (Piperaceae) **1; PF; SF; ES**Tree or shrub to 7 m; native to Central and South America; serious invasive pest that has spread throughout the Old World tropics.



Hyacinth Orchid *Dipodium squamatum* (Orchidaceae) ES Ground orchid, with showy spikes of pink flowers; leafless, regarded as mycoheterotrophic (parasitic on soil fungi.



Planchonia *Planchonia papuana* (Lecythidaceae) PF Rainforest canopy tree to 35 m; leaves toothed, flowers to 10 mm diameter with numerous stamens, probably pollinated by bats.



East New Guinea Fig *Ficus rhizophoriphylla* (Moraceae) PF, ES Trees to 15 m, primarily at forest edge; fruit bright orange; eaten by a variety of pigeons, doves and birds of paradise.



**Brown Pine** *Podocarpus neriifolius* (Podocarpaceae) PF Gymnosperm; trees to 25 m tall; leaves spirally arranged; Female cone solitary, reddish; important food tree for birds of paradise.



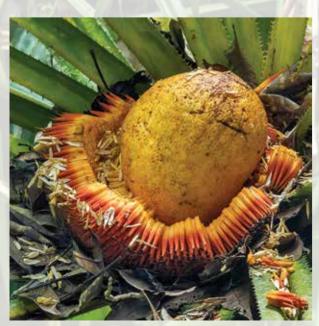
**Tropical Banksia** *Banksia dentata* (Proteaceae) ES Shrub up to 6 m; large cone-like head of showy, yellow flowers; a source of nectar for insects, birds and nectar-feeding mammals.



Chalmers' Neonauclea Neonauclea chalmersii (Rubiaceae) PF Aquatic shrub growing to 4 m; restricted to streams; flowers in heads, 15-20 mm in diameter; leaves narrow, tapering to a point.



Melastome Melastoma polyanthum (Melastomitaceae) PF Shrub 2.5 m tall; common along the walking tracks; leaves large, hairy with three parallel veins; mauve flowers; fruit a black berry.



Pandanus *Benstonea stenocarpa* (Pandanaceae) Understory tree to 5 m; leaves slender, to 2.7 m long; fruit large, scarlet, oblong, head-like cluster; eaten by birds and mammals.



Common Pitcher Plant Nepenthes mirabilis (Nepenthaceae) ES Terrestrial climber; carnivorous plant with spikes of red flowers and leaves modified into fluid-filled pitchers that trap insects.



Semecarpus Semecarpus cassuvium (Anacardiaceae) PF
Tree to 10 m; flowers white; fruit fleshy with a central stone and
borne on a yellowish receptacle; sap black; can cause skin rash.



Water Chestnut *Eleocharis dulcis* (Cyperaceae) SF, Aquatic Grass-like sedge up to 2 m, common in shallow water at edges of lakes; occasionally cultivated in PNG to make grass skirts.