



Papua New Guinea Resource Governance Coalition (PNGRGC) Interim Council

Draft Meeting Minutes

Date	10 March 2020
Start -time	9:30 am
Venue	Gateway Hotel, Port Moresby
Attendees	Wallis Yakam (CIMC); Rosemary Sovek (NGI representative); Lazarus Pomo (Momase representative); Rev. Justin Wapu (Highlands representative); Damien Ase (PNG Environmental Law Association/ Oro Community Environmental Action Network); Matilda Pilakapio (Papua Hahine Social Action Committee); Peter Bosip (CELCOR); Arianne Kassman (TIPNG); Yuambari Haihuie (TIPNG), Barbra Ruin (TIPNG); Kelly Kalit (Sua)

	Development Foundation); Collette Tsiperou (INA), Paul Barker (INA), Dr Tim Grice (consultant, Square Circle); and, Marjorie Andrew (INA/ PNG RGC)
Apologies	Pamela Avusi (Forcert), James Laki (Peace Foundation Melanesia); Maya Peipul (BACA/ technical advisor)
Absent	Isu Aluvula (PNG Council of Churches)
Chair	Wallis Yakam (CIMC/ Ex-officio member, PNG RGC Council)
Minutes taker	Marjorie Andrew

Preliminaries	<p>Chairperson Ms. Yakam, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.</p> <p>It was clarified that this was a meeting of the Interim Council (and not of the Interim Council Working Group), and that a quorum was present.</p> <p>The attendance of new organisations was acknowledged, including Saua Development Organisation, and PNG Environmental Law Association.</p> <p>Several organisations that were part of the original RGC Interim Council were also no longer active, including PNG Eco-Forestry Forum, and the Businesses Against Corruption Alliance. Acknowledged the passing of Patrick Lombaia of PNG Mining Watch. No one had responded to the email inviting a representative to attend. Hence another inactive member organisation of the RGC.</p> <p>The need for a full-time National CSO Coordinator was stressed. Funding was being sought for the position, operations, and well as for RGC out-reach activities.</p> <p>Dr Tim Grice of Square Circle Incorporated, was introduced to the members. Square Circle has been engaged by the World Bank to carry out PNG RGC Operationalisation project and to create a Roadmap for the RGC over the next 3-5 years.</p> <p>Paul Barker joined the meeting when in progress.</p> <p>Andrew was thanked for her contribution to managing the RGC for the past 6 months.</p>
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Discussion points based on the agenda	Summary of discussions/findings	Follow-up actions/ Recommendations (this will be reported as matters arising in the next Interim Council meeting)
Comments on minutes of #1 and #2 /2019 Meetings		
1. Meeting Minutes #2 of 2019	➤ The draft minutes of 13 February 2019 were not accepted. The minutes need to be rewritten using	➤ Chair to advise on who should rewrite the minutes as Andrew was not in attendance at this meeting.

	structure of the agenda, complete sentences, and provide a preamble to the decisions.	➤ Peter Bosip to provide new format for minutes with follow-up actions/ recommendations.
Matters Arising from Meeting No 1, and 2 of 2019		
Agenda 1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ General consensus that RGC diversify from just EITI and address forestry and fisheries resource management. ➤ CELCOR and FORCERT be invited to join the RGC Interim Council. Both now active members since February 2019. ➤ Mr Bosip said the PNG RGC to become a collective NGO civil society voice on natural resource management. RGC can become an important platform for civil society to cooperate together to bring issues to the attention of government agencies, for them to respond. ➤ To evaluate the experience of Eco Forestry Forum and why it was not sustainable. ➤ For CIMC to organise a CSO Roundtable forums and an RGC AGM meeting immediately after one in April 2019. ➤ To register members with the RGC and process for preparation of the AGM. ➤ Ms Peipul was to write a letter to Treasury Deputy Secretary to secure funding grant of at least K100,000 which he had ‘pledged’ as Chair of EITI MSG meeting in 2018. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Other Environmental NGOs invited to join the PNG RGC. ➤ PNG Media Council yet to be invited. ➤ Mr Kalit was tasked to present lessons learned from EFF at this meeting. ➤ The first AGM 2020 was set as a separate agenda item at this meeting. ➤ Letter yet to be written to Deputy Secretary Momo at DOT.
<i>Update on PNGEITI and RGC – Marjorie Andrew</i>		

<p>Agenda 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Andrew gave a run down on the highlights and challenges during her involvement as RGC National CSO Coordinator since late August 2019. ➤ PNG RGC coordination among the CSOs to engage and contribute in the EITI MSG needed to be strengthened. There was lack of information flows and consultation among the members on EITI MSG matters. ➤ A Communication Strategy for the work of RGC was developed but has not been fully implemented. The Com. Strategy did not include a membership drive. ➤ Part of salary was paid for by CIMC which expired at the end of December 2019. The Coordinator position was advertised in February and decision is yet to be made by the CIMC/ INA to appoint someone full-time. Ms. Andrew is no longer available except to perform some research work for the RGC with the World Bank (WB) Sub-national outreach project. ➤ Ms. Andrew stressed the importance of maintaining a full-time position in order to continue to momentum of the RGC and be in a position to attract donor (and government) funding for its operations. A number of donors had expressed interest in providing funding to support the RGC. ➤ The two projects aimed at enabling the RGC to operate at the sub-national level include World 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CIMC circulate the job description to the Interim Council members. ➤ CIMC and INA decide on funding of salary and appoint a National Coordinator as soon as possible. ➤ Information about the sub-national project be circulated to members by Andrew. ➤ CIMC and INA to formulate strategies to engage volunteers to work with the RGC. ➤ Ms. Andrew to share information on PWYP and Dr. Grice to include in the Roadmap.
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	<p>Bank funding of three provincial workshops during March to April 2020 (Central, Morobe and Western Provinces). The funding agreement is yet to be signed. The other is the project under which Dr. Grice was engaged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Although there was initial consultation with the PNG EITI Secretariat, no agreement was made on which provinces the RGC should conduct the workshops. The WB requested for Central province, the PNG EITI Secretariat had identified Morobe Province as one to pilot provinces, and the RGC recommended Western Province which has not had visits by EITI and the RGC since they started roadshows in 2015. ➤ Mr. Bosip suggested that the RGC make alternate arrangements to coordinate its activities such as student internships, volunteers from the National Volunteer Services. Also, to use members of the RGC to carry out some of the tasks. ➤ Ms. Andrew pointed out that the PNG RGC was affiliated to Publish What You Pay, an international organisation, which has in place its Strategic Goals for 2020 – 2025, which the RGC must reflect in its plans in PNG. Dr. Grice agreed that this should be reflected in the work on the road map. 	
<i>RGC Operational Project – Tim Grice (Square Circle)</i>		

<p>Agenda 3.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Explaining his role to facilitate the necessary steps to operationalizing PNGRGC. ➤ A PNG Resource Governance Coalition Compliance Plan was circulated by Dr Grice. The plan scheduled the main steps and activities to be completed in order to achieve: (1) Election of the Council, (2) Registration of members, (3) Annual general Meeting; and, (4) Governance and administration. This is necessary to operationalise the RGC, and to persuade support from potential donors. ➤ General consensus for SC to provide a 3 Year plan rather than the proposed 5 year plan. ➤ Dr Grice asked for the Interim Council to meet at the end of April so as to review the proposed road map. April 23 was agreed to for the next meeting. ➤ Once all legal requirements have been fulfilled, it was recommended that RGC secure funding starting April to July 2020. ➤ Discussion about the holding of the first AGM. It was agreed that the membership form be reviewed by a sub-group, and that current members apply to become eligible to vote in the council members at the AGM. Sub-group members nominated were: Damien Ase, Barbra Ruin, Peter Bosip, Kelly Kalit, and Collette Tsiperau. ➤ Square Circle will continue to support PNGRGC beyond the scope of this engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Electronic copy of the draft RGC Compliance Plan to accompany the minutes. ➤ CIMC and RGC organize for next meeting for April 23. ➤ Ms. Andrew aim to include funding for the next RGC Interim Council meeting in the WB Project to discuss the outcome of the sub-national workshops. ➤ Ms. Kassman volunteered to develop the terms of reference for the sub-group to focus on reviewing the membership and proxy forms by this week. ➤ Sub-group to keep the members informed of the outcome and decision to accept the revised forms be made by email. ➤ Members to use the new forms to apply to the RGC. Ms. Yakam, CIMC Executive Officer is the Public Officer, who will endorse the applications, before the next Interim Council meeting.
<p><i>Lessons learned from the PNG Eco-Forestry Forum – Kelly Kalit</i></p>		
<p>Agenda 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The need to promote strong internal governance ➤ Donations, donors and MP Zaza Zibe provided financial support to sustain the operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommendation to strengthen governance and administration of the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EFF was effective in writing position papers, assisted landowners against destructive forestry, building partnerships and networks. EFF was invited to participate on boards and government committees, including the National Forestry Board. EFF provided training in the provinces on the laws, policies and procedures. This attracted members. ➤ Members were involved in the work of the EFF. ➤ Board not addressing issues at initial stages to safeguard the organization. Collapse due to weak transparency and financial accountability. EFF wound down quickly and members were not involved. ➤ Challenge in competing with the same Donors for funds. ➤ Ms Ruin added to the lessons learnt stressing on the importance of clearly stating the role of the Secretariat as in the case of EFF- there was duplication and disputes between the Board members and the Secretariat. ➤ Peter Bosip gave an example of a working Coalition called the Friends of the Earth and role of the Secretariat. 	<p>RGC. Clear roles and responsibilities between the Council and the secretariat/coordination officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Signs of financial mismanagement to be dealt with early. ➤ RGC Council members should be involved in fundraising and must have this ability.
Agenda 5	<i>Organising the RGC AGM – Wallis Yakam</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All Interim Council Members agreed to sign up with the new membership forms to attend the AGM and vote the members present to be the Council members. ➤ Membership invitation to other partner CSOs and impacted area CSOs can be part of the membership drive after the Council is elected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CIMC and the RGC seek funding for the AGM ➤ CIMC and RGC draft an MOU as per the Constitution ➤ A National Coordinator be appointed to organize the next Interim Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The terms of RGC Council was proposed as 3 Years to align with the 3 Year strategy of RGC operationalization. ➤ Due to the lack of funding available, there is no confirmed support to bring in regional reps, however they have been informed that there is Proxy Votes to submit or they can secure alternative funds to attend the AGM. ➤ Any amendment to the constitution can be done by the approved Council at the next AGM. ➤ Proposed date of the AGM would be in May 28th. ➤ Bi-laws to be discussed at the AGM. ➤ It was recommended that an MOU between RGC and CIMC be decided upon at the AGM. ➤ Mr. Pomo stressed the need to appoint the National Coordinator as soon as possible. 	<p>meeting, the AGM, and implement the WB project.</p>
<p>Agenda 6</p>	<p><i>RGC Strategy road map – Dr. Tim Grice</i></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Grice led the Council members through identification of focus areas, activities and plans using a ‘Mind Map’ application. This included (1) Vision and Mission (2) Governance; (3) Operations; (4) Membership; (5) Funding and Support; (6) Engagements; (7) Key activities/ strategies; (8) Focus areas; and, (9) PNG EITI MSG. ➤ The Focus areas identified the following: freedom of information, beneficial ownership, sub-national reporting, benefits sharing, taxation justice, transparency (use of money)/ governance, gender equity disability and social inclusion, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Copy of the draft road map outline to be circulated with the minutes. ➤ Dr. Grice to produce final draft road map for discussion at the next RGC Interim Council meeting of April 23.

	<p>infrastructure tax credit scheme, and the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Pomo requested that it be made clear where provincial CSOs linked to the road map, and to plan for a sub-national CSO program. ➤ The WB has engaged Deloitte to do a study on the technology platform for EITI purposes. 	
8. AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Haihuie asked that a work plan for the RGC be circulated, along with project information on the sub-national workshops, and the job description of the National CSO Coordinator position. ➤ Ms Yakam informed the Council that CIMC and the INA would find ways to fund the national coordinator position over the short term. 	
Meeting ended at 4.00pm		

I, Wallis Yakam, Executive Officer of CIMC, acknowledge and certify this to be the correct copy of the Interim Council Meeting Minute No.1 of 2020.

Signature:

Date: