INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

A SPECIAL REPORT



A WORLD OF GOOD

HOW BUSINESSES IN THE REGION ARE HAVING A POSITIVE IMPACT

Many businesses around the world, including those in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific region, undertake unsung community initiatives that help the environment and local people.

These businesses often work under a framework called ESG, which stands for 'Environmental, Social and Governance'.

What is it exactly?

A simple translation is that ESG is a set of standards that evaluates companies beyond their financial profit.

ESG considers factors such as a company's impact on the environment, its record in community involvement and how it is managed.

In this special report, *Paradise* profiles some of the companies in the region that are adopting such initiatives.

Among those companies are ExxonMobil PNG, Nasfund, Kanda International, Heritage Park, Coca-Cola Europacific Partners and Country Tours PNG. ■


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PROTECTION FOR PNG'S ECOSYSTEMS

A long-term ExxonMobil program is enhancing conservation in PNG.



PICTURES: SUPPLIED BY EXXONMOBIL PNG







Ranger training with the Binatang Research Centre (top); frogs and other species have been described and discovered as part of the ExxonMobil program (above left); mapping out the future (above middle); Samson Hege (above right).

Over the past decade, ExxonMobil PNG (EMPNG) has delivered one of Papua New Guinea's most comprehensive biodiversity conservation and monitoring programs.

Implemented through long-term partnerships with local communities, government agencies, conservation organisations, universities, research institutions and experts in their field, the company says the program has made a meaningful contribution to biodiversity science, conservation outcomes and national protected area objectives.

"This sustained investment in conservation-focused community engagement and capacity development supports the PNG Government's priorities around protecting critical habitats, conserving biodiversity, and preserving the nation's unique environmental and cultural heritage," the company says.

Guided by EMPNG's Biodiversity Strategy, which assesses impacts associated with the PNG LNG Project, the program has delivered measurable outcomes across four key priority areas.

Those four areas are conservation capacity development, community-based conservation initiatives, discovery and documentation of species, and cultural heritage preservation.

CONSERVATION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

A key foundation of the program is investment in developing skills, knowledge and partnerships that enable Papua New Guineans to lead and sustain conservation efforts.

During its first five years, EMPNG partnered with the Mama Graun Conservation Trust Fund and the University of PNG. This collaboration continues today with the New Guinea Binatang Research Centre, which focuses on strengthening both technical and community-level expertise.

Key initiatives include support for Masters and PhD studies at local and international universities, alongside short training courses for biologists and community conservation practitioners.

Through scholarships and biodiversity monitoring data, EMPNG has supported the training of more than 15 scientists, 24 conservation practitioners and 60 rangers.

Among them is Samson Hege, one of the first recipients of the EMPNG biodiversity scholarship. Originally from Eastern Highlands Province, he graduated in April 2024 with a Master of Philosophy in Applied Chemistry from the PNG University of Technology. He is now pursuing a PhD while lecturing at Pacific Adventist University, helping to inspire the next generation of conservation scientists.

COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

Working closely with local communities, EMPNG supports conservation approaches that integrate traditional knowledge, sustainable livelihoods and environmental stewardship.

In 2023, more than 1000 people from 109 clans in the Lower Kikori area signed 11 community conservation deeds, committing over 20,000 hectares of land to conservation – the largest such agreement of its kind in PNG.

With additional agreements underway and the proposed Wau Creek Protected Area nearing formal declaration, these efforts reflect a coordinated approach that brings together science, community participation and regulatory frameworks.

DISCOVERY AND DOCUMENTATION OF NEW SPECIES

Building on strengthened local capacity and partnerships, EMPNG has significantly advanced scientific understanding of species and ecosystems within the PNG LNG Upstream Project Area.

Through its biodiversity-monitoring activities, the program has expanded knowledge of both known and previously undocumented species. One of the most significant components is the camera trapping survey, with 80 cameras deployed every two years to monitor ground-dwelling fauna.

> “ExxonMobil PNG has supported the training of more than 15 scientists, 24 conservation practitioners and 60 rangers.”

Since 2015, the program has recorded more than 18,000 images, accumulated nearly 24,000 sampling days and documented over 100 vertebrate species. Approximately 22 have been newly described, including Mogina’s damselfly and the recently identified Hooded Jewel Babbler from Iagifu Ridge in the Agogo Mountain Range near Moro, Southern Highlands Province.

CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Complementing its environmental work, EMPNG and the PNG LNG Project prioritise the protection and documentation of PNG’s cultural heritage.

In partnership with the PNG National Museum and Art Gallery, EMPNG has implemented measures to safeguard significant archaeological discoveries made during construction and operations.

One of the most important findings is at the LNG Plant site in Caution Bay, where the first evidence of Lapita pottery on mainland New Guinea – dating between 2400 and 2900 years ago – was uncovered.

To date, nearly 3000 cultural heritage sites and artefacts have been documented across the project area. ■

To find out more, see pnglng.com.



HOTEL STEPS UP FOR ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY



PICTURE: DANIEL SCOTT

The Heritage Park Hotel in the Solomon Islands.



A Solomon Islands hotel is leading the way in sustainable hospitality through renewable energy and community investment.

The Heritage Park Hotel stands as a leader in sustainable hospitality in the Solomon Islands, demonstrating how environmental responsibility, social impact and strong governance can create lasting value for both business and community.

Since June 2026, the hotel has operated on a hybrid solar energy system supported by an 875 kW solar array and 2250 kWh battery storage capacity, significantly reducing reliance on conventional energy sources.

Energy-efficient heat pumps provide hot water across the property, saving approximately 253 kWh of electricity daily and reducing emissions by more than 95 per cent. Rainwater harvesting systems spanning 2985 square metres of roof area also help conserve resources and reduce operating costs.

> “The hotel supports local communities through hospital donations, educational sponsorships and skills-development initiatives.”

People remain at the heart of Heritage Park’s sustainability journey. Women represent 62 per cent of the workforce, while 89 per cent of employees are Solomon Islanders.

The hotel supports local communities through hospital donations, educational sponsorships and skills-development initiatives that create opportunities and strengthen local capacity.

A diverse board and transparent reporting framework promote accountability and responsible decision-making. ESG performance is reviewed alongside financial and operational metrics, ensuring sustainability remains central to long-term business success. ■

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ENERGISING THE NATION

State-owned Kumul Petroleum manages PNG's participation in the petroleum industry, including the PNG LNG Project.



PICTURE: SUPPLIED BY KUMUL PETROLEUM

> "In addition to petroleum- and energy-related activities KPHL has supported other nation-building activities, including rural electrification."

Kumul Petroleum has constructed tanks for Jet A-1 fuel storage.

Kumul Petroleum Holdings Limited (KPHL) was established in 2015 to manage state participation in the 30-year PNG LNG Project. The income from the project is still the principal source of income for the company.

KPHL has, however, been much more than just a shareholder in this transformational LNG project. Alongside providing a regular significant annual dividend income to the government, it has used its revenue to establish a specialist petroleum industry training centre, the Kumul Petroleum Academy, and since 2019 has been a co-venturer with Santos in NiuPower Limited, a 58 MW gas-fired power station near Port Moresby.

KPHL has strategic shareholdings in several petroleum licences and is also owner and operator of four retention licences, covering the Uramu, Kimu, Barikewa and Pandora fields, where discoveries have been made in past years.

Addressing fuel security, KPHL has constructed four three-million-litre tanks for Jet A-1 fuel storage at Port Moresby's Motukea international wharf.

In addition to petroleum- and energy-related activities KPHL has supported many other nation-building activities including construction of rural electrification – hundreds of kilometres of 'poles and wire' to connect Highlands communities to the Ramu grid.

Also, Kumul Petroleum has spent more than PGK100 million actively supporting health infrastructure such as the National Heart Centre, cancer and surgical wards at the Port Moresby General Hospital and the re-establishment of cancer services facilities at ANGAU Memorial Hospital in Lae.

KPHL's corporate social responsibility projects include support of national and regional sporting codes and community development initiatives across the country.

Over time KPHL has grown organically to match increasing levels of activity, recruiting national industry professionals and operating a graduate development program. The company has a staff of just over 100.

With a new board appointed in late 2025, and a new managing director in mid-2026, Kumul Petroleum is focused on consolidating its activities. ■

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Heritage Park Hotel ESG Impact

Driving Sustainability and Community Value



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SOCIAL

Supporting our people, strengthening communities and creating meaningful connections.

GOVERNANCE

Upholding transparency, ethics and responsible practices for a better future.

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For Our Planet. For Our People. For Our Future.