

Papua LNG claims environment and climate change award



LEFT: TotalEnergies EP PNG managing director Jean-Marc Noiray, TotalEnergies Internal Communications & Events officer Tetiyannah Copland, Papua LNG ZND deputy project manager Ninning Jal, TotalEnergies Community Development advisor Sisa Kini, TotalEnergies head of Communications Abigail Doa Neill, TotalEnergies Public Affairs manager Richard Kassman and TotalEnergies Marketing managing director Damien Roques. - PICTURE SUPPLIED BY TOTALENERGIES

IN March 2022, TotalEnergies launched its Zero Net Deforestation (ZND) policy for all new projects across the company, which makes PNG the first country where the policy has been implemented.

The ZND policy requires that any unavoidable deforestation of the forest cover is compensated by, at least, an equal area replanted elsewhere.

In partnership with the PNG Forest Authority (PNGFA) the core of the Papua LNG ZND project covers four projects: Afforestation, Biodiversity, Mangrove Rehabilitation & Conservation and Sandalwood Conservation.

Located in Central Province, with plans to expand to Gulf Province, the projects have been designed to deliver enduring local environmental and social benefits, as well as capacity building, knowledge transfer and awareness to create significant regional and national impacts, in addition to compensating for the footprint of the project.

As operator of the Papua LNG project, TotalEnergies EP PNG Limited, was recently recognised for having the most Outstanding Environment and Climate Change initiative during the 17th PNG Resources & En-

ergy Investment Conference in Sydney, Australia, on December 12, 2023.

Accepting the award on behalf of her team, Papua LNG ZND deputy project manager Ninning Jal highlighted Papua LNG has signed a joint declaration of intent with the PNGFA, to provide long-term protection of 7500 hectares of native forest in Central Province.

The project also has a co-operation agreement with PNGFA to establish 1000ha of new plantations on degraded grasslands, of which approximately 150 hectares have been established.

Additionally, the project is committed to providing training to PNGFA in sustainable forest management, along with the recruitment and training of rangers from the community, tasked with reducing the harvesting of rare and endangered species native to the province.

"A feature of the training of our rangers from the community, is that we have been privileged to capture on our camera traps endangered species such as: the dwarf cassowary, the long beaked echidna, the Pademelon a globally threatened macropod and the giant bandicoot,

thought to have disappeared from this area," said Ms Jal.

Construction of a central modern containerised nursery is currently under way at the PNGFA Kuriva Forestry Station, to provide planting stock for the Afforestation project.

The state-of-the-art nursery will have a capacity to produce over 1.5 million seedlings per annum and will additionally provide a world class facility for training the next generation of PNGFA foresters, as well as for research and conservation purposes.

The New Guinea Sandalwood tree is one of the most endangered tree species in PNG, Papua LNG will work with local communities in Central, NCD and Gulf Province to re-establish sandalwood trees back into their native habitat (savannah woodlands) aiming to plant up to 40,000 plants per annum.

The Papua LNG ZND projects aim to drive carbon emissions avoidance, environmental impact minimisation, and biodiversity restoration to ensure the Papua LNG results delivers a net gain environmentally, both locally and nationally.