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[2025

Fauna (Protection and Control) Act (Chapter 154)

DECLARATION OF VELOTIGE COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AREA AND THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, ITS RULES AND PENALTIES

I, SIMO KILEPA, Minister for Environment and Conservation and Climate Change by virtue of the powers conferred by Sections 15 and 16 of the *Fauna (Protection and Control) Act (Chapter 154)* and all other powers me enabling, having consulted with the owners of the land described in Schedule 1, hereby—

- (a) declare the described in Schedule I to be a Protected Area to be known as "Velotige Community Conservation Area" for the purpose of that Act; and
- (b) establish the "Velotige Community Conservation Area Management Committee" as specified in Schedule 2 for that Protected Area; and
- (c) specify that the number of members of that Committee shall be 15; and
- (d) declare the Velotige Community Conservation Area Management Committee to formulate and approve the Management Rules as specified in Schedule 3 for that Protected Area, and
- (e) approve the imposition of fines, fees and/ or penalties as specified in Schedule 4 for the infringement of the Velotige Community Conservation Area Management Rules.

**Declaration of Velotige Community Conservation Area and the Appointment of Members of the
Management Committee, its Rules and Panalties—*continued***

SCHEDULE 1

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Velotige Conservation Area covers Goroka and Daulo Districts, Eastern Highlands Province and it has an area of 26,948.96 hectares. From latitude 5 degrees 57 minutes 3.0877 seconds south 145 degrees 23 minutes 49.2526 seconds east in the Eastern Highlands Province, which is about 13 kilometers west of Goroka town, the boundary of the Velotige Conservation Area follows the Mosuku Valley in a westerly direction towards a position at 5 degrees 57 minutes 5.7603 seconds south 145 degrees 22 minutes 10.7429 seconds east, from there the boundary further extends west towards Gasehoka nosa mountain to the point 5 degrees 57 minutes 14.7546 seconds south 145 degrees 20 minutes 36.7732 seconds east, the boundary of the Velotige Conservation Area then follows a northwesterly direction towards Huliparito mountain at point 5 degrees 54 minutes 45.1912 seconds south 145 degrees 18 minutes 46.2711 seconds east, from the position at Huliparito mountain the boundary follows a northerly direction upwards towards Ahomoize goralo mountain at position 5 degrees 53 minutes 16.12 seconds south 145 degrees 18 minutes 53.93 seconds east, from there the boundary follows northeasterly direction towards Izesitega gola mountain at position 5 degrees 50 minutes 46.1982 seconds south 145 degrees 20 minutes 27.0076 seconds east, from there the boundary further extends and crosses the Tavia river to a point 5 degrees 48 minutes 52.2696 seconds south 145 degrees 23 minutes 31.3495 seconds east at Apauko nosa mountain, the boundary of the Velotige Conservation Area then follows a easterly direction towards Mopeka mountain at point 5 degrees 48 minutes 57.2379 seconds south 145 degrees 24 minutes 30.798 seconds east, at this point the boundary follows a southeasterly direction to a position 5 degrees 49 minutes 17.3853 seconds south 145 degrees 28 minutes 28.6603 seconds east where there is the Menizeka Lisene waterfall, the boundary further extends downwards in a southeasterly direction towards a position at 5 degrees 53 minutes 0.9834 seconds south 145 degrees 29 minutes 54.7475 seconds east on the Zuwozuwo nosa creek, from there the boundary further extends in a southwesterly direction downwards towards Otuto mountain to a position at 5 degrees 55 minutes 29.4863 seconds south 145 degrees 28 minutes 55.9929 seconds east, from the position at Otuto mountain the boundary follows a southwesterly direction towards Sagohige mountain at position 5 degrees 58 minutes 11.9931 seconds south 145 degrees 28 minutes 20.3838 seconds east, from there the boundary follows a southwesterly direction towards a position at 5 degrees 59 minutes 1.9717 seconds south 145 degrees 26 minutes 14.1389 seconds east at Natiyesige mountain, from this point the boundary follows a northwesterly direction towards Manuweka mountain to a position at 5 degrees 58 minutes 26.5725 seconds south 145 degrees 23 minutes 56.6109 seconds east, the Velotige Conservation Area boundary closes at 5 degrees 57 minutes 3.0877 seconds south 145 degrees 23 minutes 49.2526 seconds east.

Declaration of Velotige Community Conservation Area and the Appointment of Members of the Management Committee, its Rules and Panalties—*continued*

SCHEDULE 2

MEMBERS OF VELOTIGE COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

| No. | Names | Officials | Sex | Clans | Village |
|-----|------------------|---------------------------------|-----|----------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Robert Gaizako | Chairman | M | Sonohinekave | Akameku |
| 2 | Gatapo Paone | Deputy Chairman | M | Namalomutene | Kamusi |
| 3 | Bob Mitie | Treasurer | M | Wateyuho | Wande/Hauko |
| 4 | Sorepa Humai | a/Treasurer | M | Leso | Kempeni |
| 5 | Senny Muruno | Secretary | M | Linipeyuho | Kimyau |
| 6 | Lineth.K. Nikebe | a/Secretary | F | Namavilovilo | Kamusi |
| 7 | Stella Zalubuvo | Committee Member | F | Konobiufa | Akameku |
| 8 | Avilo Gosamo | Committee Member | M | Huhili | Mesiufa |
| 9 | Pisen Yamu | Committee Member | M | Isahakuve | Wande |
| 10 | Wauwau Yamu | Committee Member | M | Zowaukave/Kurefayufa | Akameku |
| 11 | Ronny Getike | Committee Member | M | Sonohinekave | Akameku |
| 12 | Joel Genori | Committee Member / Youth Rep | M | Arikayufa | Mesiufa |
| 13 | Gideon Kokote | Committee Member / Youth Rep | M | Zowaukave/Kurefayufa | Akameku |
| 14 | Seisame Keremo | Committee Member / Women's Rep | F | Linipeyuho | Kempeni |
| 15 | Merrian Gaizako | Committee Member / Women 's Rep | F | Sonohinekave | Akameku |

Declaration of Velotige Community Conservation Area and the Appointment of Members of the Management Committee, its Rules and Penalties—*continued*

SCHEDULE 3

SITE SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT RULES

The Velotige Community Conservation Area Management Area Rules are prepared and approved by the Management Committee and endorsed by the Sonohinekave, Namalomutene, Wateyuho, Leso, Linipeyuho, Namavilovilo, Konobiufa, Huhili, Isahakuve, Zowaukave/Kurefayufa, and Arikayufa Clans in recognition to the values of their traditions and customs.

All these underlying rules are the elements of effective management and operations of the said

Protected Area: -

1. All visitors except the customary landowners and/or stakeholders may enter with "entry fee" to the Committee or the Appointee.
2. No entry is permitted to areas of "traditional taboo" and/or "Sacred Sites". Additional visitor's fees is levied upon entry to the places with guides including the burial and sacred sites at Akameku, Kamusi, Wande/Hauko, Kempeni, Kimyau, Mesiufa and Wande Village's.
3. No clearing of any purpose is allowed in the traditional hunting grounds/forests of the Velotige Community Conservation Area.
4. Clearing for gardens and family support activities are allowed on areas marked by the customary landowners and/or the Velotige Community Conservation Area Management Committee.
5. Taking and killing of restricted plants and animals within creeks and streams of the Protected Area shall not be taken or killed unless consent is granted by the Velotige Community Conservation Area Management Committee for special occasions.
6. Prohibition and restrictions on using firearms or other dangerous substances which are harmful to the natural habitat.
7. All developments shall be considered by way of Special Resolutions by the Velotige Community Conservation Area Management Committee in consultation with the Board of Directors including the Natural Resources Division of the Provincial Administration, Eastern Highlands Province.
8. The Velotige Community Conservation Area Management Committee shall mediate and set penalties to breach of rules that are bound by the Sonohinekave, Namalomutene, Wateyuho, Leso, Linipeyuho, Namavilovilo, Konobiufa, Huhili, Isahakuve, Zowaukave/Kurefayufa, and Arikayufa traditions and culture and any other rules herein that the Committee feels are within its power to resolve

Declaration of Velotige Community Conservation Area and the Appointment of Members of the Management Committee, its Rules and Penalties—*continued*

SCHEDULE 4

PENALTIES, FINES AND FEES

| No. | Rules | Penalties/Fines |
|-----|--|---|
| 1 | It is illegal to carry out any agricultural or gardening activities within the Protected Area. | K200.00 |
| 2 | It is illegal to cut any trees or destroy plants with the boundary of the Protected Area. | K500.00 |
| 3 | It is illegal to build any dwelling houses or unlawfully occupy the Protected Area. | K500.00 |
| 4 | It is illegal to light forest fires within the entire boundary of the Protected Area. | K500.00 |
| 5 | It is illegal for anyone to pollute any water body or soils, dump or release any chemical waste, sewage or rubbish inside the Protected Area. | K500.00 |
| 6 | It is illegal to introduce any grazing stock animal or breed invasive species in the Protected Area. | K200.00 |
| 7 | It is illegal to go into a Sacred Site without permission within the boundary of the Protected Area. | K500.00 |
| 8 | It is illegal to destroy or deface any cultural objects or monuments of bio-cultural significance in the Protected Area. | K300.00 |
| 9 | It is illegal for anyone to remove or introduce any fauna and flora within the boundary of the Protected Area - (a) If species with special status. (b) If species without special status. | K400.00 K200.00 |
| 10 | It is illegal to hunt or fish by any means within the boundary of the Protected Area - (a) If species with special status. (b) If species without special status, | K400.00 K200.00 |
| 11 | It is illegal to conduct any activities without the Management's knowledge within the Protected Area. | K200.00 |
| 12 | It is illegal to use herbicides or weedicides within the boundary of the Protected Area. | K200.00 |
| 13 | It is illegal to use firearms, catapults, bows and arrows within the boundary of the Protected Area. | K200.00 |
| 14 | It is illegal for all natural resources' extraction (logging, gravel, sand, trees) within the entire boundary of the Protected Area. | K1,000.00 |
| 15 | It is illegal for any person or persons including entity to undertake any development activity within the entire boundary of the protected area without permission from the Management Committee - (a) Environmental impact from small scale development activities. (b) Environmental impact activity outside the Protected Area (industrial). (c) Environmental impact from activity outside the Protected Area (community). (d) Unauthorised sawmilling (wokabaut sawmill). (e) Chainsaw sawmilling. (f) Unauthorised large-scale logging. (g) Unauthorised exploration. (h) Road construction development. | K5,000.00 K100,000.00 K5,000.00 K10,000.00 K5,000.00 K50,000.00 K50,000.00 K200,000.00 |
| 16 | In accordance with Section 20 of <i>Fauna (Protection & Control Act)</i> (Chapter 154), Hogave Community Conservation Area Management Committee in consultation with local landowners has developed and recommended to the Minister the appointment of group of Conservation Area Rangers for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the Act. The Conservation Area Management Committee will maintain the current register of Hogave Community Conservation Area Rangers. For a description of the powers of a Conservation Area Ranger, please refer to Section 21 of the Act. The fine imposed for the obstruction of a Ranger is as follows: A person who - (a) hinders or obstruct a Ranger; or (b) refuses or fails without lawful or reasonable excuses (proof of which is on him) to furnish information under this Act is guilty of an offence. | |

All penalties, fines and fees are imposed by the relevant Court and are payable to the Chairman of the Velotige Community Conservation Area Management Committee.

Dated this 16th day of April, 2025.

S. KILEPA, MP,
Minister for Environment and Conservation and Climate Change.