An African Yam farmer in Hides

Ekanda Hole, member of the Imini clan, lives in Belopa Village, Hides, where he relies on subsistence agriculture for his livelihood. Traditionally, the role of Huli men is to dig ditches, make fences, and build houses, while women garden and care for livestock. Despite this, Ekanda dreamed of harvesting vegetables but didn’t have the seeds or skills to follow through.

An invitation from the Community Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP) program leader, Pastor Akilo, gave Ekanda an opportunity to learn more about agriculture and receive the crop seeds needed to get started. After growing them all, Ekanda decided to focus on African yams – a vegetable he has never seen or heard of before. To help him start, Ekanda participated in training sessions where he was taught how to cut tubers (roots) into many pieces and treat them with ashes in preparation for planting in a nursery for sprouting. Sprouts were then planted in large trenches and filled with compost to grow and mature. Along the way, Ekanda became curious about what the harvest would produce, and why such a big hole was needed for such a tiny piece of yam tuber.

Eight months later, he learnt the answer... Ekanda returned to the CLIP program to learn the correct method for digging and harvesting a yam. To his and his fellow participants surprise, a huge yam the size of the hole was pulled from the ground. Inspired by the result, Ekanda decided then and there he will become an African yam farmer. Receiving one small piece of cubed yam seedling from CLIP, Ekanda headed home, planted, prepared, and harvested very large yams just as he was taught – taking them to the Hides Alliance Group market and selling.

Recently, Ekanda calculated he has sold about 150kg of African yams at Kapote (Hides) market. Profits from sales have enabled him to hire a vehicle to transport his crop and continue preparing tubers – with 50 more ready to be harvested and sold. Ekanda is excited by his results and plans to continue harvesting African yams. “I don’t understand why young men are just roaming around playing cards, fighting, drinking beer and all these other activities that are not profitable. If I were a young man, I would supply all the vegetables. Money is in the ground, money is not like sand or pebbles where you can just pick anywhere while roaming around. Men are not realizing that,” he said.

“I wish to produce English potatoes and will multiply and make it big like what I am doing with the yams. I am looking for seeds and if CLIP team can help me, I will be grateful.” Since 2015 CLIP has helped community members improve their livelihoods and standards of living by generating household and group income from small enterprise development. EMPNG has invested K8 million in CLIP. The project has reached 700 people from 20 community groups in the Hides, Komo and Angore in the Hela province.

Message from Andrew Barry, Managing Director ExxonMobil PNG

We started 2019 by re-focusing on safety and the high standards that we expect everyone to perform to. It’s re-affirming our goal that “Nobody Gets Hurt”. In this issue we take a look at how we maintain safety at our marine terminal, and the importance strong relationships with many external stakeholders has in maintaining our focus. February was a time for reflection on the first anniversary of the earthquake that devastated the Hela and Southern Highlands provinces in 2018. We are continuing to work with communities to assist by repairing and rebuilding education and health infrastructure and sustaining livelihoods through our Community Livelihood Improvement Program (CLIP). You can read the remarkable story of the Payapa Women’s Group in Hides in this issue.

The growth of our Papua New Guinean workforce is at the heart of our business and we are making great strides in this. I am proud to say the critical role of maintenance scheduling at our facilities is now being run by a 100 percent Papua New Guinean team. This is a testament of their skill and our commitment to build capacity in our local workforce. Further to that 28 young bright graduates have started their training in the Kumul Petroleum Academy and we wish them well. I would like to thank everyone for their energy and commitment and look forward to sharing more great stories on our innovative partnerships throughout the year.

Lukim Yu. (See you).
Keeping our marine terminal safe and secure

Regular exercises are important in establishing operational expectations, testing our policies and procedures to ensure that, together with our partners, we are prepared to deal with an incident.

“We are always looking for ways to improve the response of our safety and security teams.”

By the time natural gas reaches the PNG LNG Marine Terminal it has already travelled over 700 kilometres and has been transformed from gas into its liquid form (LNG). Throughout this journey nothing is more important than the safety and health of our workforce, contractors, and the people who live and work around our operations. Over 100 LNG tankers safely transit through the Marine Terminal each year, which wouldn’t be possible without a significant number of people ensuring the integrity of our systems and disciplined application of our policies. Recently, we hosted a Marine Terminal drill with our LNG Plant security and safety teams, alongside local government departments and authorities, including: the Department of Transport; National Maritime Safety Authority; and PNG Ports and Customs, and Water Police.

Approximately 80 people across these teams attended the emergency drill to demonstrate the internal and external steps needed to keep the Marine Terminal safe and secure in the event of a real incident.

Chris Pearson, Safety Supervisor at ExxonMobil PNG, said the training exercise was an invaluable experience for everyone involved.

“Being able to run through the exercise alongside external agencies helps us to ensure we not only understand the steps needed in the event of an emergency, but how we communicate with our partner organisations,” said Chris.

“This was a positive experience, and certainly demonstrates that we have strong partnerships in place that will help us to minimise impacts to the Plant and keep our community safe in the event of an emergency.”

Conducting regular security exercises like this drill are important in establishing operational expectations, and testing that our policies and procedures work.

“We are always looking for ways to improve the response of our safety and security teams, and the results of this exercise has helped us identify areas that need to be upgraded and to tighten gaps in our processes. Having key external partners participate also helps ensure we have good alignment if there ever was a real emergency,” Chris said. ExxonMobil PNG is committed to working with our community partners and government colleagues to continue to enhance the safety of the PNG LNG Project.

Congratulations to the 28 KPA trainees sponsored by ExxonMobil PNG. From 2,000 applicants 40 scholarships were awarded, 11 sponsored by Kumul Petroleum Holdings Limited. To all trainees, we wish you well for the year ahead.
A new mindset. A new benchmark

“No matter the role, staff are empowered to stop work where safety is at risk to prevent an incident.”

At the heart of the PNG LNG Project is a philosophy of “Nobody Gets Hurt”. Each year, teams across ExxonMobil PNG are faced with the challenge – how do we continue to inspire our fellow warwoks and elevate our safety performance? The answer: creating a new mindset for safety culture. Through continuous implementation and evolution of on-site safety initiatives – including daily staff meetings, recognition programs and strong site management commitments – the Project achieved record breaking safety performances, across the board, in 2018.

Winnie Schubert, Safety, Health and Environment Manager at ExxonMobil PNG, said the safety recognition program not only gives way for safety leaders to be acknowledged, but it allows our warwoks to learn and assist in building a safer environment.

“Our safety culture is changing mindsets where everyone is now asking the same questions: can something go wrong; what would be the worst outcome; can I prevent an incident – everyone is now acting as risk managers,” said Winnie.

No matter the role, staff are empowered to stop work where safety is at risk to prevent an incident. “In 2018, we were able to reach record safety performances thanks to our staff looking out for each other by stopping and correcting unsafe behaviour and, at the same time, encouraging safe behaviour,” said Winnie.

Staff and contractors are also given a platform to share their safety stories, in their language of choice, in the hope of inspiring learning from their mistakes.

“Looking into the future we understand diversity and inclusion will play a key role in promoting innovation, creativity and humanising every situation to help protect our fellow warwoks and continue to build safety culture – with the hope our staff take this mindset home and share it with their families and community.”

World TB Day

Time’s up for Tuberculosis. Tuberculosis (TB) continues to be one of the most significant diseases affecting the lives of Papua New Guineans. This past World TB Day (24 March) teams across ExxonMobil PNG hosted awareness sessions to bring attention to the rate of incidences across PNG and how to prevent TB both in the workplace and at home. As part of the Worldwide ExxonMobil Tuberculosis Control Program, we encouraged our staff and contractors to demonstrate TB leadership by taking action and getting to know their status through our free annual TB screening.

We’re committed to fighting the prevalence of TB by empowering our staff with knowledge, so they can go home and educate their families and the community. It’s time for action, it’s time to end TB.

ExxonMobil PNG staff and contractors participated in the free annual TB screening.
Scheduling our way of life

At ExxonMobil PNG (EMPNG) we have as many team members as we do moving parts. At the heart of our operations lies the Centralised Maintenance Scheduling team – keeping our day-to-day operations running seamlessly across the PNG LNG project. This skilled and crucial activity for our business is run by a 100% Papua New Guinean team. All maintenance scheduling is centralised and managed through ExxonMobil Haus in Port Moresby – meet AnneMarie Norrie – LNG Plant Scheduler, Casper Kokoa – Hides Gas Conditioning Plant (HGC) Scheduler, and Serah Nktins – Long-term and Shutdown Scheduler.

Previously, their roles were rotating positions performed by both expatriates and Papua New Guinean staff based at the LNG Plant and Hides. “Having both long-term and short-term schedulers in one location improves the utilisation of our resources and people, optimises the efficiency of our equipment to minimise downtime, and provides a central location for maintenance business support,” said AnneMarie.

“All this is achieved through information and knowledge-sharing amongst schedulers and adhering to our best practices.”

At ExxonMobil PNG (EMPNG) we have as many team members as we do moving parts. At the heart of our operations lies the Centralised Maintenance Scheduling team – keeping our day-to-day operations running seamlessly across the PNG LNG project. This skilled and crucial activity for our business is run by a 100% Papua New Guinean team. All maintenance scheduling is centralised and managed through ExxonMobil Haus in Port Moresby – meet AnneMarie Norrie – LNG Plant Scheduler, Casper Kokoa – Hides Gas Conditioning Plant (HGC) Scheduler, and Serah Nktins – Long-term and Shutdown Scheduler.

Previously, their roles were rotating positions performed by both expatriates and Papua New Guinean staff based at the LNG Plant and Hides. “Having both long-term and short-term schedulers in one location improves the utilisation of our resources and people, optimises the efficiency of our equipment to minimise downtime, and provides a central location for maintenance business support,” said AnneMarie.

“All this is achieved through information and knowledge-sharing amongst schedulers and adhering to our best practices.”

The main role of a scheduler is to lead onsite maintenance teams and guide their day-to-day job. However, they also play a key role as the eyes and ears of each site.

“Anything from a small maintenance issue through to full site shutdown can cascade between Plants,” said Serah.

“We’re able to see the full picture of what is happening, which enables us to not only communicate with each other, but prioritise what actions need to be taken and when.”

Having a centralised system not only benefits the team daily but is crucial in the unlikely event of an emergency.

“Now that we sit side-by-side we can pull critical site-specific data quickly in the event of an emergency,” said Casper.

“We have the final say when it comes to maintenance; we act as the bridge between operations and maintenance.”

The PNG LNG workforce of 3200 people is 86% Papua New Guinean. Across the board they are stepping up and demonstrating their growing knowledge and skills and contributing their voice in the future of the business.
Partnering to Deliver Skills Opportunities

In the remote Hela province of Papua New Guinea, obtaining a quality education is a daily challenge due to resource scarcity and the challenging geographical landscape, not to mention the local community is still on the road to recovery following the 7.5 magnitude earthquake in early 2018. While daunting, this challenge is not insurmountable particularly with the support of partners like ExxonMobil. Having achieved a remarkable 86% rate of nationalization within its workforce within the first 5 years of operations, the company continues to seek ways to advance the impact of its operations on Papua New Guineans both within and outside its fence lines.

For Kews Goi, Manu Moses and Albert Arawi their hopes of seeking employment in their province came to life when they were selected as apprentices to the Hides Gas Conditioning Plant (HGCP) operated by ExxonMobil PNG. The apprenticeship program is a joint program between ExxonMobil PNG and HGDC Energy Services Limited (HESL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Hides Gas Development Company (HGDC) with the National Apprenticeship and Trade Testing Board endorsing the program.

The three apprentices are now attached with the HGCP Maintenance workshop and only know too well the challenges faced in their communities.

From Angpoe, Kews Goi, said this apprenticeship is life changing for him. “I would like to thank ExxonMobil PNG and HESL for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime by training me to be a mechanic and also supporting our community and schools so others can get an education and a good job so they can provide for their families.”

Manu Moses who comes from Para, says looking for further education was never easy. “I would like to thank ExxonMobil PNG, HESL, and the maintenance team for giving me this opportunity with an apprenticeship as a heavy equipment fitter. I struggled financially to further my education, my whole family and community are very excited and happy for me to get this training, so I will do my best with this opportunity.”

From Hides, Komo, Albert Arawi hopes to become a certified Auto electrician. “I am also very eager to be part of the team and can make a difference to my life, families and the community and more importantly I hope I can make a big difference to create further opportunities for young people in the community.”

The four-year program will involve on the job training and offsite TAFE training in the first three years.

The future looks bright for these three apprentices and for trade skills training for the people of Hela.

Respecting Culture through Haus Kri Packages

One of the strongest traditions practiced across all tribes, in all the provinces of PNG, is that of a haus kri – a mourning ceremony that brings the community together to pay their respects to departed family members. Haus kri can often last for days or weeks at a time, and sometimes can lead to a financial burden being placed on the family, as they need to cater for those paying their respects. During this period, people in the community also have an obligation to contribute to the haus kri one way or the other – contributions can be in cash or kind.

This cultural tradition also places pressure on the community leaders to contribute to the haus kri. Contributions by leaders not only symbolise the maintaining of their leadership status in the community, but leaders gain respect when they speak during the community gatherings, peace mediation, and other community events. Recognising the importance of this tradition, our Hides Gas Conditioning Plant and LNG Plant teams started an initiative to support families through the supply of care packages. Beginning as a way to support community leaders, the program has evolved to include ExxonMobil PNG staff (employees, contractors and third-party contractors) whose immediate family members have passed away.

Care packages contain food, including: bread, rice, noodles, biscuits, tea, coffee, and a variety of other items.

We understand the importance of this tradition, and the pressures and stress it can place on staff and community leaders, and how these packages can provide some relief during a difficult time. These contributions have been very important in building relationships with the community and not only show our respect for the deceased, but that we are part of the community – with them for the good and the bad.
Fostering the next generation of safety leaders

What we learn today can shape how we react tomorrow. We believe, if a strong understanding of safety culture is instilled in young children, they will grow up to become Safety Leaders not only in their community, but maybe one day even here at ExxonMobil PNG. Recently, our Community Affairs team visited PNG LNG plant neighbouring villages of Porebada and Boera to talk about the importance of Road Safety and Pedestrian Awareness, and Marine Exclusion / Restriction Zone Safety Awareness. Students were reminded of basic road safety rules, such as always look left and right to ensure the road is clear and never play on or beside the road. Road safety posters and leaflets were distributed to students and teachers to ensure the next generation of PNG school children take home a strong message to share with their friends and family.

ExxonMobil PNG staff speaking to Boera Primary school students about road and pedestrian safety awareness.

Success is a Science

They say education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today... that is certainly true for PNG’s future scientists. In 2018, over 361 students from schools surrounding the LNG Plant took part in ExxonMobil PNG’s Science Ambassador Program. Led by staff volunteers, the program covered the fundamentals of Rocks and Geology – including an interactive session on how to identify rock types – and the origins of Oil and Gas – including how oil and gas is formed, extracted, and processed. Our team is excited to meet the next generation of scientists in 2019 and provide students with the opportunity to learn in a fun and engaging environment.

Championing WASH in schools

“We hope to encourage students to practice hygienic behaviour with their families and communities.”

Good hygiene habits are more than just maintaining a good appearance, it’s also about preventing the spread of viruses and bacteria. Through ongoing engagement with the community surrounding our LNG Plant, we identified a need for new infrastructure to be built to improve Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in schools and promote greater educational outcomes. This community project for schools was agreed in collaboration with Gas Resources Directors for the Plant Site villages. Our construction partner MONDALE engaged local labour forces who constructed new ablation facilities at Redscar High School, and Boera, Lekea and Papa Primary Schools – each featuring ten toilets and ten showers for male and female students.

Michael Daviller, LNG Plant Safety Specialist, said that health and safety is one of our fundamental needs as humans. “We hope to encourage students to practice hygienic behaviour with their families and communities, which can control the spread of communicable diseases and significantly reduce the incidence of such illnesses,” Michael said.

New ablation block at Boera Primary School.

Redscar High School students and teachers with ExxonMobil PNG representatives outside the newly opened ablation block.
From little seeds, big communities grow

Following the Earthquake in February 2018, ExxonMobil PNG’s CLIP program distributed seeds to neighbouring communities of our Hides Gas Conditioning Plant (HGCP). Donated seeds helped in the restoration of food gardens and household food supply to restore the livelihoods of households affected, and provided opportunities for earning income through the growing and sale of fresh vegetables in markets, and for producing seeds for sale in the wider community. The Payia Women’s Group was one beneficiary of earthquake support in the Hides community, which received sweet corn, dwarf green bean and pak choi cabbage seeds in May 2018 for cultivation. Following two successful crop cycles, in November 2018 the women were able to sell 12kg of dwarf bean seeds back to the CLIP program and 6kg of pak choi cabbage seeds were sold to the community. This is the first time members of the Payia Women’s Group have sold their seeds at the market, creating an additional income stream for households.

Serah Tindiapya, member of the Payia Women’s Group, said that she and her family are able to earn a good income through supplying pak choi to the community and green bean seeds to CLIP, as well as selling fresh vegetables to the Hides Alliance Group market. “We reinvest the money we earn through selling our seeds into buying large quantities of other vegetable seeds when we can get to Tari or Mount Hagen,” Serah said.

“With the money we’ve earned, I’ve been able to send my daughter to school at the Morobe Secondary School.” The Payia Women’s Group have now increased their bulk areas to cater for the demands and future requirements of the CLIP program as well as the needs of the HGCP Fresh produce market.

Welcome to our house

Our team at the Hides Gas Conditioning Plant (HGCP) is opening the doors and welcoming students from neighbouring communities on site for an experience of a lifetime, with an interactive behind-the-scenes tour of the Plant. Excited students and teachers from EKA Dish Group, Para and Juni Primary Schools gained first-hand knowledge of how the Plant operates. Students visited various departments, including Operations and Maintenance and the Central Control Room. They had the opportunity to speak with staff from field operations units, including EMIT, Environment, and Warehouse and Safety. The tours also gave students hands-on experience using the fire water hose under the guidance of our onsite Emergency Response Team. For some students it was an eye-opening experience learning about how natural gas is extracted and turned into Liquified Natural Gas (LNG). The team at HGCP is delighted to continue supporting local schools to help enrich the educational experience of students.

Putting Trash in its Place

HGCP staff take part in a monthly litter site clean-up in an effort to conserve the environment.
In the name of Conservation

Port Moresby Nature Park General Manager Michelle McGeorge leads a team of 86 staff and drives the School Education Program that focuses on conservation and protection of PNG’s vast natural habitats. “ExxonMobil PNG sponsors the Education Program which is the single biggest activity that is run all year long for the Park.” The Education Program is the biggest program that the Park executes and is mainly responsible for the Park’s operational costs.

“We ensure that our staff work with the schools to align the visits with their school curriculum. We ensure that we provide a quality program for all schools in the National Capital District. Our role is to educate children on the importance of protecting our environment.”

“In 2018, a total of 20,682 students participated in the program. If you include teachers, the overall total is over 22,000. Can you imagine when we started in mid-2012 we only registered 2,400 students.”

“We also recorded our highest visitation last year with 132,000 visitors.”

“ExxonMobil PNG’s partnership is three-fold as they provide Cash, In-Kind and Leadership to the Park.”

“They have been with us since day one of the Education Program back in 2013 and their funding has helped us build better facilities.”

“Thirty-two per cent of our revenue is self-generated through visits to the Park, thirty-one per cent from NCDC Grant Funding and the other thirty-seven per cent is from the Corporate Sponsors like ExxonMobil PNG.”

There are four themed programs under the program; World Wildlife Day, World Environment Day, Pasin Tumbuna and Creepy Critters. The feedback I receive from many schools was what this education program is about? Most teachers were surprised how interactive the program was and continue to sign up for the program.”

“But it’s not just about one partner but many partners that have lifted Nature Park to where it provides quality programs.”

Port Moresby Nature Park’s Life Sciences Manager, Ishimu Bebe receives the 2018 Education Award from ZAA.

Looking after our environment from plants and trees to protecting our wildlife needs a collective effort from everyone. It is for that reason that the Port Moresby Nature Park is mandated to ensure that Papua New Guinean’s are informed.