



SAVE THE SEPIK'S SEVEN SUCCESS STORIES IN 2020

ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

PHOTO: LONELY FISHERMAN ON THE SEPIK RIVER

Project Sepik would like to thank everyone who was a part of the 'Save the Sepik' campaign for a great 2020. It was a year of unimaginable changes to the life of mother earth. The SarsCovid 2 virus wreaked havoc in its path as it spread around the world. Much of the world shut its doors. But this did not stop corporations from continuing their exploitative activities to plunder the natural environment. They only view our home and nature as a resource and a means to improve life through economic development.

The Save the Sepik campaign, understood that business continued as usual, they just went indoors behind closed doors and continued to plan and work toward their goals. Therefore, our campaign continued to be as engaged as it could, ensuring that wherever and whenever, the business, in this case, Frieda Mine Project was, the campaign was there.



PHOTO: CHILDREN FROM KOROGU VILLAGE, SEPIK RIVER

1: THE SEPIK VILLAGES UNITED THEIR VOICE TO BAN THE MINE

All the villages along the Sepik River, including Inlok on Frieda River, are united in one voice and one accord: Their position has always been clear: They want the Frieda Mine Banned.

2: THE CAMPAIGN RECEIVED WIDE SUPPORT ACROSS PNG

The people of greater Sepik region and Papua New Guinea support the campaign and Project Sepik. Their voices can be heard everywhere, more amplified with aggression on social media. They know the outcome of the Frieda Mine, from all the experiences in Papua New Guinea and the world over. *They see it around them; they feel it.* They are sure the ultimate destruction will befall Sepik River and all its life forms. They cannot imagine a Sepik, PNG and iconic regional river, vanish.

3: THE EAST SEPIK GOVERNMENT VOTED TO REJECT THE EIS

More than 20 members of the East Sepik Provincial Government Assembly unanimously voted to Reject the Proposed Mine Tailings Dam. They also voted to reject the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) called the Sepik Development Plan in the form in which it was submitted. 100 % rejected the proposal. That is a united stand.

**'East Sepik Assembly heard the voice of the Supreme
Sukundimi and the campaign to Save the Sepik'**

- EMMANUEL PENI

4: THE WEST SEPIK GOVERNMENT VOTED TO REJECT THE EIS

West Sepik Provincial Government Assembly voted to reject the EIS called the Sepik Development Plan in the form in which it was submitted.

5: ALLAN BIRD THREATENED CEPA WITH LEGAL ACTION

The East Sepik Province Governor, Allan Bird, has been the greatest revelation in the campaign. His leadership in the Office of the Governor and the East Sepik Provincial Assembly is commendable. He threatened the Conservation Environment Protection Agency (CEPA) to take legal action if an Environmental Permit was issued based on the defective and rejected EIS.

6: UN SPECIAL RAPORTEURS SUPPORTED THE CAMPAIGN

Ten United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteurs heard the people's concerns and fears, the Supreme Sukundimi and the campaign. The UN Special Rapporteurs each wrote a letter to the following:

1. The Government of China
2. The Government of Australia
3. The Government of Canada
4. The Government of Papua New Guinea
5. The Parent company of the Frieda River Project called PanAust

7: THE MOVEMENT TO SAVE THE SEPIK GREW EXPONENTIALLY

Project Sepik started as an obscure group of loosely connected Sepiks who were fearful and angered by the idea that the resistance against the Frieda Mine along the Sepik river was maligned, dimmed and suppressed. They met under trees and planned on how to build a campaign. Project Sepik was branded as NGOs misinforming people on the Sepik river, Project Sepik's representative concerns and arguments put out on the curb and margins of conversations. Project Sepik's persistence, calculated aggression and respectful engagement with its supporters ensured the voice of the Sepik River is heard worldwide. By 2020, the Supreme Sukundimi, the Sepik River's spirit, through its powers stood up with the Sepik River, all its lifeforms and with Project Sepik. Today, Project Sepik is surrounded by champions of Rivers, Environment, Climate, Sustainable Development and Justice movements. Project Sepik voice is now a respected voice in the ongoing Frieda Mine Narrative.

Project Sepik would like to acknowledge the ongoing efforts of those driving the campaign. Save the Sepik was founded by Project Sepik, Jubilee Australia and Aid/Watch Australia. The campaign's success is the result of the passion of individuals of these three organisations, the people of Sepik, Papua New Guinea, and individuals around the world.

The world is a better place when these people cry, smile and dream.



PHOTO: HAUS TAMBARAN AT KARARAU VILLAGE



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