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PRESS RELEASE

BNL makes gazettal application for largest protected areas in PNG

PORT MORESBY, 8 OCTOBER 2017, 1300HRS: Barrick (Niugini) Limited ("BNL") with the support of American Anthropologist Dr William Thomas has presented gazettal applications for two conservation areas, the Headwaters of the Strickland in Hela and the Kaijende Highlands in Enga.

PJV Environment manager Charlie Ross and Dr Thomas presented the applications to the Minister for Environment and Conservation and Climate Change and member for Kompiam-Ambum, John Pundari in Port Moresby on Thursday, 28 September.

The gazettal applications cover two of the largest conservation areas in Papua New Guinea.

The Headwaters of the Strickland encompasses most of the Lake Kapiago Rural LLG in Hela province, an area of more than 200,000 hectares. The Kaijende Highlands is mostly an alpine area of 120,000 hectares, extending from Paiela and Porgera areas in the west through to Kandep in the east.

Both conservation areas are of global significance. The 1993 Conservation Needs Assessment identified the Headwaters of the Strickland and the Kaijende Highlands as Conservation priorities for PNG.

A biological assessment conducted in 2008 by an international team of scientists found 50 new species in the Headwaters of the Strickland, an area of 200,000 hectares. Together both project areas will be the largest Protected Areas in PNG at over 320,000ha.

PJV Executive Managing Director Richmond Fenn in introducing the two projects to the Minister said both Charlie Ross and Dr Thomas deserved a lot of credit for having brought the applications before him.

"This is a result of over 10 years of work on the projects and we have some unique conservation programs in our Forest Stewards. We look forward to progressing these all the way through. These are projects that the world can be proud of," Mr Fenn said.

Minister Pundari in accepting the applications expressed that he was extremely proud of BNL for partnering and investing in conserving some of the country's land areas.

"This is very powerful, given BNL is one of the leading developers in the mining sector in PNG has seen it fitting and right to collaborate with our landowners and to bring in these conservation areas applications. I can assure you of my support."

"For Porgera to come in and conserve around 320,000 hectares is a big achievement and I congratulate and applaud you. I want other resource developers in the country to come forward and do the same thing and I hope to get more applications to parliament as soon as possible," Minister Pundari

said.

The Environment minister's acceptance of the gazettal applications will trigger a 90 day public consultation process to be led by CEPA in the lead up to gazettal under the Conservational Areas Act.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Porgera Gold Mine in Enga Province, Papua New Guinea, is operated by Barrick (Niugini) Limited ("BNL") – through an equal partnership between Barrick Gold Corporation and Zijin Mining Group Company Limited – which owns 95 percent participating interest in the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV). The remaining 5% in PJV is owned by Mineral Resource Enga (MRE) Limited – a consortium consisting of the Enga Provincial Government and the Porgera landowners.

The Porgera Mine employs over 2,500 Papua New Guineans, and over the life of the mine has produced more than 20 million ounces of gold and contributed approximately 10% of PNG's total annual exports.



Mr Ross presents the conservation area application for the Kaijende Highlands to Minister Pundari. Sitting on the Minister's right is Managing Director for Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) Gunther Joku and on the left is Managing Director for Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA) Ruel Yamuna.



Dr Thomas presents the conservation area application for the Strictland Headwaters to Environment Minister John Pundari.

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