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USAID Mission Director to Visit Papua New Guinea



Photo Caption: Gloria Steel, the USAID Mission Director for the Philippines and the newly established Pacific Islands Office based in Port Moresby

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea — February 2, 2012 — Gloria Steele, the USAID Mission Director for the Philippines and the newly established Pacific Islands Office based in Port Moresby, will visit Papua New Guinea on February 6-8.

Ms. Steele will be meeting with donor partners, including those at the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the United Nations, and key government ministers such as Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah, Minister for National Planning Sam Basil, Minister for Finance and Treasury Don Polye, Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS Jamie Maxton Graham and Minister for Education Theodore Zurenuoc.

As the United States ramps up its engagement with the South Pacific, Papua New Guinea will be front and center. In the initial phase, USAID will be looking to support efforts to help Papua New Guinea adapt to the effects of global climate change and protect its environment, especially coastal areas.

The U.S. government currently supports the Coral Triangle Initiative, a US\$20 million project that assists six nations, including Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, East Timor, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Philippines to protect the region's marine and coastal resources.

The other major focus of USAID in Papua New Guinea is HIV/AIDS. Over the past five years, the U.S. has given US\$10 million to support implementation of service delivery programs to increase access of most-at-risk populations to HIV/AIDS prevention and care, support and treatment services. This week, USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) provided US\$50,000 in disaster assistance for flooding in Morobe province. OFDA is also looking to expand assistance in other areas.

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