The arrival of barges loaded with dozers and other logging equipment at Silovuti has caused concern for both the Provincial Authorities and the landowners of the Kapuluk Timber area.

This pencil cedar was collected as a wildling and planted by a villager at Pua Village in 1995.

The tree is tall, has a good form, and is already around 25 cm diameter at breast height at the age of eight years.

These and other trees planted at the village show the potential for valuable mixed species plantations in the Kapuluk areas as well as other areas throughout lowlands PNG.

The Review Team with villagers from West Kove at Maiko Village.

One of the most important issues raised was the reduction in water quality since the road was constructed into the village caused by the collapse of water crossings.

Meda Assets (PNG) Ltd hold regular meetings at this village, Silovuti and Kandoka.

A collapsed water crossing along the road to Maiko, which has stopped the flow of the river.

According to the on-site manager of Meda Assets, this issue has never been raised at the regular meetings mentioned above.

These meetings present ideal opportunities for landowners to raise such issues with the permit holder.
A set-up approved for logging showing a tree marked for felling and a desirable residual tree marked with a blue square to enable the feller and skidder operator to avoid damaging it.

The set-up plans are generally well prepared by the contractor and checked by the PNGFA Project Supervisor.

Problems occur once felling starts with bad felling techniques and in this case excessive soil disturbance caused by the skidder not following the designated skid tracks.

The PNGFA monitoring officers are constantly suspending operators who the re-offend after being reinstated by the company.

A marked residual tree in the same set-up as above. This excessive damage to non-merchantable trees causes very large gaps in the canopy.

This photo shows an example of waste at a log landing.

The lack of action over the past two years on waste assessment has discouraged the forest monitors who no longer carry out waste assessment.
This set-up is at the eastern end of the project area, Balave-Gulu.

Canopy disturbance is excessive.

The Review Team has recommended that penalties be imposed for repeated breaches of the Key Standards.

Further training, constant checking and licensing of fellers and skidders is required to ensure a better quality of workmanship in logging operations.

Note the blue paint band indicating that this was indeed a desirable residual tree.

The workshop at the Balave Camp and this waste pit is 10 metres from the Balave River, well within the minimum 50-metre buffer zone.