

KUMU & LAMU'S FOREST ADVENTURE

A Journey into the Wilds of Papua New Guinea



WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY
ERIC H. KUNA



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Kumu & Lamu's Forest Adventure

A Journey into the Rainforests of Papua New Guinea

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Kumu & Lamu's Forest Adventure is part of the Children's Literacy Development Initiative, a publishing programme of PNGUoT Press that promotes reading, environmental awareness, and an appreciation of Papua New Guinea's rich natural and cultural heritage through locally developed stories for young readers.

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About PNGUoT Press

PNG University of Technology Press publishes educational, academic, and community-focused resources that support learning, research, literacy, and the sharing of Papua New Guinea's knowledge, cultures, and environments.

Author & Illustrator

Eric H. Kuna

Publisher Contact

PNG University of Technology Press

Papua New Guinea University of Technology Taraka Campus Lae, Morobe Province, PNG

Email: uni.press@pnguot.ac.pg

Website: <https://www.pnguot.ac.pg/>



This is Kumu

This is Lamu

This is Kumu.

This is Lamu.

They are best friends who live in a village beside
the rainforest in Papua New Guinea.

Today, they are going on a forest adventure!



"Let's explore the rainforest!" said Lamu.

"Maybe we'll discover something amazing," said Kumu.

They packed some food and water into their bags.

Together, they followed the forest path be-



Suddenly, a large bird stepped out from the trees. "It's a cassowary!" whispered Kumu. The cassowary looked at the boys with its bright blue neck and strong legs. "Cassowaries help new trees grow by spreading seeds," said Kumu. Lamu smiled. "The rainforest needs cassowaries!"



"Look! A tree kangaroo!" said Kumu.
The tree kangaroo jumped from branch to
branch. It moved quickly through the
trees.

"I wish I could jump like that," said Lamu.



Kumu and Lamu walked deeper into the forest. Lamu picked a small orchid. "It smells so sweet!" he said. Kumu smiled at the colorful frangipani flowers nearby.



Suddenly, a small green tree python slithered past. The boys jumped in shock. "It's okay. It's just a snake," said Lamu. Kumu nodded, but stayed close.



Soon, they reached a sparkling river. They saw fish swimming in the water. A freshwater crab moved quickly across the rocks. "Let's be careful," said Kumu.



High above, a monkey-faced bat hung from a tree.

"Look at its funny face!" laughed Kumu.

Lamu laughed too.

"This forest is full of surprises!"



Kumu and Lamu sat on a big log. They ate bananas and sweet potatoes. Butterflies danced around them.

"This is the best day ever," said Lamu.



“Look at that bird!” said Lamu.
A rainbow lorikeet flew by. Its red, blue, and
green feathers sparkled in the sun.
“It’s beautiful,” said Kumu.



Kumu stopped and pointed quietly.
"Look over there," he whispered.
"It's a spotted cuscus!"
The animal peeked at them from the trees.



They walked a little further.
The tree kangaroo appeared again.
This time, it came closer.
It seemed curious about Kumu and Lamu.



Then, they heard a sweet song.
High in a tree, a kumul sang.
Its feathers shone brightly in the light.
“It’s the most beautiful bird of all,” said Lamu.



The sun began to set behind the mountains.
Kumu looked at the sky.
“We should go home now,” he said.
Lamu nodded.
The boys followed the path back to their village.



At the village, they told everyone about their adventure.

"We saw so many amazing animals!" said Kumu.

"And we were very brave," said Lamu.

Teacher / Parents Guide

Teacher Guide

Kumu and Lamu's Forest Adventure

Supporting Early Literacy and Environmental Learning in Papua New Guinea

About This Guide

This teacher guide is designed to support educators in using Kumu and Lamu's Forest Adventure as a tool for:

- Early reading development
- Vocabulary building
- Environmental awareness
- Cultural understanding

The story introduces children to the forests of Papua New Guinea through familiar experiences, simple language, and locally relevant wildlife.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the Book/lesson, students should be able to:

- Identify key animals found in Papua New Guinea
- Understand simple story structure (beginning–middle–end)
- Use new vocabulary in speaking and writing
- Demonstrate basic comprehension skills
- Show awareness of nature and safety in the environment

Page 1 - Village Setting

Focus: Community and environment

Teacher/Parents Guidance:

Discuss where Kumu and Lamu live. Explain that many communities in Papua New Guinea live in villages, where homes may be built from natural materials such as wood, bamboo, and palm leaves.

Cultural Note:

People in Papua New Guinea today may wear traditional clothing during cultural events and celebrations. In everyday life, most people wear modern clothing.

Discussion Questions:

- What is a village?
 - What is your home like?
-

Page 3 - Cassowary (Muruk)

Focus: Wildlife and forest importance

Teacher/Parents Guidance:

Introduce the cassowary as a large bird that cannot fly. It has strong legs and a bright blue neck.

Key Fact:

Cassowaries help forests grow by spreading seeds from the fruits they eat.

Discussion Questions:

- What color is the cassowary's neck?
 - Why are animals important to the forest?
-

Page 4 – Tree Kangaroo

Focus: Animal adaptation

Teacher/Parents Guidance:

Explain that tree kangaroos live in trees, unlike most kangaroos. They use their strong limbs and long tail to balance.

Key Fact:

Tree kangaroos are marsupials, meaning mothers carry their babies in a pouch.

Discussion Questions:

- Where does the tree kangaroo live?
- How does it move?

Page 6 – Green Tree Python

Focus: Understanding wildlife

Teacher /Parents Guidance:

Discuss how the boys reacted to the snake. Emphasize that animals should be respected, not harmed.

Key Fact:

The green color helps the python hide in the trees.

Discussion Questions:

- How did the boys feel?
 - Why is it important to stay calm?
-

Page 7 – River Life (Fish and Crab)

Focus: Ecosystems

Teacher/Parents Guidance:

Explain that rivers provide water and a home for many animals.

Key Fact:

Freshwater crabs help clean the river by eating plant and animal material.

Discussion Questions:

- What animals live in the river?
 - Why is water important?
-

Page 8 – Fruit Bat (Flying Fox)

Focus: Animal features

Teacher Guidance:

Discuss how the bat looks and moves.

Key Fact:

Fruit bats use their eyes and sense of smell to find food at night.

Discussion Questions:

- What does the bat eat?
- When is it active?

Page 10 – Rainbow Lorikeet

Focus: Colors and behavior

Teacher/Parents Guidance:

Highlight the bright colors of the bird.

Key Fact:

Lorikeets eat nectar and pollen using a special brush-like tongue.

Discussion Questions:

- What colors do you see?
 - Why do birds need food from flowers?
-

Page 11 – Spotted Cuscus

Focus: Nocturnal animals

Teacher/Parents Guidance:

Explain that some animals are active at night.

Key Fact:

The cuscus uses its tail to hold onto branches.

Discussion Questions:

- Where is the cuscus?
 - Why is it quiet?
-

Page 15 – Kumul (Bird of Paradise)

Focus: National identity and nature

Teacher/Parents Guidance:

Introduce the kumul as the national bird of Papua New Guinea.

Key Fact:

Male birds perform special dances to attract females.

Discussion Questions:

- Why is this bird special?
- What sounds do birds make?

About the Kumu & Lamu Adventure Series

Kumu & Lamu Adventures is a children's educational book series published by PNG University of Technology Press. The series is designed to promote reading, environmental awareness, and an appreciation of Papua New Guinea's rich natural and cultural heritage.

Through simple stories, engaging characters, and colourful illustrations, children are introduced to the unique plants, animals, and environments of Papua New Guinea while developing early literacy skills, curiosity, and a lifelong love of learning.

Each adventure encourages children to explore, ask questions, respect nature, and take pride in the extraordinary biodiversity found in their own country.

This series is suitable for use in homes, schools, libraries, and community reading programmes.

Our Mission

To inspire young readers through stories that celebrate Papua New Guinea's people, cultures, wildlife, and environments while supporting literacy, environmental education, and a love of local learning.

We Welcome Your Feedback

We are committed to continually improving this series for children, families, and educators throughout Papua New Guinea.

We warmly welcome your suggestions, ideas, and constructive feedback to help us improve future editions and develop new adventures for Kumu and Lamu.

If you would like to share your comments or recommendations, please contact:

PNG University of Technology Press
Taraka Campus
Lae, Morobe Province
Papua New Guinea

Email: uni.press@pnguot.ac.pg

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THE END

Thank you for exploring
the rainforest with Kumu and Lamu.
Keep discovering, learning,
and caring for our beautiful world!



Author/Illustrator:
ÉRIC H. KUNA

