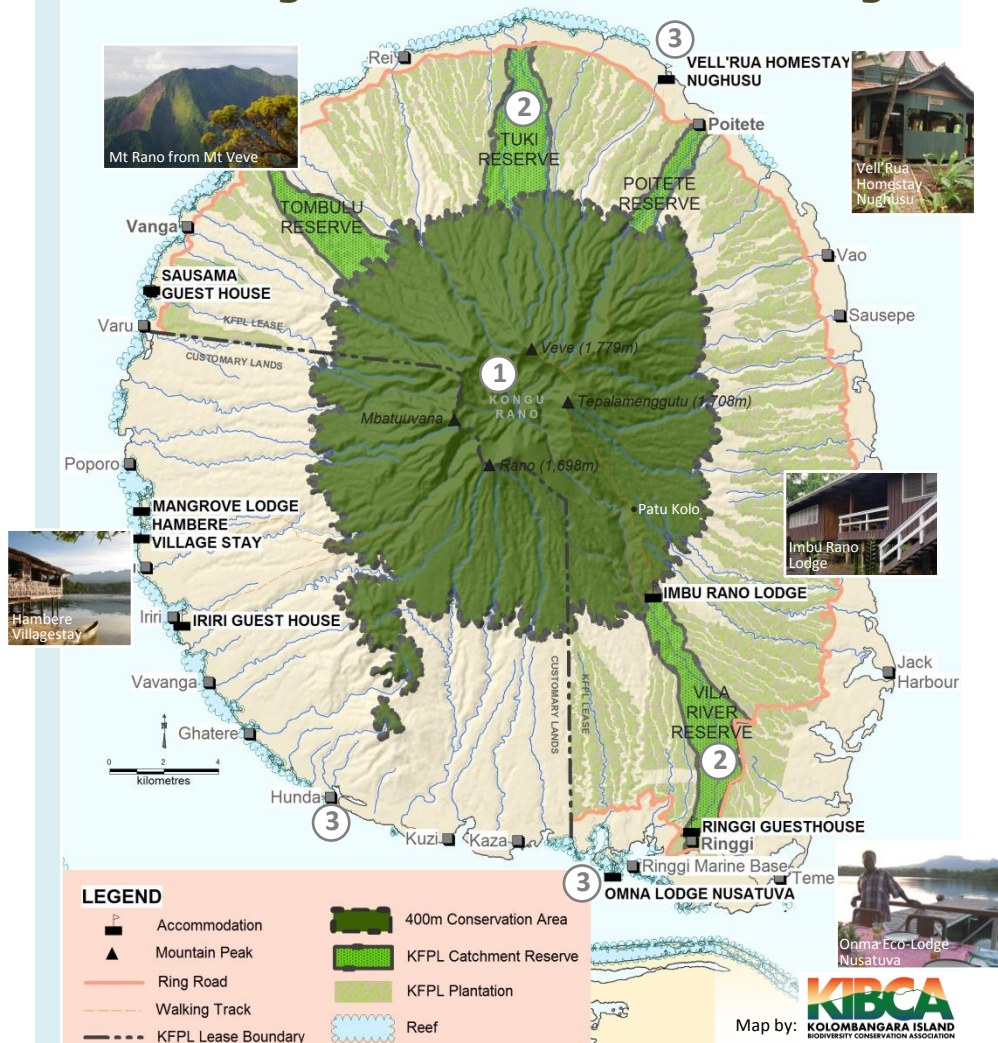


# Celebrating Conservation on Kolombangara



## Conservation Areas on Kolombangara

- 1 ABOVE 400M** – The conservation area above 400m covers an area of over 20,000 hectares (200 square km). This is about 28% of Kolombangara. It makes it the largest conservation area in Solomon Islands.
- 2 CATCHMENTS** – Four catchment reserves, connecting the mountain conservation area to the lowlands, are managed by KFPL as wildlife corridors and to ensure clean drinking water.
- 3 MARINE** – Villages at Nusatuva, Hunda and Nughusu have created marine protected areas where there is no fishing.





Waterfall at the centre of Kongu Rano



Walking to the crater centre



SI Prime Minister dedicates the 400m conservation area June 2011



Vila River near Imbu Rano Lodge

## Long History of Conserving Above 400m Altitude on Kolombangara Island

Dughore culture has a long history of respect for the high mountain forests of Kolombangara. The Kolombangara crater, Kongu Rano, is where all Dughore people came from. The high forests are where the most important cultural sites are and where the water for the villages comes from.

About twenty years ago, the Chiefs of Kolombangara met and decided that the area above 400m was too important to log and should be conserved.

In 2008 and 2009, all Kolombangara landowners signed a Community Conservation Agreement, confirming that they would not log or mine above 400m altitude. This area above 400m altitude can therefore be regarded as a 'conservation area' or 'protected area'.

Scientists have recently realised that extremely rare plants and animals are also found above 400m altitude.

### A Name for the 400m Conservation Area

A name will soon be given to the conservation area above 400m altitude.

This name will be selected from over one-hundred nominations received during a public competition held in early 2011. The name will be decided by KIBCA representatives and other Kolombangaran people.

The name will be in Nduke language. There is no plan to change other names on Kolombangara and the ownership of land on Kolombangara stays the same.

By choosing a name we can promote Kolombangaran culture and more easily tell others in Solomon Islands and the rest of the world about our special conservation area.



## Assisting a Sustainable Kolombangara

KIBCA was formed in 2008 and represents the conservation interests of Kolombangara landowners. KIBCA is an independent NGO.

KIBCA's mission is for Kolombangara forest and marine resources and cultural heritage to be sustainably managed by Indigenous Kolombangarans and to improve Islander quality of life.

One representative for each of the ten zones is on the KIBCA Executive, and five people per zone vote at the AGM.

Kolombangara landholders and KFPL have agreed for KIBCA to share in managing the conservation area above 400m. KIBCA is preparing a plan to make sure the area is managed well for many more years. After June 2011, KIBCA will meet with villages and community leaders to ask them about the best way to manage the area.

KIBCA is telling tourists about why they should visit the conservation areas. Tourism will help local businesses that provide food, transport and accommodation.

Other KIBCA livelihood projects assist Kolombangara people with their own income ideas eg honey.

KIBCA is building the island's human resources by offering scholarships to students each year.

Join KIBCA and help our work.



KIBCA ranger with endemic Kolombangara white-eye