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MEDIA RELEASE

KIBCA Holds Successful Protected Areas Workshop

The Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association (KIBCA) has hosted a workshop on the National Governments Protected Area Act and Regulations. The one-day workshop was held at Imbu Rano Lodge on Kolombangara Island on Sunday 27 May.

The Government's Protected Areas Act 2010 and recently passed Protected Areas Regulations 2012 provide communities with legal measures to protect their cultural sites, land and marine areas, and ensure sustainable land use practices.

Attending the one-day workshop were representatives of KIBCA, the World Wildlife Fund, Natural Resource Development Foundation, Ghizo Environment Livelihood Conservation Association, Tetepare Descendants Association, American Museum of Natural History and Kolombangara Forest Products Limited.

The workshop was lead by the Land Advocacy and Legal Support Unit (LALSU) of the Public Solicitors Office. LALSU provides legal information and advice to communities on what the Act and Regulations are, how they can be used, and how the application works.

Mr.Ferguson Vaghi, KIBCA Coordinator, said the workshop had been very successful in explaining the purpose of the Government's Act and Regulations.

"KIBCA is carefully looking at how the Act and Regulations can help conservation and promote sustainable land use that has benefits for all of the community", said Mr. Vaghi.

"We believe the Government in passing this Legislation has laid an important foundation for the future protection of the Solomon Islands' rich biodiversity and culture. This can provide long lasting benefits for our people".

Individuals and communities wanting further information on the Protected Areas Act and Regulations can contact the Land Advocacy and Legal Support Unit on 60682 or lalsu@pso.gov.sb.

END OF RELEASE

For further information please contact Ferguson Vaghi on 7481198