

ABOUT KIBCA

Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Association is a local NGO formed in 2008 that represents Indigenous Kolombangarans and their interests in the conservation of land and marine areas of Kolombangara Island.

KIBCA is managed by an Executive that meets twice yearly, and an AGM of landowner delegates.

Lifetime membership is open to all local Kolombangara people for a one-off \$5 fee.

KIBCA has close working relationships with KFPL, other conservation organizations such as WWF, Live and Learn and Tetepare Descendants Association, the American Museum of Natural History and the provincial and national government. It has a Community Conservation Agreement with the Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnerships (SICCP).

KIBCA seeks to find ways to generate economic and employment benefits from conservation activities on the island. Already it has offered over 40 scholarships per year for primary school fees to local families since 2009. It is also training local guides. These programs are expected to continue and expand.

PROJECTS

KIBCA has a range of conservation projects. The main areas of interest at present are:

Mountain Conservation Zone – KFPL has arranged for KIBCA to manage their land above 400m. KIBCA is promoting visits by tourists and trekkers to visit the Vila River, the Volcano Crater and Rim, and to climb Mt Veve. It is developing a track and hut network and training local guides. It is also seeking to have the 19,400 ha conservation zone of KFPL and customary land above 400m formally recognized as a protected area.

Court Case Against Logging Above 400m – KIBCA is taking Success Company to court for logging in Lot 1 above the 400m level, on the south side of Kolombangara Island. On 26 September 2010 KIBCA succeeded in temporarily halting logging prior to a full hearing of the High Court, expected in October.

CURRENT EVENTS 2010

September

22-26 Visit by Brian Weeks, recording the calls of the endemic Roviana Rail near Ringgi and other birds at Imbu Rano lodge.

27-29 Cutting of walking track from Poitete to Mt Veve (KFPL cutters and KIBCA rangers)

October

28 Sep -4 Oct Visit by University of Queensland scientists, led by local scientist, Patrick Pikacha, to survey the endemic Kolombangara Silvereye and other birds and to prepare evidence for logging court case.

4 Workshop at Poporo held by WWF about non-timber forest products.

4-8 Workshop at Gizo by WWF and Ministry of Environment and Conservation about Community-based natural resource management and new Protected Areas Act (Andrew and Ferguson).

10-25 Visit by international scientists Chris Filardi, Director of Pacific Programs, American Museum of Natural History, Myknee Mynee and Tyrone Lavery. The team will conduct a rapid biodiversity survey on the Mt Veve summit area and post live blogs to the New York Times.

November

KIBCA AGM, at north Kolombangara Island (date and venue to be decided)

Further Information

Visit the KIBCA Office, on the left half way up the main hill at Ringgi and say hello to the KIBCA staff:

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