



KIBCA

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MEDIA RELEASE

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KIBCA to Fight New Logging on Kolombangara

The KIBCA Executive has just met and voted to take a tough stance against logging above 400m altitude on Kolombangara Island, including taking High Court action against any new approvals.

The KIBCA Executive has just concluded its two-day meeting on Monday and Tuesday this week at Imbu Rano Lodge on Kolombangara Island.

“KIBCA remains firmly resolved to prevent logging above 400m altitude on Kolombangara Island,” said Mr Vaghi, KIBCA Coordinator.

“It is above 400m altitude that the exceptional biodiversity of Kolombangara can be found and this should not be logged at any time.”

“This includes endemic species of birds and frogs found nowhere else on Earth except in the high altitude mountain forests of Kolombangara Island,” said Mr Vaghi.

“The area above 400m also holds most of the cultural sites of Kolombangara people and is very important for the constant supply of clean drinking water to coastal villages downstream.”

“It is poor and unsustainable logging practice to log above 400m. Logging above 400m is mostly on steep and inaccessible lands, and the value of the wood is much lower.”

“Success Company currently has logging plans for south Kolombangara on Lots 1, 2, 9 and 10 above 400m. The Environmental Impact Assessment carried out by Success Company for Lot 1, 9 and 10 is totally inadequate and this month KIBCA sent a formal and detailed objection to the logging plan to the Ministry of the Environment.

Mr Vaghi said, “The information in the assessment was poor and the pages describing the impacts on biodiversity were missing. No field survey was done for the assessment. KIBCA has called for a new more detailed assessment and better consultation.”

“Most of the villages downstream of the logging were not told about the proposal.”

“The KIBCA Executive, in authorizing the Court action at their meeting this week, wants to send a strong message to logging companies looking to exploit the timber on Kolombangara above the 400m contour.”

“If you ignore the Solomon Islands environmental and forestry laws, KIBCA will stop you in the Courts,” said Mr Vaghi.

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