



KIBCA

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MEDIA RELEASE

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New Secret Logging Plan for Kolombangara

KIBCA today expressed concern about a new plan by Success Company to log on South Kolombangara Island without any proper consultation.

Today, KIBCA wrote a letter to the Ministry of Environment and Conservation complaining about the poor public consultation on the proposal to date.

“The local people have not been properly asked about their opinions of the logging and are being denied their basic legal rights,” said Mr Ferguson Vaghi, KIBCA Coordinator.

“For example, Ghatere, a village of over 1,000 people that lies immediately downstream of the area to be logged, was not informed about a proposed public meeting (the only one held) at nearby Kaza on 10 March.”

“Villages such as Ghatere, Votuna, Pine, Hunda, Kena, Korore, Kuzi, Hapi and Vovohe will suffer when their catchments are logged and their drinking water is affected.”

“Yet there are very few people from these villages who know that they have only until 20 March to make a comment to the Ministry of Environment on the logging,” said Mr Vaghi.

Success Company has prepared an environmental report on the logging of 2,800 hectares on Lots 1, 9 and 10 on South Kolombangara.

“KIBCA was not sent a copy of the report, despite its successful court case against logging on Lot 1 last year, and only obtained a copy of the report this week,” said Mr Vaghi.

“From what we have seen of the report so far, the report ignores most of the environmental impacts of logging. It says ‘disturbance and exploitation of habitat is major concern’ but fails to conduct a full environmental impact assessment, does not recommend areas for protection and does not avoid logging above 400m altitude.”

“There is not even a map in the report showing the areas to be logged and the rivers that will be affected.”

The Solomon Islands *Environment Act 1998* requires all companies proposing to log an area to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment first, and then get comments from the public about it for at least 30 days. Only then can approval from the Ministry for the Environment be sought before logging proceeds.

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