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Western Province Protects 400m Contour on Kolombangara

KIBCA has praised a recent strong decision by the Western Province Government to protect all areas on Kolombangara Island above 400m altitude as a conservation area.

“The decision is a big step forward”, said Ferguson Vaghi, KIBCA Coordinator.

“We are pleased that now the Western Province Government recognizes the 20,000 ha Kolombangara Conservation Area, the largest in Solomon Islands.”

This follows the Kolombangara Festival in June this year where the conservation area received the backing of the Prime Minister, Danny Philip, Environment Minister, Mofat Fugui, and Finance Minister and local MP, Gordon Darcy Lilo.

The decision by the Western Province Government also recognizes KIBCA as the body to regulate the resource extraction ban.

Mr Vaghi said, “KIBCA has written to the Western Province Government to congratulate them for their strong decision. KIBCA has asked the Western Province to give KIBCA the necessary powers through the Western Province Government’s legislation.”

“KIBCA is already monitoring the conservation area boundary for any new logging or mining,” said Mr Vaghi.

The full decision passed by the Executive Council of the Western Province Government states:

APPROVED: to give due recognition of the Permanent Ban against any Resource-Extracting Activity within this area placed on the 400 Metre Altitude Mark and Above on Kolombangara Island as a Terrestrial Protected Area; and

FURTHER APPROVED: to recognize KIBCA (Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association) as the dully designated organization to regulate and police this Terrestrial Protected Area and the related Permanent Ban against any Resource-Extracting Activity within this area

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