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Illegal Explorers Enter Kolombangara Crater

KIBCA is concerned about a party of visitors to the crater in the centre of Kolombangara Island that may be trying to undertake mineral exploration without permission.

The party consists of a number of local people with at least one expatriate, who is known to KIBCA. They entered the crater yesterday or the day before and remain inside.

“These people have not sought permission to enter the conservation area”, said Mr Ferguson Vaghi, KIBCA Coordinator.

“As a non-Solomon Islander, they should at least be paying the management fee that all other visitors pay to enter the area.”

“We also want to question them about their motives. KIBCA has enough evidence to believe that these people are not tourists, but looking for minerals,” said Mr Vaghi.

“KIBCA became suspicious after people reported seeing the party trying to secretly enter the area yesterday.”

“KIBCA has contacted the local police as well as KFPL, who hold the lease over the land. They asked KIBCA to try and identify the people and investigate if they are threatening the conservation area.”

“This is exactly why the decision this month by Western Province Government about the Kolombangara 400m conservation area is so important. If we are to prevent resource extraction, then KIBCA needs the powers to police and enforce the 400m conservation area.”

KIBCA is committed to preventing logging and mining in the Kolombangara conservation area on behalf of landholders of Kolombangara.

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