



**KIBCA**

**Kolombangara Island  
Biodiversity Conservation Association**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Kolombangara Festival Klosup**

Preparations are well underway for the big festival to be held on Kolombangara Island next week 13-17 June. This is a time for Kolombangara people to celebrate and share their achievements with the rest of the Solomon Islands.

Kolombangara Biodiversity and Cultural Festival will be a week-long program of activities including sporting competitions, music, tours, prizes and information stalls.

Ferguson Vaghi, KIBCA Coordinator said, "The conservation area and the festival will be the pride of all the Indigenous Kolombangarans because it is a grass roots initiative that aligns well with the visions of our Chiefs and Elders many many years ago."

"This large event will publicly dedicate Kolombangara Island's 400m conservation area and celebrate Kolombangara Island culture."

"The Festival starts on Monday 13 June when soccer and netball competitions start. There will be a singing, drawing and speech competition and a one-day conference. It concludes on Friday with a field trip."

The netball, soccer and singing competitions are open to everybody. There is over \$12,000 worth of prizes up for grabs (soccer winning team gets \$4,000 and trophy, netball winner gets \$2,000 and trophy). Registration for soccer and netball closes tomorrow, Fri 10 June.

"The highlight will be an Official Ceremony at Ringgi on Wed 15 June 2011 where there will be a launch of the 400m conservation area and its new name. The new name will be selected at the end of a widely publicized competition. This area, covering over 20,000 ha or 28% of Kolombangara is the largest conservation area in the Solomon Islands," said Mr Vaghi.

"Over one-hundred nominations were received for the naming competition. The competition seeks to find a Nduke language name for the conservation area above 400m altitude. The KIBCA Executive and a special panel of Kolombangara people will decide on the winner."

"At present the conservation area has no name. There is no plan to change any existing names, change land tenure or formally register the conservation area."

"We will start community consultation about the management of the area and any possible declaration under the Protected Areas Act after the ceremony," concluded Mr Vaghi.

See the attached program.

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