



Ensuring Resilient Ecosystems and Representative Protected Areas In Solomon Islands (EREPA)

Strengthening Decision Making in Environmental Management Workshop

Organized by SPREP

King Solomon Hotel, 18th March 2023

Presentation Outline

A tropical beach scene with turquoise water, a sandy shore, and a lush green island with palm trees and a thatched hut. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The water is clear, showing some underwater rocks and coral.

1. Project Background- Goals, objectives and components
2. Implementation Status
3. SPREP Involvement
4. Challenges

Project Profile

Project Title	Ensuring resilient ecosystems and representative protected areas in the Solomon Islands (EREPA).
Project Type	Full-size Project (FSP)
Trust Fund	GEF TF
Geographical Scope	Guadalcanal, Malaita, Rennell-Bellona and Temotu provinces of the Solomon Islands
Focal Areas	Biodiversity and Land Degradation
Implementing Agency	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Project Leading executing agency/ies	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology of Solomon Island (MECDM)
Duration of project (including expected start and end dates)	48 months - (Actual Date July/Aug 2019 to July/Aug 2023) (Start Date Sept/2021)

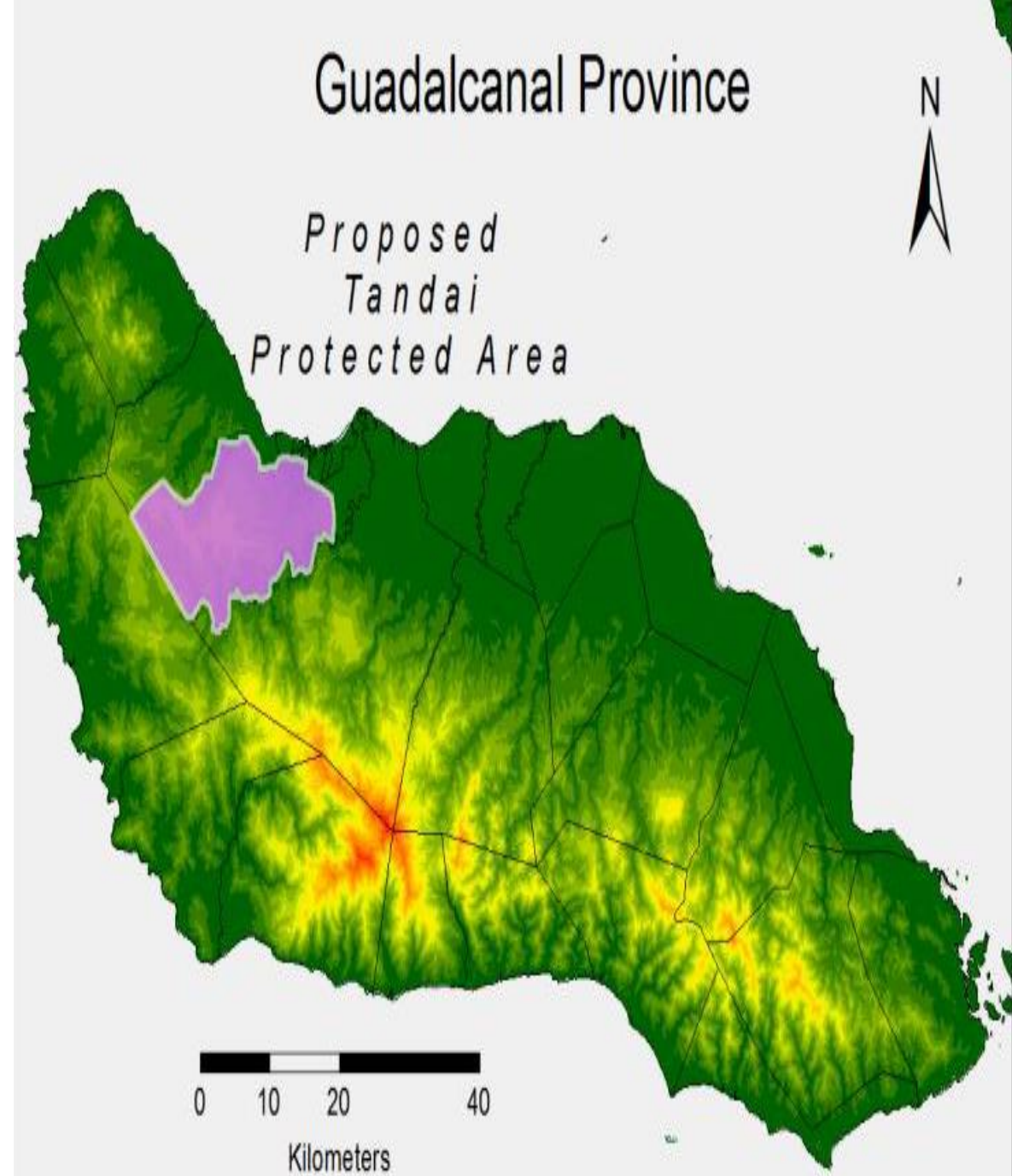
Project Goal and Objectives

- ▶ **Goal:** Establish an effective network of protected areas to achieve healthy, productive and restored landscapes.
- ▶ **Objectives**
 - Support local communities to formally declare terrestrial protected area
 - Promote the adoption of improved livelihood through improved agricultural practices and sustainable natural resource management
 - Establish an efficient network of protected areas



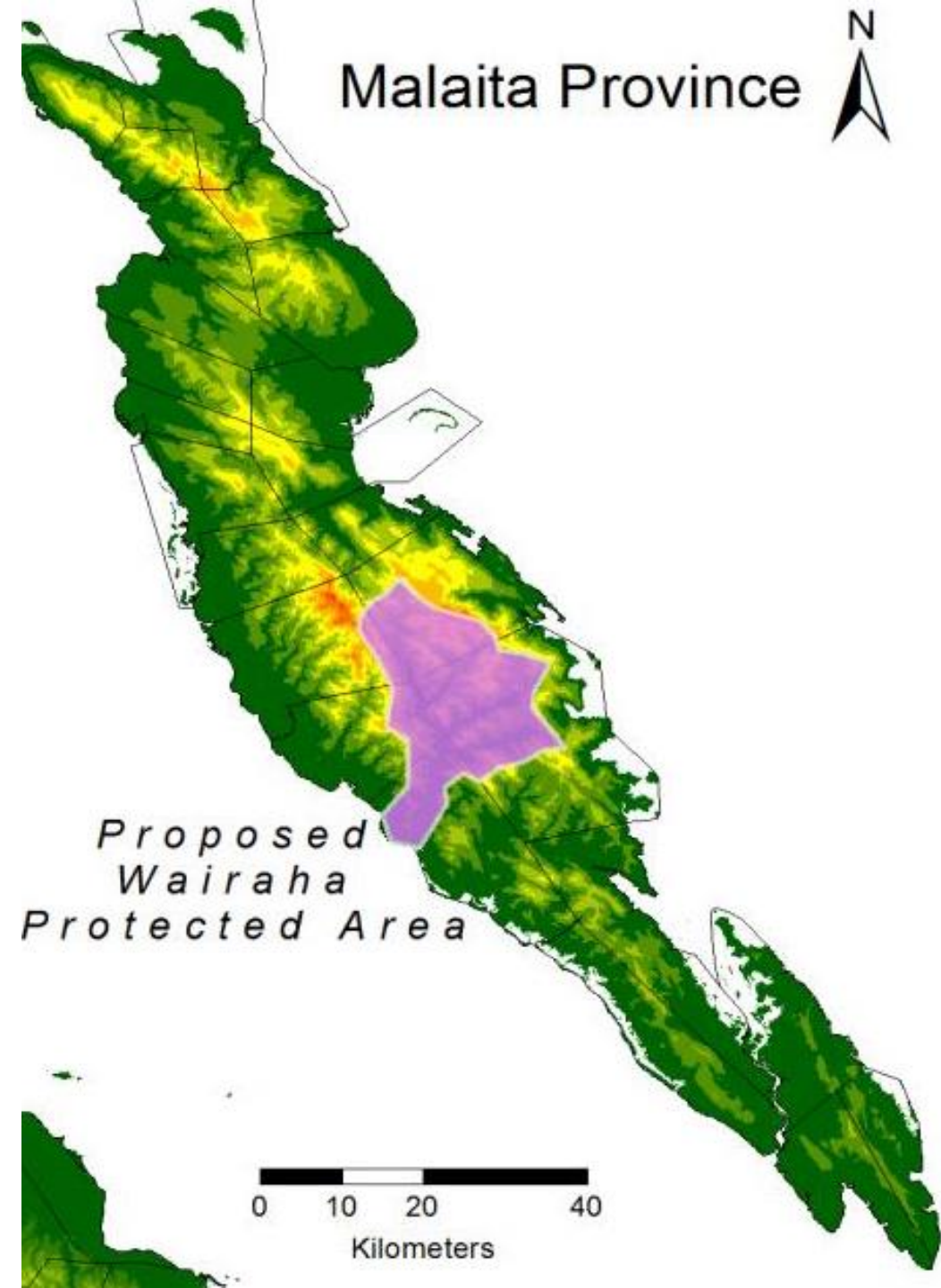
Project Sites

1. **Located:** East Honiara
2. **Biodiversity Importance-** Located in the Guadalcanal watershed KBA with also most accessible area of biodiversity importance to the Honiara city urban area.
3. **Threats** - Logging, milling and expansion of urban settlements
4. **Population-** 20 small communities
5. **Current Resource Use-** Gardens, settlements and small scale millings
6. **Challenges-** demand for land and forest products
7. **Potential PA Sites:** 5 Key tribes allocated 11 Blocks of Land in Tandai ward



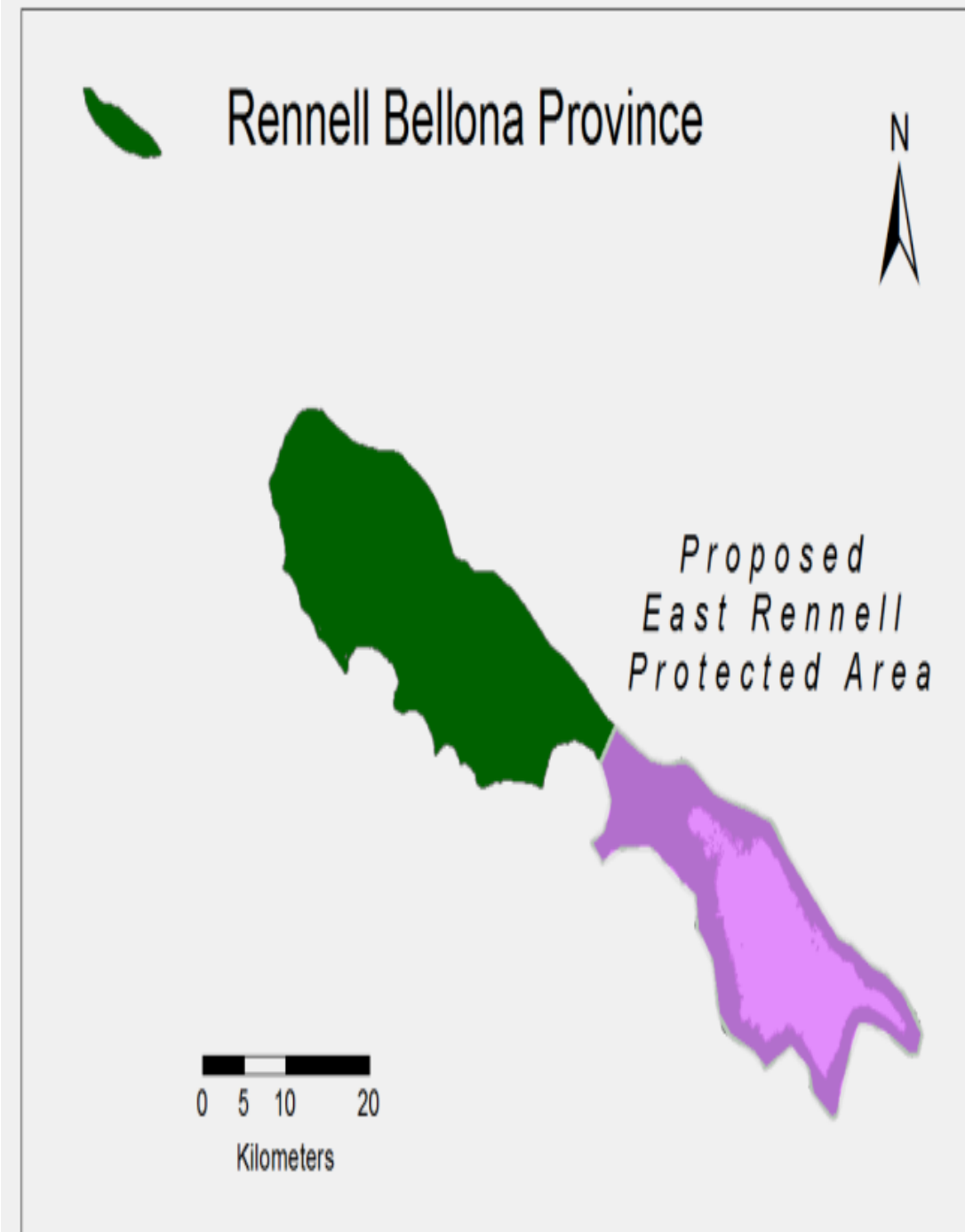
Project Sites

1. **Located:** Located in the central-south of the island of Malaita within the AreAre, Kwaio areas.
2. **Biodiversity Importance-** Two of Malaita's KBAs - the Malaita highlands and AreAre/Maramasike - overlap this area; all of the islands endemic species should be found in this area.
3. **Threats** - Logging
4. **Population-** around 10 communities are located in this area.
5. **Current Resource Use-** Gardens and Traditional harvesting of forest products.
6. **Challenges-** Logging and many land owners not residing in the area.
7. **Potential PA Sites-** 6 tribes organized and established Protected Area Management Committee with proposed PA sites



Project Sites

1. **Located-** East side of Rennell (Lake Tegano)
2. **Biodiversity Importance-** The largest freshwater lake in the south Pacific; it is home to a variety of migrant sea and water birds and also an endemic lake sea krait.
3. **Threats -** Logging and Mining
4. **Population-** 4 Communities
5. **Current Resource Use-** Small scale subsistence farming and fishing is happening around and in the lake.
6. **Challenges-** Community perception on conservation is a challenge as the site has been called a World Heritage Site for over 20 years with local people not seeing 'real' benefits.
7. **Protected Area Site:** 11 Tribes and 1 Protected Area Management Committee established.



Project Sites

1. **Located** - Western Islands of Temotu Group
2. **Biodiversity Importance**- Santa Cruz dove is critically endangered.
3. **Threats** - Logging, mining, natural disasters and sea level rise.
4. **Population**- Nendo 20 communities and Tinakula no settlements.
5. **Current Resource Use**- Gardens and fishing happening in the lake.
6. **Challenges**- Logging and mining
7. **Protected Areas Sites**: 15 Tribes allocated PA sites and established PA committees.



Project Overview- Components and Activities

Component 1: . Enabling environment for integrated terrestrial ecosystem management and restoration

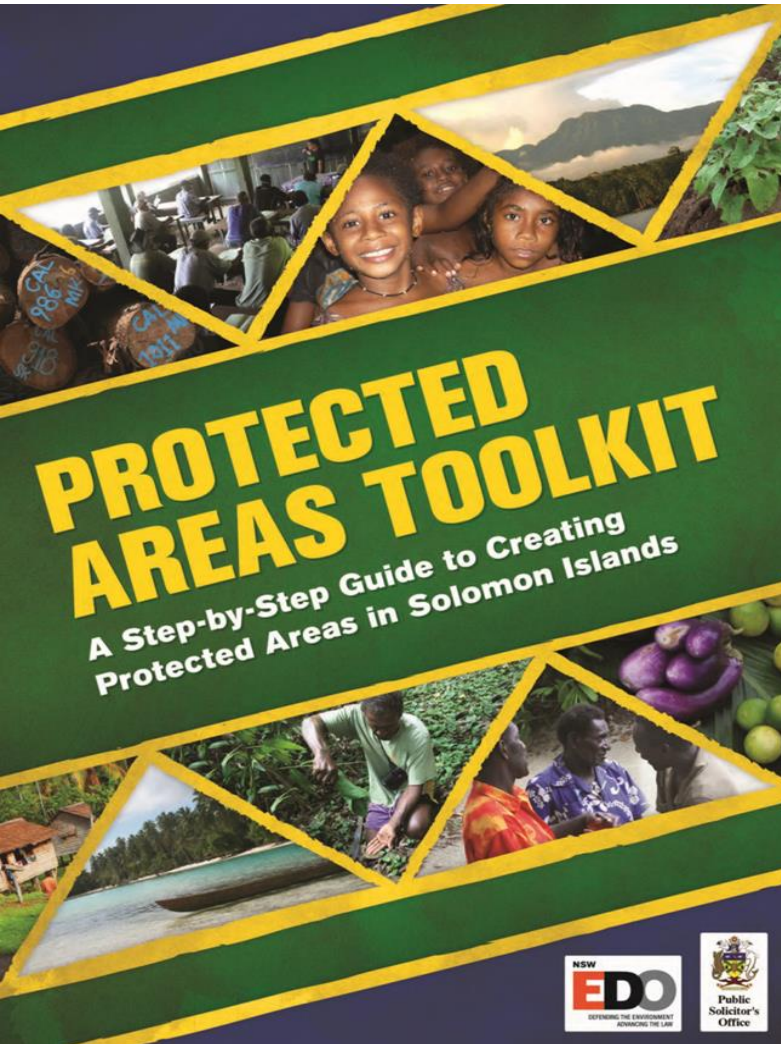
- ▶ **Outcome 1.** Stakeholders and planning mechanisms recognize the role of ecosystems and ecosystem services for improved management of land, forest and water resources.



Component 2: Formal declaration of terrestrial protected areas, and their effective management.

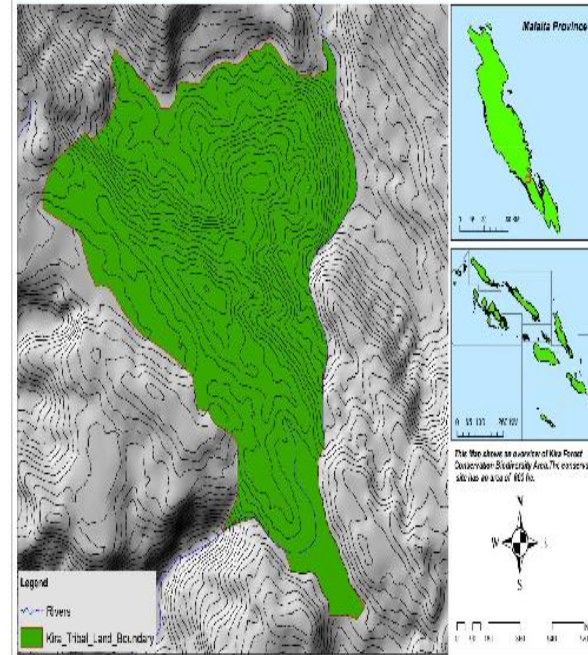
Outcome 2.

National PA network, PAs' Monitoring and Evaluation systems, knowledge management, financing plans and additional protected areas declared.



KIRA FOREST CONSERVATION AREA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Kira Forest Biodiversity Conservation Area was purposely established to protect and conserve one of the last untouched rainforest ecosystems in Malaita Province and Solomon Islands. The KFBCA Protected Area is managed by the Kira Forest Biodiversity Conservation Area Management Committee under the Protected Act. The area features lowland and hill rainforest giving presence to a high variety of wildlife and plant species. This area possesses high biodiversity with a high level of endemism for animal and plant species and that area is richly blessed with cultural history and traditional knowledge of how they relate to their environment.



MANAGEMENT RULES WITHIN PROTECTED AREA

- Protected Area Category:** The Kira Forest Biodiversity Conservation Area is declared and registered as a Resource Management Area
 - General Prohibitions and Restrictions as per the Protected Area Regulations 2012:**
 - Carry out industrial or commercial extraction of timber, round logs or non timber forest products
 - Carry out industrial or commercial extraction of minerals (mining) including extraction of gravel
 - Take or remove any plant and animal species or other organism unless authorized by the management committee.
 - Prohibited and Restricted Activities Within the KFBCA Conservation Area It is strictly prohibited to:**
 - Throw, litter, dump or release any fluent, sewage, garbage, rubbish or toilet waste
 - Destroy or spoil any cultural or natural object or monument of biodiversity and cultural significance
 - Willful obstruction of protected area Rangers Within the KFBCA Conservation Area it is an offence to do any of the following unless authorized by the PA Management Committee:
 - Carry on any agricultural or gardening activities
 - Build any dwelling or houses or unlawfully occupy the area
 - Light or cause any open fire to be started
 - Cut, destroy or remove any plant or trees including firewood (Remove, extract or excavate any sand or gravel)
 - Hunt, kill, or remove any animal or other living creatures for food or for scientific purposes Remove or be in possession of any cultural artefact or sacred object
 - Remove or be in possession of any fossil or archaeological remains
 - Sow, propagate or introduce any exotic or invasive plant or animal species
 - Significantly alter (adjust), change or close the natural flow of a river or stream
- Fines and/or penalties will apply to any person or persons refusing to comply to the above Rules and Restrictions. Any person who wants to visit the Kira Forest Biodiversity Conservation Area for recreational or scientific purposes, please contact the KFBCA first (See contact details below)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The KFBCA would like to acknowledge the following partners for their technical and financial assistance in establishing this Protected Area: SIG Ministry of Environment, Takataki Eco Village Conservation Foundation (TEVCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and EREPA.

CONTACT DETAILS: KFBCA, Masupa Village, East Are'Are, Malaita Province Tel: 7442738 (Andrew Taraha, KFBCA coordinator)



Component 3: Improved land management, agricultural practices and restoration interventions in rural production landscapes

Outcome 3. The environmental quality and the livelihood benefits of production landscapes for communities within and adjoining PAs are sustained.



SPREP Technical Support

Activity 1.2: Land and ecosystem characterization studies and biodiversity and vegetation, and ecosystem health assessments completed to identify priority sites for proposed protected areas.

- ❖ **Spatial Analysis of Delineating Potential PA Sites**

1. Stakeholder Workshop

2. Stakeholder Data Validation Workshop

3. GIS Training- Demonstrate of the use of data capture tools, transfer field data, the process of data analysis and use of GIS software for spatial data and capture and mapping.

- ❖ **Ecosystem and Socio-Economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping (FSRAM) Study in all the four sites.**

Day 2 – Field Visit to Tandai Ward



Challenges

- ▶ Recruitment of PMU is slow due to Covid-19 and result in delay of activities.
- ▶ Chief Technical Advisor Recruitment
- ▶ Sharing of GIS data set
 1. Old data sets
 2. Process of approval
 3. Data Ownership

TAGIO TUMAS 😊

**The future of all
species is in our hands**

