



Padezaka Tribal Rainforest Conservation Area Management Plan

Padezaka Protected Area Committee
Choiseul Province
December 2019

Management Plan

Padezaka Protected Area Management Committee: Padezaka Tribal Rainforest Conservation Area Management Plan

December, 2019

Cover picture: Top: A beautiful view of Katua river; Bottom left to right: Frog (*Platymantis solomonis*), Butterfly sp, Freshwater fish (*Lutjanus fescescens*) and Plants (*Alpinia stapfiana*) species found in Padezaka Land: Photographer – Cornelius Qaqara

Our Vision

To protect, sustain, develop, organize and utilize our forest's biodiversity and natural resources for the maximum benefit for our people and generations to come. At the same time achieving sustainable development goals empowering our people to be self-sufficient and productive in a cash base economic era.

Padezaka Tribal Rainforest Management Committee Chairman



Chief Godfrey Gatarukusu
9 December 2019

Acknowledgments

This Management Plan was prepared by the representatives of the Padezaka Tribe in partnership with the Natural Resources Development Foundation (NRDF), Integrated Forest Management Program (IFMP) and Ecological Solutions Solomon Islands (ESSI) in Choiseul.

Members of the Padezaka tribe for their cooperation and patience through the process. The Padezaka Protected Area Management Committee acknowledged that the Padezaka Tribal Rain Forest Conservation Area is in the customary land of Padezaka tribe.

For any other information or any inquiries about this protected area or this management plan, contact the Padezaka Tribal Association, Sasamunga Village, Choiseul Province by telephone on Mobile: 7383212

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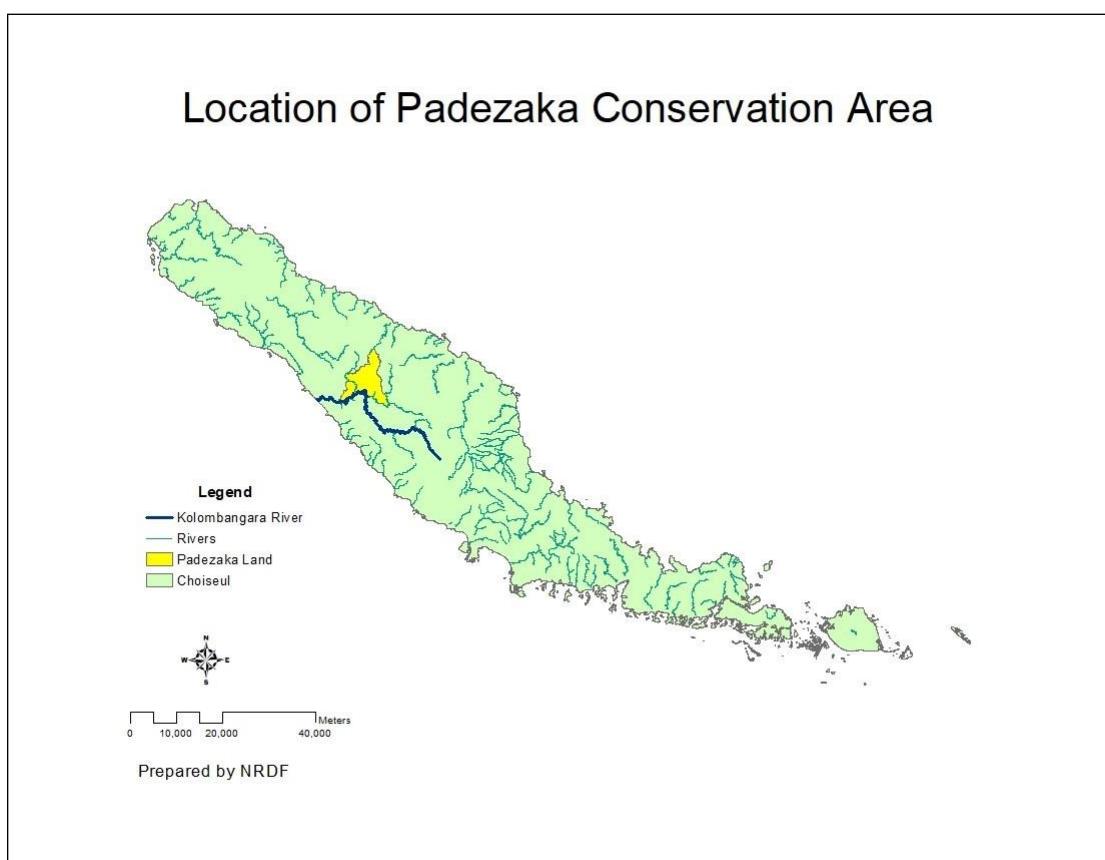
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Maps of Padezaka Tribal Rainforest Conservation Area

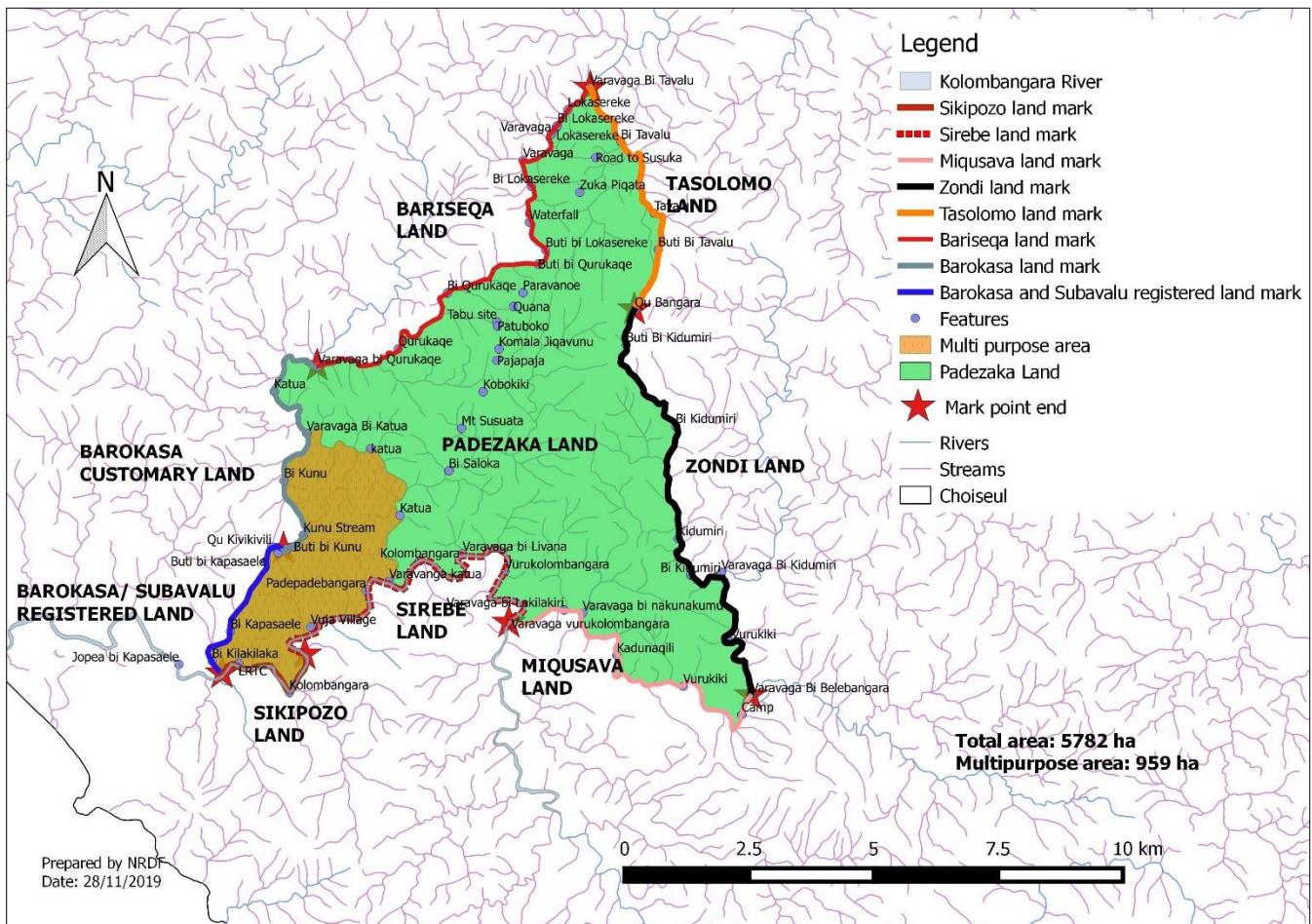
Location Maps



Location of Padezaka Conservation Area



Land use Map and Neighboring tribes



Land use map notes:

The area is divided into two separate zones;

- Multi-purpose area (Brown);** which is not part of the proposed Protected Area Application. This area will be used by the tribal members for making small gardens, future settlements, plantation, agro-forestry or any other small-scale sustainable developments. The Kolombangara Rural Training Centre and Vuja village are both located in this area.
- Protected Area (Green);** This area is subject to the PA application and is designated to become a Resources Management Area under the PA ACT 2010. The PA Management Committee can still allow people to use and harvest products from this area although it is assumed that the Multi-purpose area is sufficient to cater for the needs of the Padzaka members now and in the future.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Padezaka Tribe: Who we are

Padezaka is a tribe in Choiseul Province and the majority of the tribal members live in Sasamuqqa, Vuja and Panarui Village, South Choiseul. Others members live in Loemuni and Molevanga Village in N/West Choiseul, others in Tepazaka area, Susuka, Tutu, Koloe and ZaruZaru Village in North Choiseul. Some others live in Dovele village in Vella Vella Island, Western Province. The roughly estimated population of the Padezaka tribe is 3,000.

The Padezaka tribe originated from Mt Paravanöe, from the ancestor whose generations years later grew in size and are landowners to Padezaka tribal land. The old settlements where the ancestors of Padezaka lived were located at Mt Paravanoe, Vutabu, Ziqavunu, Katua, Lokasosoe, Vantakana and Vorepota. The new and current settlement is located within the Padezaka land and is named Vuja Village.

Within Padezaka land there are many historical important features like Tabu sites (ancestral worship sites) that are located in the area called Padezaka hill, Patuboko and Bilubilu. There are places to collect Ngali nut for their custom events (called Guana), which are located in Ziqavunu, Papaja, Tarazaru, Vutabu and Kivikivili area. Also there are some tribal historical flora and fauna believed to be used by their old ancestors for religious purposes.

People of Padezaka started migrating out from the area since after the Second World War, mainly through marriage to other tribes and for religious, education, health and other services. Padezaka is one of the few tribes that have decided to take a different stand. The threat of logging is prominent and the tribe understands the destruction that comes with logging. Not only destruction but so many social and environmental issues go hand in hand with logging. Therefore the tribe believes in the importance to protect the untouched forest, pristine waters and biodiversity in Padezaka.

1.2 History of Conservation

Padezaka is part of the area of the Mt. Maetambe to Kolombangara River Corridor an area of almost 87,000 hectares. It forms the largest water catchment on the island of Choiseul. The intact nature of the vegetation of the upper portion and the lower catchment areas are crucial to maintain the constancy of, and uncontaminated nature of the water source (Boseto & Pikacha 2015).

The Padezaka tribe started their ideas of conserving their forest even prior to when partnering with Live and Learn back in 2005. Padezaka was one of the areas set aside for conservation in July 2014, after the Provincial Government made an objective in their mid-term development plan for the Mt Maetambe to Kolombangara River corridor to be conserved. This was done after consultation by ESSI with all tribes who own customary land around the area including Padezaka tribe.

More recently the tribe decided to try and establish the Padezaka Tribal Rainforest Conservation Area under the Protected Area Act 2010. In 2018 the Tribe developed a strong partnership with the Natural Resources Development Foundation (NRDF) and the Integrated Forest Management Program (IFMP) who agreed to assist Padezaka to taking

up the process towards a Protected Area status and to link their area with carbon crediting under the Pacific based Nakau programme.

The partnership between IFMP, NRDF and Padezaka started in October 2018 and activities began with conducting awareness sessions with tribal members to share information on the PA process. In November 2018 NRDF, IFMP and Padezaka tribe conducting a Land boundary survey and Mapping and marked some important sites within Padezaka land. Padezaka tribal land has been used as a worship ground (Sope), traditional artefacts (kesa), historical villages and old garden areas. In December 2018 there was a first PA consultation meeting, facilitated by MECDM and IFMP whereas community and other neighbouring tribe were involved. In August 2019 NRDF, IFMP and Padezaka conducted a first Management Committee and Planning meeting. One of the tasks for the management committee is to write a management plan for the proposed protected area.

This management plan gives detailed information about the Padezaka Tribal Rainforest Conservation Area and describes the key issues regarding the implementation, management and conservation of the present forest ecosystems. The management plan has been prepared by the representatives of the Padezaka PA committee in close consultation with the Padezaka tribal members and with the assistance of the Natural Resources Development Foundation (NRDF) and Integrated Forest Management Program (IFMP). The Committee has presented the plan to the tribe to ensure that the plan is in consistence with their aspirations for sustainable management of their natural resources. It will be the guideline on all aspects of the proposed Protected Area under the government standard of protecting a forest. The strategies written are intended for 10 years but can be reviewed at any time according to the interest of the tribe or if there are unforeseen circumstances that need to be catered for in the management plan.

Padezaka tribe is excited about what the future holds and the vision, hope and wish for the tribe is captured in this management plan.

2. OUR LAND

2.1 Location

Solomon Islands is known to be made of many scattered islands. Out in the far Northwest side of the Solomon Islands, is where you'll find Choiseul Province. Choiseul Province is a volcanic island that consists of a large island known as Lauru and small islets one of which is the provincial capital Taro.

Padezaka Tribal land is located along the upper region of the Kolombangara River on Lauru Island in Choiseul Province in the Solomon Islands. The total area of the Padezaka land is approximately 5782 hectares. The coordinates for the Padezaka Tribal Land are:

GPS Location:	Longitude:	E156.805
	Latitude:	S -6.943

Sasamuqqa, Panarui, Loemuni and Susuka Village are the main communities of residence but other members of the tribe live around Choiseul and Western Province. The Conservation area is linked by the Kolombangara River, a journey which can take two to three hours by outboard motor boat trip up the river and several hours if one uses a

dugout canoe and paddle. However, the most used way of getting to the area is by foot towards North West direction from Sasamungga village. There is a truck road connecting the Sasamungga main village and the Lauru Rural Training Centre on the lower part of Kolombangara River. By plane you can either come to Taro or Kagau then travel by outboard motor to Sassamuqqa. When travelling by ship, one must get off at Sasamuqqa Village.

2.2 Environment

2.2.1 Ecosystem

Padezaka has a mountainous structure with many Rivers, streams and creeks. It has steep ridges and Kolombangara River runs through Padezaka tribal land.

Padezaka tribal land consists of untouched lowland forests, riparian forests, hill forests and montane forests. The area covers elevations of below 100m above sea level to 600m above. Kolombangara river pass through the land, there are also streams and creeks. The combination of water systems, hills, mountains, valleys, and forest influence the abundance of species and uniqueness of species.

The landscape has many tourist attractions like caves, waterfalls and rare rock structures. The unbroken forest cover and balance between weather and land structures makes the area a fertile and rich biodiversity site. The delicate nature of the place needs protection from the ever so persistent logging.

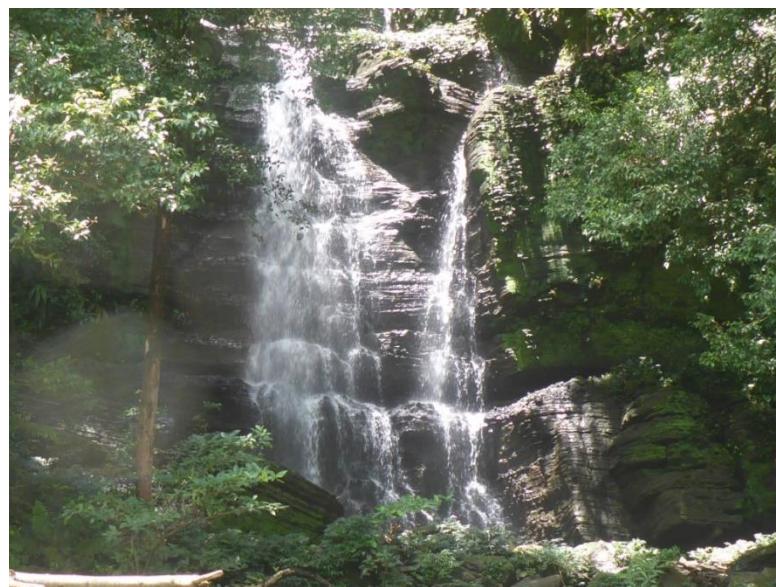


Figure 1 The Padezaka area features spectacular rock formations and waterfalls (photo NRDF)

2.2.2 Flora and Fauna

Padezaka is very diverse in flora and fauna. This is only possible because of its rich ecosystems. Unspoiled forests entangled with rivers, streams and creek Grasses, shrubs, trees, and the nutritious soil are home to many reptiles, birds, and mammals. The rivers, creeks and streams host many crustaceans, and fishes.

The area contains a number of species found nowhere else in the Solomon Islands and/or the world, high stocks of commercial valuable timber species. The flora includes numerous endemic species found only in Choiseul and Solomon Islands. The fauna consists of endemic species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians with some listed as threatened or vulnerable in the IUCN Red list.

2.2.3 Climate

The climate in Solomon Islands is the same throughout the country and with slight variation throughout the year. Being near the equator it has an equatorial climate hot and humid all year. The average temperature is 27°C with small changes. The climate in Choiseul is reflective of that in Solomon Islands. It has months with abundant rainfall and strong winds, other months it has prolonged sunny days but has no clear pattern. Some climatic indications are shown below: (Taro, Choiseul weather station 1981-2010)

Temperature	Minimum: 23.9 C° Maximum: 31.1 C° Average: 28.1 C° (Increase 0.21 C° per decade)
Annual Rainfall	Minimum 1773 mm (2000) Maximum: 5132 mm (1993) Average: 3164 mm
Humidity	Average: 78.79 – 83.11 %

2.3 Land Use

Padezaka Forest Conservation Area is an untouched virgin forest, one of the few remaining in Choiseul. Vunja is only a current village settlement by people of Padezaka Tribe within the area. Places with possible access are used as garden and hunting grounds or cutting timbers and collecting local housing materials like vines however, those are minor activities meaning the area is undisturbed and no major activities within the area take place. There is evidence of previous human settlement in the area through old tabu sites as well as nut gardens called *Quana* however; it must have been long ago as the intactness of the forest is undeniably unique.

The area will become a “*resource management area*” hence the people can still access the area for activities such as forest management, tourism, research, hunting and gardening with a strong management plan and land use plan to guide them. The Tribe has separated an area which is designated as a *Multipurpose land use area*. This area is not part of the Protected Area and will mainly be used for activities such as gardening, timber milling, settlements and plantation developments, depending on what is needed now and in the future. Having this area set aside will relieve any pressure on the main proposed protected area. Special management guidelines and rules apply to this Multipurpose land use area to safeguard sustainable use of its resources.

2.4 Neighboring tribes

Padezaka is surrounded by other tribal lands named: Sirebe, Miqusava, Zondi, Tasolomo, Bariseqa, Barokasa, Barokasa/Subavalu registered land and Sikipozo Land. Some of the surrounding areas were already logged except Sirebe, Miqusava and Sikipozo Land. Padezaka tribe has signed MOUs with each tribe, recognizing and endorsing the boundaries of the proposed protected area.

2.5 Key Values

2.5.1 Watershed Catchment

Padezaka tribal land is part of the water catchment area that plays a huge role in the water source of villages around Choiseul. It is the supply for many rivers, streams and boreholes.

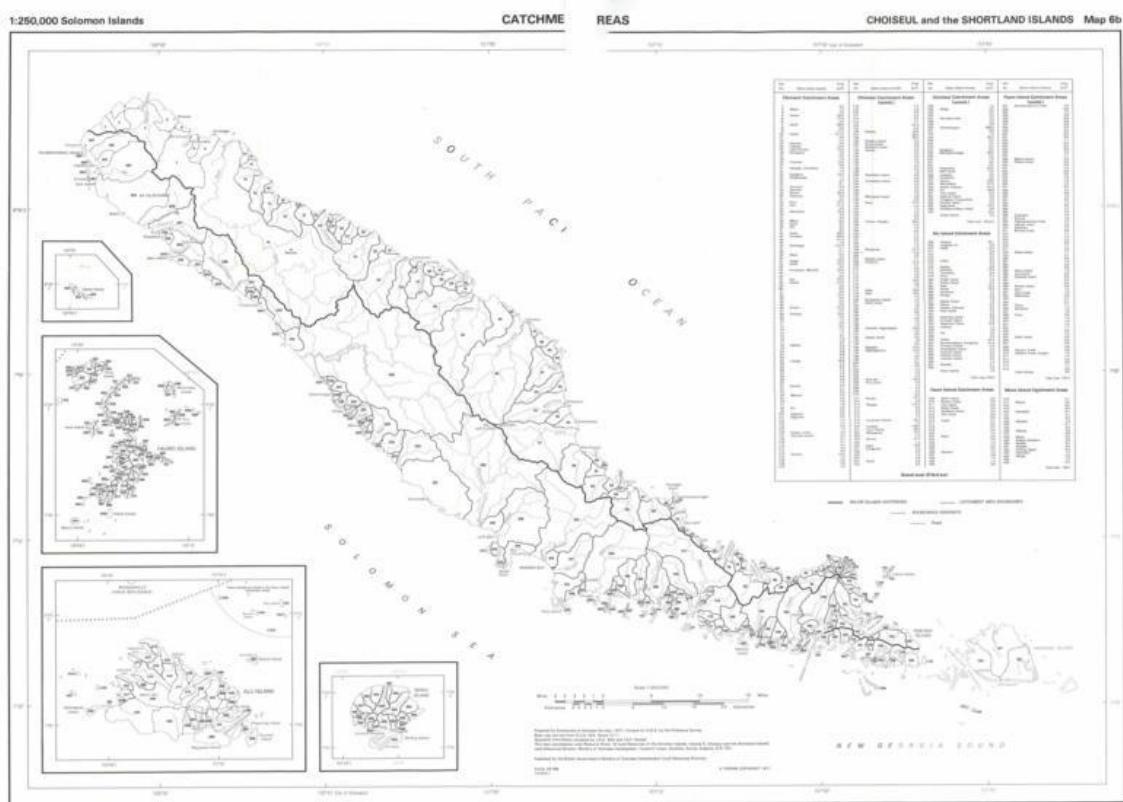


Figure 2 The map of Choiseul and the water pattern in the island

2.5.2 Biodiversity – Flora and Fauna

Padezaka Protected Area is a very diverse site. Though the area itself has not been comprehensively studied, in 2009 and 2014 neighbouring areas located along Kolombangara River and surrounding Padezaka have been surveyed. Results from those biodiversity studies can be used as reliable reference on the biodiversity in the Padezaka area.

The surveys found that the Kolombangara river corridor has one of the highest plant diversity in the Solomon's. A total of 156 species of plants were recorded, which included trees, ferns, orchids and herbaceous plants, belonging to seventy-one (71) families. Eighteen (18) plant species were endemic to Solomon Islands, and one, *Macaranga choiseuliana* from the family Euphorbiaceae is endemic to Choiseul Island, occurring in undisturbed primary forests. *Pterocarpus indicus*, a tree listed as a vulnerable species under the IUCN Red list is found in abundance in Padezaka and surroundings (Sirikolo, Pita & Qoloni 2014).

A total of 58 species of birds were recorded at two sites. Like most islands in the Solomon Islands, there was low species abundance. The shy black-faced pitta (*Pitta anerythra*) was recorded at a single site in mid-elevation forests.

50 species of fish from 31 genus and 13 families were found. Included are 18 species of crustacean from four genus and two families, as well as seven species of decapods were recorded during the surveys. This high number of species is indicative of a healthy aquatic system. Many of these species are diadromous meaning they migrate and spend their life moving between freshwater and saltwater which clearly shows the connectivity value of this eco-system..

The overall survey results highlighted a healthy system due to the high species richness of the vertebrates and invertebrates fauna of Kolobangara Watershed.

With its considerable landmass and unspoiled forest ecosystem, featuring all the species found in the surveys, Padezaka is from paramount importance to preserve this unique water and land ecosystem.



Figure 3: Fresh water fish (*Lutjanus fescens*)

2.5.3 Connectivity

One of the significant features of Padezaka is its connection with the other tribal lands in the Kolombangara river corridor containing high biodiversity and watershed functions. The linkage is very important to maintain as fragmentation will threaten the clean water source, biological diversity and genetic materials. As mentioned in 2.5.2, many fish species are diadromous, meaning they migrate and spend their life moving between freshwater and saltwater which clearly shows the importance of connectivity of this eco-system.

2.5.4 Cultural Heritage

Our people are strongly rooted in tradition. The land, water, plants and animals within the landscape are central to the Padezaka tribe's existence and contribute to the Padezaka tribe's identity. There are the remains of ruins of an old village or historical village where most likely the origin of Padezaka tribe lies and where Paravanoe once lived. This was before the people made their way to the coast to settle. Scattered around the area are cultural artefacts like traditional money (kesa), and worship grounds like (Sope bangara). Another important cultural significant value is the presence of a *Quana* (a traditional garden that consists completely of nut species). Traditionally there is a ridge that runs through Padezaka where two brothers called Paravanoe once lived. However, these sites are considered tambu sites, the locations are not to be revealed to the public unless allowed by the tribal chief and elders. There are some flora species special to the tribe such as herbs (they called basa) and bush leaf (they called sarapa) that are used to chew with betel nut. A historical tree (*Alstonia*), called Gazu bua and located in the area, is now regarded as a sacred place.

The large portion of land or area that located for reserve area is currently unused by the tribe but there will be a plan for the future when the need arises people can gain access to plants with medicinal properties, for building traditional houses and canoes. Resource management can also use traditional ways of managing ecological resources to sustain the forest.

2.5.5 Tourism & Economy

The forest and its resources sustain the livelihood of many Padezaka tribal members. These non-cash benefits provide the members with foods and housing and thus cash income can be used for other expenses in life such as school fees, family obligations and travel. Currently, tourists and researchers come to Choiseul Province to experience and study the pristine terrestrial environment, which supports beautiful rainforest, teeming with life. These visitors potentially bring in extra income and provide employment, for especially young people. Lastly the Padezaka Protected Area will be used to produce carbon credits that will be sold to the international carbon off-set markets. This will bring the necessary income for the tribe, as an alternative for developments such as logging.

3. THREATS

A pristine rainforest ecosystem, takes hundreds of years to come to that status. As of any precious substance, the land and its forest are vulnerable. There are many threats to the balance, and order of the habitats, species diversity, culture and livelihood. The threats will have a negative impact both inside and outside of the area. These threats present a challenge now and for the future.

The threats to Padezaka Rain Forest Conservation Area come in several levels. At a global scale, we have problems like, climate change. Regionally and locally, issues like logging, invasive species, and population growth. These threats come with loss of traditional ecological knowledge, customary differences and poor government legislations.

Table 1: The table below shows a list of threats along with its risk status

KEY VALUES	Water catchment	Biodiversity	Connectivity	Cultural Heritage	Tourism & Economy	Overall Threat
THREATS						
Logging	Very High	Very High	High	Very High	High	Very High
Climate Change	High	High	High	Medium	Medium	High
Expansion of Gardens and Village	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Unsustainable Resource use	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Invasive species	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	High	Medium
Mining	Very High	Very High	High	Very High	Very High	Very High
Risk Status	High	High	High	Medium	High	High

3.1 Logging

The forest has been the target of developers particularly those in search of merchantable round logs. As a result Choiseul Island has seen an alarming rise in deforestation due to extensive industrial logging. Effects of logging, on both wildlife and human society carry negative impacts. Widespread habitat loss, the introduction of pest species, and pollution and the increase of suspended solids and sedimentation of clean streams are but some of these impacts. Socially logging tends to leave behind a long history of animosity between tribes and individuals. Both environmental and social impacts in the long term outweigh the economic benefits of logging (*Boseto D. and Pikacha P, 2014*). In the case of Padezaka, logging is one of the current and most urgent threats. Padezaka tribe oppose to logging but some of the neighbouring customary lands like Zondi, Bariseqa, Barokasa, Subavalu and Paleka (upper Kolombangara river) have already started logging activities which already resulted in polluted streams and rivers, and in high levels of sedimentation of coastal waters that causes threats to the surrounding communities. Pollution from plastics and oil spillage into rivers and streams, logging roads and tracks together with heavy machinery damaged and left to rust, and invasive species are other effects already seen in the areas being logged.

3.2 Climate Change

Climate Change will be the future threat for Padezaka land. Sea level rise, increase in temperature and extreme events can an unpredictable natural disasters with greater intensity will be a challenge for Padezaka forest. Temperatures are projected to continue to rise with an increase of 0.4–1.0oC by 2030 predicted under a high emission Scenario. Rainfall projections for 2020–2039 and centred on 2030 will produce 160mm per month under high and low emission Scenario (*Melchior Mataki et al, 2013*). Though Choiseul is a relatively large island in the Solomon Islands, it is experiencing salt intrusion in coastal water sources, high humidity and a change in weather pattern. With lengthy dry and wet periods compared to the past. The health of plants and animals are dependent on favourable climate patterns. Especially in the case of Padezaka which is located along the Kolombangara River and water catchment increasing flooding will impact the area.

3.3 Expansion of Gardens or Village

The management plan facilitates people to make small gardens or village in certain areas within Padezaka land (see land-use map). Gardening, Village settlement and Timber Harvesting will be allowed in the reserved area located on the map and will cause low impact on the forest ecosystem or environment. If population is increasing and gardening intensifies it is foreseen that the reserved multipurpose land use area could cater for these activities in the future without compromising or threatening the ecosystems in the protected area.

3.4 Unsustainable Resource Use

The Protected Area is to be a Resource Management Area; the people will have access to certain allocated sectors. The fear is that with population growth and associated difficulties the people might become the downfall to their forest. However, that will be an issue for generations yet to come to consider. This plan will cater for when the need arises in years to come.

Forest provide habitat for many terrestrial animals and plants thus it protects the soil from erosion and it protects the river banks from erosion during flooding periods. So if the forest health is compromised, so too will be its ability to support other life and act as a buffer. Currently, tourists come to Choiseul Province to experience the pristine terrestrial environment, which supports beautiful rainforest and is teeming with life. As resources are depleted, and ecosystem health and balance is altered, the natural environment may become less appealing to tourists.

3.5 Invasive Species

Foreign species are very difficult to remove once they are naturalized. Weeds and pests like rats, cane toad to name a few have the power to alter the undisturbed Padezaka forest. The key attraction the area will use in eco-tourism is the natural virgin forest that contains natural biodiversity. Invasive species will compete and disturb the native species in the area. Uncontrolled human access, tourism and research are some of the means foreign species can invade the area.

3.6 Mining

Mining is a huge potential threat especially in the case logging is coming to an end and mining is slowly taking over to become the County's new revenue source for the Government. The threat of mining and the effect on the environment are even greater than that of logging. The vulnerability of tribes to fast cash is clear and visible all around Solomon Islands which makes mining a dangerous new activity.

4. LOOKING AFTER OUR PROTECTED AREA

4.1 Administration

The protected area will be managed and administered by the Padezaka Protected Area Management Committee.

The Padezaka PA Management Committee was formed on the 1st of July 2019. The tribe appointed the PA committee members to carry the task and activities as the PA management committee.

The management committee consists of 10 members with an existing constitution to guide the work of the committee. Any tribe member can be a committee member including those who marry into the tribe but must be 18 years of age and above. The committee works under the authority of the registered Padezaka Tribal Association. Besides being the end responsible body for projects such as the conservation of the Protected Area, the Association deals with all general tribal matters and is the legal representative of the Padezaka Tribe. The Association has the power to remove people from the PA Management committee.

The PA Act 2010 and PA Regulations 2012 is a government legislation created for the safeguard of our environment by becoming a PA. This National legislation will formally recognize a PA in adhere to its policies and regulations. It gives landowners the power to enforce a greater control in their PA while still being completely and totally in charge of their land.

The management committee will provide annual reports to the Provincial government, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Disaster management (ECDM), and other stakeholders involved. They will also provide annual reports, case studies, and financial report to the Tribal Association

4.2 Our Protected Area Category

The Protected Areas Regulations 2012 prescribed the categories of protected areas for Solomon Islands. For the Padezaka Protected Area the following category is chosen:

Resource Management Area

The primary objectives of which include the promotion of ecologically sustainable uses of natural ecosystems and resources for the benefit of customary owners and dependent local communities.

The resource management area shall be managed in such a way or according to such a system that allows for controlled access to and use of natural ecosystems and resources for purposes of ensuring:

- Sustainable food security levels are achieved or maintained; and
- Optimal sustainable livelihood and development needs of customary owners and dependent local communities are met.

The management principles for a Resource management area are:

- Ecologically sustainable use of natural resources to meet the basic livelihood needs of dependent local communities will be permitted under a strong management regime
- The basic livelihood needs of future generations dependent on the resources of the area will not be undermined or compromised by present generations; and
- Harvesting or extraction of natural resources is subject to continuous assessment of the health and state of stocks or harvestable natural resources.

5. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES OF OUR AREA

In addition to the broad management objectives prescribed by the protected area category the following specific management objectives have been developed for the Padezaka Tribal Rainforest Conservation Area

- To safeguard endemic and vulnerable flora and fauna. At the same time be able to further discover more about these species as not much is known
- To build Padezaka peoples' capabilities to be able to manage, sustain, utilize and improve livelihoods through resource management.
- To review and evaluate the status of resource bases and the effectiveness of the management plan.
- To provide opportunities for the tribe in forms of employment, education and financial benefits
- To be able to qualify and meet the requirements for Nakau Project (Carbon Trade)
- To protect the pristine natural forest from any threats identified.

6. PROTECTING OUR KEY VALUES AND ACHIEVING OUR VISION

VALUE	CHALLENGES/Threats	WHAT WE WANT	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Water Catchment	Logging Climate change Invasive species Pollution	Preserve and conserve the pristine state of the water sources Freshwater species further studied	Continuous scientific research Protect water courses Awareness Train rangers to monitor water quality
Biodiversity	Logging Invasive species Climate Change Expansion of Garden or Village Harvesting of resources Visitors Lack of or little knowledge	Natural forest maintained and preserved Native and endemic species to be protected Further research Capacity Building	Land Use plan for sustainable resource usage Annual monitoring of animals and plants guided by monitoring plan Community involvement and participation, capacity building Build partnerships Continuous scientific research
Connectivity	Fragmentation Lack of or little knowledge	Maintain connectivity, habitats, niches, Connecting terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats	Train rangers to monitor migrating species Community awareness Ensure that connectivity of all habitats are maintained
Cultural Heritage	Damage of cultural sites by vandalism or natural disasters Loss of traditional knowledge and practises Sensitivity of cultural values and issues	Protection of cultural sites Strengthen the bond between people and land Infuse traditional knowledge, skills and practises into management of area	Document all cultural sites in the area and where needed take artefacts to a safer place (Museum) Transfer knowledge to younger generation Proper Documentation of traditional knowledge Awareness within the tribe of their own traditions and for community people in general
Tourism & Economy	Logging & Mining Invasive species	Attract tourists and researchers Carbon trading	Promote the area as an eco-tourism destination Improve facilities for visitors Set up a Forest carbon project under the Nakau Programme

7. BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITY IN THE FUTURE

7.1 Education

The forest will be promoted in a way that can allow and cater for environmental and scientific researches. It will target international universities and national universities, independent researchers and local NGO's, students on fieldtrips and community members.

7.2 Eco-Tourism

Padezaka will be one of the opportunities for the Province to support and increase tourism. It will provide for students and local visitors from around Solomon Islands and overseas a chance to see birds of Choiseul, pristine rivers, trek in virgin forests, learn about cultural sites & events and enjoy a layback stress free environment. It will enhance the experience of a tourist through activities that will in cooperate ecosystems, animals, plants and culture.

The potential for eco-tourism is great and plans are in place for the establishment of eco-lodge, bush treks, bird watching sites, and other recreational activities (see annex 2 for applied visiting and research fees). This will be a key financial source for the community and protecting the area will be essential for this activity. In addition close links between tourism sectors, and NGOs contribute to the success of the eco-tourism sites

The island's tourism and research activities provide an important source of income for the local and regional economy through direct and indirect employment and the provision of supplies and services.

7.3 Business and Livelihoods

Padezaka will participate in livelihood programs like, savings club, and sustainable forest management. These livelihood projects will enable the community to benefit from the protected area and ease the pressure from threats like logging and mining. The protected area has the potential to expand the range of businesses and livelihood activities. If managed and maximize the output of these programs it will be able to support the community and the management committee.

Through the assistance of NRDF and IFMP, Padezaka will be involved in carbon trading. The main aim is to develop a Forest Carbon project generating income to support the Padezaka tribe to protect and manage their forest ecosystem. The benefits for tribe are two fold; Income from the sales of carbon credits cover the direct costs needed to protect and manage the Protected Area and the income from the credits is invested in Tribal activities such as investments, livelihood projects and business enterprises, to sustain a long term economic development.

7.4 Partnerships

In order to develop we need to build and connect partnerships to fill in gaps that we cannot fill. The overall aim of these partnerships is a win, win situation. Both parties involved are to benefit, equally and fairly. Padezaka will need assistance in looking for funds, capacity building in terms of finance, rangers and general running of the PA. To also access experts and market products and services from the area. All this is done so that the forest conservation site, people and users can improve as times move forward.

7.5 Capacity Building

The management committee and the tribe will have the opportunity to learn and train. A chance to develop existing skills, knowledge and experiences as well as gain new skills, technicalities, and knowledge. Funders are very willing and open to sponsoring and supporting training to build the capacity of communities that are conserving their area.

The community plays a huge role in the overall success of the protected area as at the end of the day the land belongs to the tribe, so great effort should be put in making the foundation strong. The community is to be made aware of various subjects, participate in several trainings and work together under the same focus, and main objectives of the forest protected area. An understanding should be ever present that the land is strongly linked to the people and their culture.

8. OUR RULES AND REGULATIONS

8.1 General Prohibitions (as per PA ACT 2010 and 2012 Regulations)

- **NO** Industrial or Commercial Logging or Mining
- **DON'T** take any forest products for the purpose of selling the product



8.2 Restrictive activities

The following are the activities that can only be carried out with permission from the PA Management Committee. An additional prescribe list of activities is found in Annex 1

1. Permission from the Management committee must be given for the purpose of forest clearing to build any dwelling house within the protected area. Any such forest clearance must be kept minimal.
2. Permission of the management Committee must be obtained for the purpose of forest clearing to make gardens within the protected area. Any such forest clearance must be kept minimal.
3. Great care must be exercised when lighting fire within or close to the Protected Area, especially when there is high forest fire danger due to prolonged dry weather situation (drought), or a total fire ban may be enforced by management Committee.
4. Introduction of exotic animal and plant species (including fish) into the protected Area is NOT allowed.
5. Disposing or littering od non-biodegradable wastes (effluents, plastics, empty tins, oils etc.) within the Protected Area is NOT allowed
6. Removal, extraction or excavation of sand or gravel within the PA area is NOT allowed. The Management Committee may only give permission on small scale extraction by tribe members for domestic use only
7. Access or visit to tabu sites or any other sites of cultural significance and taking photos or video footage is strictly restricted and the Management Committee upon consulting of the Chief May or MAY NOT give permission for such visit.
8. Causing damage or alteration to Tabu Sites or other sites of cultural significance is strictly prohibited

9. Removal or be in possession of any fossil, archaeological remains, war relics or paleontological specimen is strictly prohibited
10. Flying aircraft including unmanned drones lower than 500 metres within or over the Protected Area is strictly prohibited, and may only possible with prior permission granted by Management Committee.
11. Tribe members or non-tribe members trekking from North to South or vice versa through the Padezaka traditional trekking track must respect and be abide by the rules and regulations guiding the Protected Area and report to the forest ranger on duty when passing through.
12. The usual subsistence hunting and fishing is allowed, however, must respect and be abide by the rules and regulation of Protected Area and must report to the forest Ranger on duty.
13. To conduct scientific research, educational visit or tourist visit within the Protected Area, prior permission must be obtained from the Management Committee
14. Vandalizing and/or removing notice boards, permanent sample plot markers or any other properties serving the Protected Area and/or related purposes is not allowed.

8.3 Penalties/Fines

Restricted Activities	Category 1 Spot Fine and Action	Category 2 Spot Fine and Action	Category 3 Spot Fine and Action
1. Clearing to build any dwelling house within the protected area without permission of the PA MC	\$100 and dismantle dwelling	\$ 200 and dismantle dwelling	\$ 500 and dismantle dwelling
2. Clearing forest to make gardens within the protected area without permission of the PA MC	\$ 100 and replant natural trees	\$ 200 and replant natural trees	\$ 500 and replant natural trees
3. Lighting fire within or close to the Protected Area, especially when there is high forest fire danger due to prolonged dry weather situation (drought) and a ban is in	\$ 200 and put out fire	\$ 400 and put out fire	\$ 600 and put out fire

place			
4. Introduction of exotic animal and plant species (including fish) into the protected Area	\$ 100 and remove exotic species	\$ 300 and remove exotic species	\$ 600 and remove exotic species
5. Disposing or littering od non-biodegradable wastes (effluents, plastics, empty tins, oils etc.) within the Protected Area	\$ 50 and clean up	\$ 100 and clean up	\$ 200 and clean up
6. Removal, extraction or excavation of sand or gravel within the PA area without permission of the PAMC	\$ 50 and put back gravel/sand	\$ 100 and put back gravel/sand	\$ 1000 and put back gravel/sand
7. Access or visit to tabu sites or any other sites of cultural significance and taking photos or video footage without the Chiefs permission	\$ 50 and delete the footage	\$ 500 and delete the footage	\$ 1000 and delete the footage
8. Causing damage or alteration to Tabu Sites or other sites of cultural significance	\$ 200 and restore tabu site	\$ 500 and restore tabu site	\$ 2000 and restore tabu site
9. Removal or be in possession of any fossil, archaeological remains, war relics or paleontological specimen	\$ 500 and return artefacts	\$ 1000 and return artefacts	\$ 2000 and return artefact
10. Flying aircraft including unmanned drones lower than 500 metres within or over the Protected Area	Ref to prescribed offences	Ref to prescribed offences	Ref to prescribed offences
11. Tribe members or non-tribe members trekking from North to South or vice versa through the Padezaka traditional trekking track don't respect rules and regulations	See offences elsewhere	See offences elsewhere	See offences elsewhere

12. Hunting and fishing without reporting to the forest Ranger on duty.	\$ 50 and give catch to ranger	\$ 150 and give catch to ranger	\$ 500 and give catch to ranger
13. Conduct scientific research, educational visit or tourist visit within the Protected Area without permission of the PAMC	\$ 50	\$ 500	\$ 1000
14. Vandalizing and/or removing notice boards, permanent sample plot markers or any other properties serving the Protected Area and/or related purposes	\$ 500 and restore items	\$ 1000 and restore items	\$ 2000 and restore items

An additional list of Prescribed Offences and Penalties can be found in Annex 1.

The following process shall be followed to enforce the above restricted activities:

Category 1: Offenders are Padezaka Tribal members: Offenders will be given a verbal warning by the Ranger on the spot. After re-offending they will be given a official written warning by the PA Management Committee. If the same person commits a offence for the third time, he or she will be penalized and needs to pay the spot fine immediately.

Category 2: Offenders who are Non Padezaka tribal members who are residents of Choiseul Province: Offenders will be given a written warning. If the same person commits a offence for the second time, he or she will be penalized and needs to pay the spot fine immediately.

Category 3: Offenders who are not from Choiseul, including foreign nationals:
Offenders will be directed to pay the spot fine immediately.

8.4 Enforcements

Padezaka PA Management Committee has nominated rangers who will be later declared officially. The rangers are to enforce the rules and regulations in the management plan set by the government legislation (Protected Area Act 2010) and the management committee.

An inspector or inspectors are to be appointed based on the selection of Padezaka Management Committee and appointed by Minister of MECDM. The inspector can either be a ranger or/and a member of the management committee or/and a member of the tribe.

The ranger is the person on the ground conducting awareness, monitoring and making sure people abide by the rules and regulations. Once an offence is committed then a spot fine will be collected and then other fines/penalties will be charged. This is where the inspector comes in. An inspector will have the power to issue infringement notices for offences under the PA Regulations that occur within the Protected Area. These infringement notices will contain a fixed penalty that is payable by the offender which will

be valid for 21 days. When this time lapse, the inspector has the authority to take the offender to court.

The Padezaka Rangers will work in shifts of 8 rangers (4 North and 4 South) working 1 week per month. In special events the management committee can call upon more ranger to work longer shifts.

9. MONITORING

It is important to check that the plan is on track to achieve the objectives, outcomes and vision for the protected area. We need to keep measuring how we are doing and collecting information to check that the values are staying healthy or getting healthier, that we are fixing and reducing the threats or they are not getting worse. One of the strategies in this plan is to put together a research and monitoring program. The monitoring program will be based on the indicators shown here.

These indicators and monitoring methods will be part of the annual work plan for rangers.

Key Value Category	Indicators	Monitoring method
Water Catchment	Water quality Abundance of freshwater species	Water sampling and observation Freshwater survey
Biodiversity	Abundance of common species Presence of Invasive species Unbroken forest cover Quality of habitats	Baseline survey Field observations Areal imaging (drone) Field monitoring by rangers and researchers
Cultural Heritage	Intactness of cultural sites Increased knowledge of cultural value	Site monitoring by rangers (photos of each sites) Awareness sessions, booklets with custom stories, questionnaire
Connectivity	Forest cover not interrupted Lifecycle of indicator species (e.g. eelfish) still maintained Abundance of species or new found species	Areal photo's Field monitoring by rangers and researchers Field monitoring and Field observations by rangers and researchers

Tourism and Economy	Number of visitors Income & employment from tourism Income from PES credit sales	Keep record of visitors Record keeping by Committee Reports from the Nakau Project management
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10. EVALUATION

The rangers, inspectors and management committee will be evaluated yearly. The protected area as well. The effectiveness of the management plan and management committee will be evaluated. The management committee will be evaluated on governance, administration, accountability to name a few. This is done by a person or persons appointed by the Padezaka Tribal Association. This can be someone from outside the tribe and could be a staff members from the Ministry of Environment or from stakeholders linked to the conservation project.

The management committee will develop protocols and indicators for governance, ecology, and social in order to evaluate the protected area.

The Management Committee will provide annual reports to the Director of MECDM on the implementation of the Management Plan and other important matters. Reports will also go to the tribe, Provincial government, IFMP and NRDF.

A financial report will also be provide to the tribe regarding the PA and any necessary donors, organizations or persons.

The head ranger will provide an annual review and report to the management committee and a verbal report to the Chairperson every 3 months.

11. REVIEW OF PLAN

This management plan will be reviewed every 2 years or when the committee sees a need for a change. The management committee will keep the plan updated, and in line with changing issues.

REFERENCES

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GLOSSARY

Kesa – Traditional money used in Choiseul Islands for land payment, bride price and compensation. It is usually buried in tribal lands as it's believed to have supernatural essences to it.

Komala – A village or settlement. In this case an old and current village in the protected area.

Quana – A garden or plantation of trees from the nut species like Ngali nuts, cut nuts

Sope bangara – Worship grounds for deities in the past before Christianity.

ABBREVIATIONS

MECDM- Ministry of Environment, Conservation, Disaster and Management
NRDF- Natural Resource Development Foundation
PA- Protected Area
IFMP-Integrated Forest Management Project
ESSI – Ecological Solutions Solomon Island

Appendices

Annex 1

Protected Areas Regulations 2012 - Prescribed Offences and Penalties

Reg. No	Description of Offence	Fixed Penalty Units (max)
41	Disclosing confidential information or content of bioprospecting or bioresearch report without authority of permit holder	2,000
48	Intentionally or negligently removing or tampering with boundary markers of a marine protected area	5,000
51	Fishing or harvesting of other aquatic resources within spawning aggregation or during spawning seasons.	5,000
52	Dredging, trawling or dragging of net on the sea floor within a marine protected area, including an offence under Section 30 of the Fisheries Act	5,000
53	Dump or discharge from a vessel waste or polluting material or other harmful substance into waters of a protected area.	10,000
54	Release of polluting material from land-based activity into the waters of a protected area	100,000
55	Remove, take, harvest or extract of live coral from a marine protected area without authority	5,000
56	Anchorage within protected area not in a designated area without the permission of the management committee	5,000
57(1)	Ground a vessel on a reef within a protected area	10,000
57(3)	Ground a vessel and cause oil spill or release of other harmful substances or cause damage within the protected area	100,000
61	Carry out industrial or commercial extraction of timber, round logs or non timber forest products industrial within a protected area	100,000
61	Carry out industrial or commercial extraction of minerals including quarrying or gravel	100,000
62	Taking or removing of plants, species or other organism from the protected area without authority	10,000
63(1)(a)	carry on any agricultural or gardening activities	10,000
63(1)(b)	build any dwelling house or unlawfully occupy the area	10,000
63(1)(c)	light or cause any open fire to be started	10,000
63(1)(d)	throw, litter, dump or release any effluent, sewage, refuse, rubbish or toilet waste	10,000
63(1)(e)	allow or introduce any grazing stock animal or species	10,000
63(1)(f)	erect, install or display any billboard, advertisement or promotional material	10,000
63(1)(g)	cut, destroy or remove any plant or tree including firewood	10,000
63(1)(h)	remove, extract, or excavate any sand or gravel	10,000
63(1)(i)	hunt, kill, or slaughter any animal or other living creature	10,000

63(1)(j)	destroy or deface any cultural object or monument of biodiversity and cultural significance	10,000
63(1)(k)	remove or be in possession of any cultural artefact or sacred object	10,000
63(1)(l)	remove or be in possession of any fossil, archaeological remain or paleontological specimen	10,000
63(1)(m)	sow propagate or introduce any exotic or invasive species	10,000
63(1)(n)	significantly alter or change the natural flow of a river or stream, or close the opening of a tidal lagoon or river	10,000
63(1)(o)	use a vehicle, bull-dozer or other heavy machinery other than that complying with the dimensions specified by the 10,000management committee	10,000
63(1)(p)	park a vehicle in any place other than a place designated for that purpose	10,000
63(1)(q)	organise or participate in any public meeting, demonstration or gathering	10,000
64	Flying aircraft in or over a protected area lower than 500m without authority	10,000
67	Wilful obstruction of a protected area Ranger	10,000

Annex 2 Research and Visitors fees*

Category	SI Nationals	Foreign Nationals
Visiting fees (entrance fees)	\$50	\$ 100
Research fees	\$500 (individual) \$1000 (group)	\$ 1000 (individual) \$ 3000 (group)
Camping fees	\$ 50 per person	\$ 50 per person

*Tribal members are exempted from fees