



March 19, 2014

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to add my support to the Tetepare Dependent Association's application for registration as a Verified Conservation Area under the Green Development Initiative. I have collaborated with TDA in the conservation of Tetepare Island and its surrounding coral reefs for more than 10 years. Over that time I have had the pleasure of watching TDA grow from a small community led initiative that has now weathered the test of time.

Tetepare is an important conservation priority and model for the region in many respects. The island protects a number of rare and endemic terrestrial species and an area of reef containing one of the most diverse coral and reef fish communities on Earth. It is the largest uninhabited island in the South Pacific and one of the region's only endowed conservation projects. Tetepare is also an important model in terms of its community management and its commitment to conservation in the face of an ongoing threat of industrial logging. TDA has also taken steps to become one of the first REDD+ projects in the Pacific region, with strong support from Solomon Islands government.

TDA is supported locally by the Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP), which disburses funds to TDA from the Tetepare Endowment and audits its financial and conservation performance. SICCP in turn has enjoyed the long-term support of the Conservation Agreement Fund and the American Museum of Natural History in the U.S. and Ecological Horizons, Pty Ltd in Australia.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of becoming familiar with a great many community led conservation initiatives around the world and Tetepare easily ranks among the best in terms of their long-term commitment and continuing success. I give them my unreserved recommendation for support.

Sincerely,

Richard Rice, PhD
President, Conservation Agreement Fund
www.conservationagreement.org