

Project Update: September 2012

There was great attendance and participation at final cross-community workshop. Preliminary results, including biodiversity surveys, endemic species, peoples use of forest resources and why Makira is an important place for conservation were all discussed in a participatory way. All participants enjoyed the workshop and learnt a lot of new things. Many were unaware that their forest was home to 13 endemic birds and are now keen to protect them.

The book *Manu i Makira (Birds of Makira)* was launched at the workshop and has been going down a storm with local communities, who were thrilled to see a book in their own language (Kahuan). This book has been distributed to all schools across Makira-Ulawa Province to aid learning about their environment and conservation. All workshop participants also received a copy which resulted in spontaneous applause when this was announced.

