

RESTORE HER RIGHTS

RESTORATION OF TUBI TREES BY
HAGEULU COMMUNITY IN
ISABEL PROVINCE IN
SOLOMON ISLANDS

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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Building resilience and incorporating gender-responsive approaches to biodiversity governance cannot be overstated in a world where the delicate balance of ecosystems is constantly challenged. This restoration process, focused on the Hageulu community in Isabel province in the Solomon Islands, seeks to address these critical issues at the grassroots level. Understanding and respecting the unique relationship between gender dynamics and biodiversity aims to foster sustainable practices that benefit both the environment and the community.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Women4biodiversity for their generous support and belief in our project's vision. Their commitment to promoting gender equality and environmental sustainability is truly commendable.

Furthermore, NIPS (Network for the Indigenous Peoples Solomons) would like to thank our invaluable partner organizations such as SIELA (Solomon Islands Environmental Law Association), SIRA (Solomon Islands Rangers Association), IPG (Isabel Provincial Government), and MFR (Ministry of Forestry and Research). Their expertise, dedication, and shared passion have been instrumental in shaping this project and ensuring its success.

Together, we are paving the way for a more resilient and gender-inclusive approach to biodiversity governance in the Hageulu community, setting a positive example for sustainable development in the Solomon Islands and beyond.



Dorothy, a community woman shows a Tubi tree sapling. © NIPS

ACRONYMS

FPIC	Free Prior Informed Consent
CBO	Community Based Organisation
SIELA	Solomon Islands Environmental Law Association
SIRA	Solomon Islands Rangers Association
IPG	Isabel Provincial Government
MFR	Ministry of Forestry and Research
NIPS	Network for the Indigenous Peoples Solomons



NIPS conducts an awareness raising program at the local level on saving Tubi trees after signing MoU with Isabel Provincial government. © NIPS

INTRODUCTION

The Solomon Islands is one of the undeveloped countries in the Oceania region. One of the country's significant revenue earnings is from the logging industry. The national government and the land-owning groups are the beneficiaries of the logging industry through the collection of logging license operations, tax, and payment to customary land-owning groups. This industry was reported to cause the degradation of forests and their connecting ecosystems and marine ecosystems. A range of tree species with differing market values are logged for export. Tubi trees are one of the high-value woods that is highly sought after in the international markets. However, Tubi trees are one of the globally endangered tree species in the IUCN red list.

The project in the Hageulu community in Isabel province, Solomon Islands, is dedicated to restoring, conserving, and protecting the endemic Tubi tree species. Recognising the Tubi tree's ecological significance and cultural importance, the Hageulu women and community have taken proactive steps to ensure its survival for future generations.

Women in the Hageulu community are at the forefront of this conservation project, demonstrating their deep connection to the land and their commitment to preserving its natural wonders. These women showcase their dedication to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices through their active involvement in planting, monitoring, and nurturing Tubi trees.



About Hageulu

Hageulu is a community located in Isabel Province, one of the provinces in the Solomon Islands. The Solomon Islands is in the South Pacific Ocean, east of Papua New Guinea and northwest of Vanuatu. Isabel Province is one of the nine provinces in the country and consists of a central island, Santa Isabel Island, as well as several smaller surrounding islands. Hageulu is one of the identified sites in the Sixth National Report¹ to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 2019 as an essential area for conserving the Tubi forest. It is this interest from both the local community and the national government that the Network for Indigenous Peoples of Solomons (NIPS) is working with the community of Hageulu for forest restoration and conservation.

The community is situated 8 km inland from the coast of east Gao Bugotu constituency; the only trail to reach the village is by mountain tracks which the people have been using for many years. With approximately 1200 people living in the village, their

primary food sources, which people depend on, are mainly root crops, vegetables, freshwater resources, and occasionally the sea for protein sources. Traditionally, the village comprises three central tribe generations from many years in the islands' history. The Hageulu community, like many in the Solomon Islands, is likely to be characterized by traditional Melanesian culture. Communities in this region often rely on subsistence farming, fishing, and utilizing local natural resources for their livelihoods. Local languages, alongside Solomon Islands Pidgin and English (the official language), are commonly spoken. Often, communities in Isabel Province, such as Hageulu, are relatively remote and maintain strong cultural traditions and practices, including customary land ownership and local governance structures.



Women present the importance of biodiversity and surrounding environment during the FPIC process. © NIPS

1. Sixth National Report to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 2019. P 69. CBD Sixth National Report - Solomon Islands (English version)

PRE-RESTORATION

Restoration began in this community because Tubi (Xanthostemon melanoxylon) Forests only exist in Isabel and Choiseul Provinces. Tubi trees are important sacred species for the community and are connected to their identity and culture.

The restoration of Tubi trees in the Hageulu community in Isabel Province was crucial for several reasons:

1. Biodiversity Conservation - Tubi trees are native to the Solomon Islands and play a significant role in the local ecosystem, supporting various plant and animal species. Restoring these trees can help maintain the ecological balance in the area.

2. Cultural Significance—Tubi trees are essential to the communities in Isabel Province. They are often used in traditional ceremonies, rituals, and construction. Preserving and restoring these trees is vital for safeguarding the region's cultural heritage.

3. Economic Benefits—Apart from their cultural and ecological value, tubi trees offer the community economic benefits through sustainable timber

harvesting, agroforestry practices, and potential eco-tourism opportunities. Restoring tubi trees can create long-term income sources for the community.

4. Mitigating Environmental Degradation - Mining and logging activities, driven by government and foreign companies, have led to environmental degradation in the region, including deforestation and habitat loss. Restoring Tubi trees can help mitigate these impacts by promoting reforestation and reducing soil erosion.

5. Community Empowerment—By actively restoring Tubi trees, the Hageulu community can take ownership of its natural resources and land, leading to increased self-reliance, empowerment, and sustainable development.

Overall, restoring Tubi trees in the Hageulu community is essential for preserving biodiversity, culture, economy, and environment in the face of mining and logging, interests that threaten the ecological and the social fabric of the region.

“

Tubi trees are the guardians of our heritage, the lungs of our land. In the heart of Hageulu, they stand tall as symbols of our connection to nature. If the government acknowledges the imperative to protect these sacred beings, it would mark a historic turning point for our community. Preserving Tubi trees isn't just about conservation; it's about honoring our past, safeguarding our present, and securing our future. Let us unite in this noble cause, hand in hand with nature, to ensure that these majestic trees thrive for generations to come. Together, we can cultivate a legacy of harmony, sustainability, and reverence for the treasures that Tubi trees bestow upon us.

An elder woman in Hageulu community,
Sadlan Meimana

”

“

Dorothy Hasting from the Hageulu community expressed her deep appreciation for the Tubi trees, highlighting their significance in everyday life. She emphasized how Tubi trees are instrumental in smashing roots like cassava and taro, essential for the community's food preparation practices. She recognizes the vital role these trees play in supporting their community's food security and cultural traditions. Dorothy's enthusiasm underscores the critical importance of Tubi trees and the valuable impact they have in Hageulu community's livelihood.

”

“

Logging and mining interests are converging on our lands, driven by the richness of our Hageulu community in nickel minerals and the unique Tubi trees. These natural resources are not just commodities; they represent our heritage and the future of our children. We must safeguard them with vigilance and care. Sustainable management and protection of these assets are vital, ensuring that our community benefits without sacrificing our environmental and cultural legacy. Let us unite in preserving the rich biodiversity integral to our way of life, so future generations can thrive and continue our traditions.

Nester Manehia

”



Kelliana, a community woman, planting a Tubi tree sapling. © NIPS

Planning and decision-making

Based on the recognition of ex-situ conservation of the Tubi trees within the Solomon Islands in the Sixth National Report² of 2019, the Hageulu community has taken a significant step by developing a plan to restore, protect, and conserve Tubi trees, an endemic species in their area. Recognising the importance of preserving this species and its habitat, the community, particularly the women of Hageulu, were actively working to register this specific area as a protected area under the Protected Areas Act of 2010.

The plan included reforestation efforts to increase Tubi tree populations, implementing sustainable harvesting practices, conducting awareness campaigns to educate the community about the significance of Tubi trees, and collaborating with relevant authorities to ensure legal protection. By actively engaging in these conservation efforts, the Hageulu community safeguarded the Tubi trees and preserved their environment's biodiversity and ecological balance for future generations.



Women discuss the importance of biodiversity with a gender lens. © NIPS

In 2022, the NIPS team facilitated the FPIC process with community leaders and the target group, the women and girls of Hageulu. A workshop was also held in the community to introduce the restoration process. The NIPs team carried out the FPIC process with the Hageulu community to ensure the Indigenous Peoples' rights to participate and be

informed at the beginning of the process. It is one of their fundamental rights in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and an essential part of NIPS' community engagement policy. Hageulu leaders, men, women, girls, and boys, are aware of the project and have given consent to participate fully. The NIPS team, being sensitive to the need to have inclusive and active participation of as many men, women, boys and girls during the meeting, collected the number of participants by listing their names and documenting through photography as most of the people in the community could not read and write.

In March 2022, NIPS submitted an expression of interest with the recommendation from Director Mr. Myknee Sirikolo for partnership with SAFE³ Project on behalf of Hageulu Community in Isabel Province, working towards the conservation and restoration of the Tubi Forest in Hageulu Community in Gao, Isabel Province. This was followed up in August 2022, when the Isabel Provincial Government entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support the conservation of Tubi Trees in the Isabel Province, especially those being restored by the women of Hageulu.⁴



© NIPS

Intended Outcomes

The restoration, protection, and conservation of Tubi trees in the Hageulu community were expected to yield numerous positive outcomes for both the environment and the community. Some of the intended outcomes of these efforts included:

- **Preservation of Biodiversity:** The Hageulu women and community help maintain the biodiversity of their region by conserving tubi trees. Tubi trees serve as habitats for various plants and animal species, and their conservation contributes to overall ecosystem health.
- **Promotion of Sustainable Practices:** The Hageulu community promotes sustainable land management practices through restoration efforts. These include sustainable harvesting techniques, reforestation initiatives, and adopting eco-friendly practices that benefit the environment in the long run.
- **Cultural Preservation:** Tubi trees hold cultural significance for the community, and their conservation helps preserve traditional knowledge and cultural heritage. It strengthens the community's cultural identity.
- **Enhanced Ecotourism Opportunities:** Conservation efforts around Tubi trees can attract ecotourism initiatives based on experiencing unique and endemic flora. These initiatives can create economic opportunities for the community through sustainable ecotourism.
- **Climate Change Resilience:** Tubi trees play a role in carbon sequestration and climate regulation. Conserving these trees can contribute to local climate change resilience efforts by maintaining healthy ecosystems that help mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- **Community Empowerment and Engagement:** Conserving Tubi trees can empower the community, particularly the women in the Hageulu community who are actively involved in these efforts. It fosters a sense of ownership, pride, and stewardship over their natural resources.

Overall, the intended outcomes of restoring, protecting, and conserving Tubi trees in the Hageulu community are multifaceted, with benefits ranging from ecological sustainability and cultural preservation to community empowerment and economic opportunities. These efforts safeguard the Tubi trees and contribute to the well-being and resilience of the entire community and its surrounding environment.



Community women learnt the 'lava lava' dyeing technique for extra income. © NIPS

2. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/nr-06/sb-nr-06-en.pdf>

3. SAFE is a six-year project facilitated by the Government of Solomon Islands and UNDP to carry out conservation work on sites earmarked in the Sixth National Report. Hageulu was one of the identified sites in the report for Tubi forests.

4. <https://theislandsun.com.sb/isabel-government-supports-tubi-conservation-initiative/>

Expected Challenges and Risk Mitigation

Protecting and conserving Tubi trees in the Hageulu community in the Isabel province of the Solomon Islands involves several challenges and risks. Some expected challenges and risks included:

- **Community Engagement:** Lack of awareness or community support has been a challenge. Engaging the local community and gaining support for the conservation efforts was expected to be difficult due to logging and mining interests, especially within Isabel Province for nickel ore.
- **Resource Constraints:** Limited funding, manpower, and other resources hindered conservation efforts. Securing resources for monitoring, maintenance, and enforcement activities has been a constant challenge.
- **Illegal logging and mining:** There has been a steady increase in mining activity, with multiple proposals from private companies in Isabel, Guadalcanal, Choiseul, Malaita, Temotu, and the Western Province⁵. The government has provided the revenue gap caused by the COVID pandemic as the justification to fastrack the mining leases⁶. The risk of illegal logging or mining has threatened the growth of Tubi trees. Enforcing regulations and preventing encroachment on Tubi tree habitats may be difficult. There has been a steady pressure of mining companies trying to encroach upon the territories of Hageulu. On several occasions, the village Chiefs and Elders were contacted to provide consent to build roads leading up into Hageulu village and their forests.
- **Climate Change:** Changing climatic conditions have been impacting the health and survival of Tubi trees. Droughts, storms, and other extreme weather events have threatened the trees.
- **Invasive Species:** Invasive species like African snails have spread widely in Honiara and Guadalcanal provinces, threatening the Tubi trees and their ecosystem. Controlling or managing invasive species to protect the trees was seen as a necessity.
- **Lack of Expertise:** Limited expertise, where only one botanist was available for Tubi tree conservation and restoration, was a challenge as it hindered their availability for training and capacity-building efforts, which were needed to manage and protect the trees effectively.
- **Social and Cultural Factors:** Socio-cultural practices or beliefs like building houses with tubi wood could complicate conservation efforts. Respecting local customs and working collaboratively with the community was essential for the restoration work.

5. <https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/11/unsustainable-exploitation-solomon-islands-natural-resources>

6. <https://indepthsolomons.com.sb/the-real-cost-of-mining-in-solomon-islands/#:~:text=Mining%20activities%20have%20led%20to,depend%20on%20these%20water%20sources>



Tubi Trees © NIPS

DURING RESTORATION

Nursery Establishment

In 2022, through a series of workshops and trainings, the community in Hageulu developed a concrete plan for restoring their tubi forest. The roles and responsibilities, as well as various activities for the phases of restoration, were divided and listed based on the various groups, such as women, men, and community leaders within the village (see table below).

Activity	Women and Girls	Men and Boys	Community Leaders, Chiefs and Elders	Women Committee
Awareness of the Plan	Educate children about the plan. Inform nearby communities.	Inform other nearby communities about forest preservation and replanting efforts.	Announce the plan to the community during meetings.	Work with women to plan daily activities.
Replanting	Lead the replanting activity. Boys and girls participate.	Support nursery activities, ploughing soil, and replanting.	Announce replanting times to the whole community.	Organize women and girls into groups for replanting.
Monitoring	Girls monitor. Registered with NIPS and trained to document species and work in the forest.	Boys also monitor. Learn photography skills to document species and work in the forest.	Manage the ranger groups (boys and girls) who do the monitoring.	Liaise with NIPS and provide updates on ranger groups' needs, challenges, and reports.
Management	Manage families and ensure children follow the forest rules. Support sons and daughters in the Rangers' program.	Adhere to program activities and take advice from the Women's committee, chiefs, and NIPS team.	Support management activities through regular meetings with the NIPS team, chiefs, and other village leaders.	Support the management of the project by organizing relevant meetings with the community and leadership.

Each woman in Hageulu received two or three polyp bags to develop her nursery of young Tubi saplings. Each one was entrusted with the responsibility to ensure that the nursery had adequate sunlight, access to water, and protection from strong winds. They were also responsible for obtaining young Tubi seedlings from the Tubi forest, getting suitable soil

mix to plant them, and ensuring proper spacing and labelling. To do that, regularly water and monitor the growth of the Tubi seedlings in the nursery. After the workshop, women from Hageulu planted young Tubi Saplings in groups in the burnt, heavily deforested region of their forest and monitored their progress.

Biodiversity Assessment⁷

A rapid Tubi forest assessment was carried out while the restoration process was underway to develop a baseline survey of the region. The various species' identification, composition, distribution, occurrence, assemblage patterns, and threats to their population were assessed, documented, and reported accordingly. This document aimed to guide decision-making and planning processes for the community's proposed protected area, livelihood activities, and ongoing community resource management and development programs.

This rapid biodiversity survey within Hageulu tribal lands resulted in recording of at least 23 herpetofauna species, composed of 13 frog species,

six lizards and skinks, and four snakes. Of these, 10 of the frog species are endemic to the Solomon Archipelago, including *Cornufer desticans*, *Cornufer weberi*, *Cornufer elegans*, *Cornufer neckeri*, *Cornufer vertebralis*, and *Cornufer guentheri*. 18 endemic flora species were observed and recorded out of the 140 total flora species. These are represented by seven trees, five Palms, five herbs, and one shrub or small tree species. Only one invasive flora was recorded (*Merremia peltata*), a climber/creeper known to be widespread throughout the country by logging activities.

Capacity Building

To strengthen the community's efforts to restore and protect their territory from threats from mining and logging that are more frequent than before, several workshops were held which focused on building awareness of the various legal frameworks that the community can use to prevent mining companies from taking over their land without their consent. The Protected Areas Act 2010 and Protected Areas Regulation 2012 provide a legal framework for communities to manage their natural and cultural resources and regulate against any threats towards

their territories and resources. The Hageulu community was taught about the protected areas application process, the categories of protected areas, the effects of creating protected areas, and the importance of creating protected areas.

The community was also provided with ranger training and information on joining the Rangers Training Association, enabling members to become rangers and help protect their lands.



A woman in Hageulu weaves a traditional mat out of pandanus leaves © NIPS

7. To refer to the Assessment: <https://www.women4biodiversity.org/solomon-island-report-2/>

AFTER RESTORATION

Governance

The governance of Tubi forest restoration by the Hageulu women and community involved a holistic approach to environmental conservation and management. Through initiatives such as monitoring, installing sign boards, providing ranger training, and developing comprehensive management strategies, the community actively took steps to restore and protect the Tubi forest.

Monitoring the forest ecosystem allowed the community to monitor changes in vegetation, wildlife populations, and overall ecological health. This data is crucial for making informed decisions regarding conservation efforts and resource allocation. By utilising sign boards, which were put up at critical points around the forests, the community raised awareness among visitors and residents about the forest's importance and provided information on sustainable practices.

Rangers played a crucial role in enforcing conservation regulations, preventing illegal activities such as poaching and deforestation, and ensuring the safety of the forest. Through training programs, the rangers are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively carry out their responsibilities and contribute to the long-term preservation of the Tubi forest.

In addition, management strategies were created (See Box 1 for more details), which involved developing plans and policies that guided the sustainable use of forest resources, addressed potential threats, and promoted community involvement in decision-making processes. These actively engaged the Hageulu women and community in governance processes that promoted a sense of ownership and responsibility towards the forest, leading to more effective and sustainable conservation outcomes.

Post Restoration Governance and Management

Implementing effective post-restoration governance mechanisms in the Tubi forest of the Hageulu community involves a combination of community involvement, sustainable resource management, and transparent legal frameworks. Some of the best practices for post-restoration governance mechanisms in this context include:

1. **Co-management:** Establishing a co-management structure involving active participation and collaboration between local communities, government agencies, and relevant stakeholders to manage and protect the restored forest area jointly.
2. **Community-Based Monitoring:** Implementing community-based monitoring programs based on the learning from the Ranger's Workshop to track the progress of restoration efforts, assess impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and ensure sustainable management practices.
3. **Capacity Building:** Providing training and capacity-building programs to local community members to enhance their skills in forest management, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable livelihood practices.
4. **Legal Frameworks:** Developing and implementing clear legal frameworks, policies, and regulations that govern activities in the restored forest area, including land tenure rights, resource use rights, and enforcement mechanisms.
5. **Sustainable Financing:** Developing sustainable financing mechanisms, such as eco-tourism initiatives, payment for ecosystem services schemes, or carbon offset programs, to support ongoing maintenance and management of the restored forest area.

By incorporating these best practices into post-restoration governance mechanisms, the Tubi forest in the Hageulu community stands a better chance of long-term sustainability and conservation.

Reflections

Community engagement and empowerment stand out as critical lessons in this restoration process. Community engagement plays a crucial role in ensuring the success and sustainability of conservation projects. Involving Hageulu women and the community in the Tubi forest restoration process helped gather support and ensured the initiatives aligned with community needs and priorities.

Clear land ownership and mapping processes were fundamental for resolving land disputes and establishing a legal foundation for conservation efforts. Establishing transparent and accurate mapping systems helped prevent conflicts and provided a solid basis for sustainable land management practices.

Addressing environmental challenges through sustainable practices, such as responsible mining and logging, is essential for preserving biodiversity and maintaining healthy ecosystems. Implementing strategies that minimise environmental impacts while promoting conservation goals is critical to long-term success.

Considering the geographical context when planning conservation projects, including variable factors like climate, land, and closeness to other ecosystems, is essential for creating compelling and holistic conservation strategies. Understanding the natural landscape and its interconnectedness can guide decision-making and help achieve positive environmental and local community outcomes.

Continued Challenges

Restoring and conserving Tubi trees have several challenges for the Hageulu women and the community. Below are some of the main challenges,

- **Mapping and Planning:** Accurate mapping is crucial to identify exact areas before planting Tubi trees. This process is time-consuming and requires technical expertise, which is in short supply. Also, resource allocation, determining the specific locations for planting, involves assessing soil quality, water availability, and other ecological factors, demanding substantial resources and effort.
- **Land Disputes:** There are ongoing disputes over land ownership, further exacerbated by conservation efforts, as different groups claim rights to the same areas. Thus, leading to conflicts and delays in the restoration process. Likewise, as the process alters land use, it heightens existing tensions within the community, sometimes affecting social cohesion and cooperation.

- **Environmental Challenges:** Changing climate conditions can affect the growth and survival of Tubi trees, making restoration efforts more complex and uncertain. Biodiversity, ensuring that Tubi tree planting supports local biodiversity without negatively impacting existing flora and fauna, is essential.

- **Sustained Efforts and Education:** Long-term success requires ongoing care and monitoring of replanted areas. This demands a continuous investment of time, labour, and resources, which sometimes becomes difficult to continue as community priorities and women's needs change and must be linked to livelihood security.

- **Addressing these challenges requires a holistic approach that considers the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of Tubi tree conservation and restoration.**

Proud Achievements

Significant collaborative efforts have been made to restore and protect the Tubi Forest in Hageulu. Recognising the different organisations and their contributions is important. Below is a summary of the achievements:

1. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Isabel Provincial Government: This agreement outlines the framework for cooperation and joint activities to support the forest's conservation. This recognition by the Provincial Government allows the community to continue asserting their rights over their territories.

2. Awareness Initiatives by Solomon Islands Rangers Association (SIRA) and Solomon Islands Environment Law Association (SIELA): The capacity-building training helped raise awareness amongst communities and stakeholders about the importance of biodiversity and the likely role of legal frameworks in conservation efforts.

3. Ministry of Forestry and Research's Flora and Fauna Surveys: The surveys were conducted by local botanists and provided essential data on the biodiversity within the Tubi Forest, guiding conservation strategies and policy-making.

4. Restoration and Protection of Tubi Forest, Hageulu: Concerted efforts to restore and conserve this critical forest are still nascent. However, combined with building awareness and strengthening the capacities, community members, especially women, are slowly becoming more vocal about their need to protect their forest, which is integral for their present and future generations.

Such a multifaceted approach highlights the importance of collaboration in environmental conservation and the positive outcomes achieved when various stakeholders work together.

Continued Threats and Challenges

Tubi forest restoration and conservation efforts in the Hageulu community of Isabel Province, Solomon Islands, are facing ongoing threats and challenges, such as logging and mining activities encroaching into the area. The remote location, situated 8 km high up in the mountains, likely adds to the difficulties faced by conservationists and local community members.

To address these threats, strengthening protective measures, increasing surveillance, raising awareness about the forest's significance, and potentially engaging with relevant authorities to enforce regulations that protect the area may be important. Community involvement and support are also crucial in ensuring the long-term sustainability of conservation efforts.



CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

The Tubi trees hold essential cultural, economic, and ecological value for the Hageulu community. They provide resources for traditional materials, wood for construction, and various non-timber forest products, making their conservation critical for maintaining cultural heritage and local livelihoods. The forests are home to many plant and animal species, many of which are endemic or vulnerable. Its degradation threatens these species and can have cascading effects on broader ecological networks. The livelihoods of the Hageulu community are closely tied to the forest. The encroaching industrial activities risk reducing the availability of forest products crucial for daily life and economic activities, potentially leading to increased poverty and food insecurity.

- ✓ **Strong Legal Protections:** Advocate for more vigorous enforcement of existing environmental regulations and establishing new legal protections for the Tubi forest. This can include legislative measures to limit industrial activities within or near critical forest areas.
- ✓ **Community-Based Forest Management:** Promote and support community-based forest management practices. Encourage the Hageulu community to lead in the sustainable management and conservation of the Tubi forest. This can be facilitated through training programs, capacity-building initiatives, and providing access to resources.
- ✓ **Reforestation Initiatives:** Implement reforestation programs to restore degraded areas of the Tubi forest. This should include planting native species, particularly Tubi trees, to ensure ecological integrity and resilience. Collaborations with NGOs, governmental bodies, and international environmental organizations can provide support and funding.
- ✓ **Alternative Livelihood Programs:** Develop alternative livelihood programs that reduce dependency on forest resources and provide sustainable economic opportunities. Examples include eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture, and small-scale agroforestry projects tailored to the community's needs and capacities.
- ✓ **Environmental Education and Awareness:** Increase environmental education and awareness within the Hageulu community and broader Isabel Province. Educating residents about the importance of the Tubi forest, sustainable practices, and the long-term benefits of conservation can foster a more conservation-minded community.
- ✓ **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the health of the Tubi forest and the effectiveness of conservation initiatives. This can include community-based monitoring programs, periodic ecological assessments, and technology for data collection and analysis.
- ✓ **Building Partnerships:** Partnering with local, regional, and international conservation organizations, academic institutions, and government agencies can provide technical expertise, funding, and broader advocacy support for conservation efforts.

Hageulu faces a long road ahead, with the fight against mining and logging companies looming large. By implementing these recommendations, the Hageulu community can take proactive steps to

However, mining and logging activities significantly threaten the Hageulu community and the Tubi forest. These activities result in deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and disruption of local ecosystems.

The Hageulu community is safeguarding the Tubi trees and preserving their environment's biodiversity and ecological balance for future generations by actively engaging in restoration and conservation efforts. Below are some of the recommendations based on the restoration process carried out in Hageulu.

safeguard the Tubi forest, ensuring its preservation for future generations while maintaining its cultural heritage and improving its quality of life.



ABOUT Network of Indigenous Peoples Solomon (NIPS)



Network for the Indigenous Peoples – Solomon (NIPS) is registered under the Charitable Trust Act of Solomon Islands in November 17th 2010. NIPS views that they are life itself and have an integral and spiritual value for the communities. They are fundamental to social, cultural, spiritual, economic and political survival of

different indigenous people/groups in Solomon Islands. NIPS was incorporated purposely to address the issues of interest and challenge to indigenous people as land owners and custodians of the lands, territories and resources in the Solomon Islands.

About Women4Biodiversity

Women4Biodiversity

Women4Biodiversity believes that 'Living in Harmony' with Nature needs to take into account the roles and contributions of women and girls to achieve transformative change. This requires addressing gender equity and needs to embrace the holistic solutions and the recognition of women's human rights to achieve it. Our work

involves building synergies around the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and other international arenas to provide direction for more coherent and inclusive processes while ensuring their proper implementation.

