

LUBEE BAT CONSERVANCY SUPPORT TO ZAIRA RESOURCES MANAGEMENT CONSERVATION

REPORT ON HOW THE LUBEE BAT FUND IS BEING USED IN 2023

Why we spent; what we spent, where?

Introduction

Zaira Resources Management Area {ZRMA} is a Community Based Organization established in 2012. Its formation is to protect the three remaining tracts of tribal lands in South Vangunu, Marovo Lagoon, Western Province in Solomon Islands. The three tribal lands are Dokoso, Sugili & Tavoamai. In 2019, we formally submitted our application to the Ministry of Environment & Conservation for a “protected areas status”. To date, our application is pending in the Ministry of Environment & Conservation. There are reasons for the delay to obtain a PA Status.

There are several issues we need to sort out in order to complete the PA application process. First, is the issue on ownership and boundary disputes. This is one of the major obstacles that slow us down. And it is the most difficult and complicated issue to resolve. The solution is to go to courts. We are now pursuing all these land related matters in the Chief Tribunals, Local Courts, Customary Land Appeal Courts & High Courts. This is time consuming and demands greater financial and technical supports.

Secondly, is the long delay to hear court cases in different courts and tribunal. Courts have their own timelines, processes and procedures that must be followed. Sometimes, court cases are pending for almost five years. Similarly, the decisions often take months before delivered.

Thirdly, the continuous disturbance from interested logging companies applying for Timber Rights over these tribal lands is another drawback. For instance; Dokoso Tribal Land has experienced six timber rights applications since 2015. We are still battling this Timber Right issue in court to date. Recently, in August 2023; a Timber Right hearing is being held in Seghe over Sugili & Tavoamai lands. Metro Team Limited has applied to acquire timber rights over them for eight years. The timber right is granted to the applicant. But we have appealed to the Customary Land Appeal Court {CLAC} to quash this determination. This case will be heard in 2024.

Fourthly, finance {funding} is the biggest and most decisive obstacle. Lack of finance to meet all expenses covering logistics, legal fees, transport, accommodation, stationeries, fuels, sea fares, airfares, equipments & telecommunication bills etc is a challenge to us. All these makes up the costs of the fight to protect our forest,land,rivers,sea,birds,insects,fish and mankind.

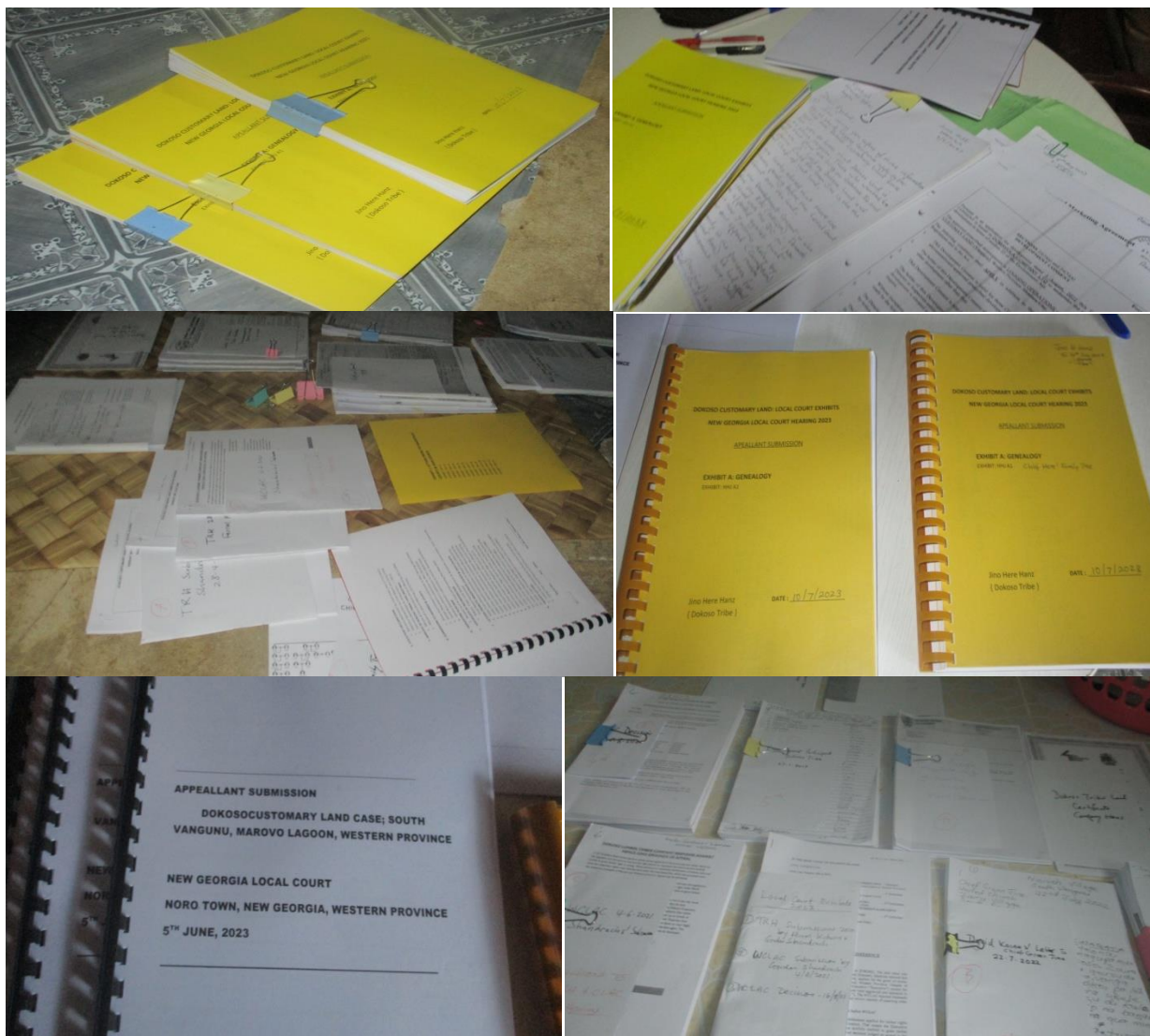
It is this fourth obstacle that leads us to look for support elsewhere in order to progress our fight further. Those long years of court battles are very expensive. Even our morale, determinations and visions are being tested. Some of our tribal members have given up hope

and shifted to join the loggers. We are very fortunate to have been financially supported by the Lubee Bat Conservancy this year. The Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and University of Queensland funding support we normally received in the past years have now ceased.

We are blessed and grateful for the right timing of the Lubee Bat Conservancy support we received during these critical and tough times.

Below are evidences of activities we do to with the funds to advance our fight for justice to protect our land, environment, cultures, customs and people.

Local Court Preparation for Dokoso Land Case



Photos 1: Our submissions prepared for the upcoming Local Court Hearing for Dokoso Land. The Local Court will determine the rightful owners of the said land. Hearing is set for 2024.

Timber Rights Hearing over Sugili & Tavoamai Lands, September 2023



Photos 2: Zaira community left Oloana Bay in three boats and travelled to Seghe to attend the timber rights hearing over Sugili & Tavoamai Lands. A total of 40 people {men, women, boys & girls} were transported to Seghe on Wed 6th Sept 2023. The public hearing was held on Thur 7th Sept, 2023. The Western Provincial Government organized the hearing. All expenses to attend

this hearing were covered under the Lubee Bat Conservancy Funding support. This include fuel, food & other logistics. We separated from Seghe on Friday 8th September 2023.

Zaira Rangers Activities : January - October 2023



Photos 3: Zaira rangers are working very hard and smarter this year. They carried out monitoring and patrols in our forest and waters. They fly drones to get photos of logging activities trying to enter Dokoso Land. They cleaned up our cultural & sacred sites {shrines}. Our boys successfully get Renown Surf & Cargo Ltd logging company out on 16/10/2023.

CLAC Timber Rights Appeal; Planning & Preparation Meeting October 2023



Photos 4: Honiara based Zaira people met, plan and prepare the appeal grounds for the timber rights determination granted to Metro Team limited. The appeal has been filed with the Western Customary Land Appeal Courts on 11/10/2023. The CLAC hearing is likely to take place next year, 2024.

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

{Starting: 1/8/23 - 2/11/223}

1. **Fuels** = \$2,020.00
2. **Lap top repair** = \$520.00
3. **CLAC appeal fees** = \$350.00
4. **Freights** = \$580
5. **Foods** = \$776.50
6. **Photocopying , printing & binding** = \$1,168.00
7. **Equipment,consumables & stationeries** = \$3,846.00
8. **Phone credits {for voice calls,emails,sms messages}** =\$1,000.00
9. **Transport { Taxi hirings}** = \$3,000.00
10. **Zaira Rangers support** = \$1,000.00
11. **Others** = \$1,000.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES = \$15,260.50

Lubee Bat Conservancy Funding Support: Payment No.1 @ \$1,800 USD

- ✚ 1st Batch Payment received on Friday 2nd June 2023 @ **\$14,575.05** SBD
- ✚ Total Expenditures {5/6/23 – 21/7/23} @ **\$7,336.00**
- ✚ Balance @ **\$7,239.05**

Lubee Bat Conservancy Funding Support: Payment No. 2 @ \$5,000 USD

- ❖ 2nd Batch Payment received on Monday 31st July,2023 @ **\$40,800** SBD
- ❖ Total Expenditures {1/8/2023 – 2/11/2023} @ **\$15,260.50**
- ❖ Balance @ **\$25,539.50**

Explanatory Note

1. Total funding received from Lubee Bat Conservancy equals **\$6,800 USD**. This is equivalent to **\$55,375.05 SBD**
2. So far ,we had expended the sum of **\$22,596.50 SBD**
3. Current Balance is **\$32,778.55 SBD**
4. The balance of \$32,778.55 will support our activities in the remaining part of this year and early 2024.
5. Next year, we will be attending the following court hearings: - Local Courts for Dokoso & Sugili customary lands, CLAC Timber Rights hearing for Sugili & Tavoamai lands.

Please find attached all the receipts for the above expenditures.

Thankyou

Jino Hanz Here

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