



Artwork Created by: Andy Taba'a

"Outsiders see land as merely jungle or trees, for us land is our mother, our food, our history, our culture, and our livelihood. Once you take away from us, then you take away our life." (Kwainaa`isi, Kwaio, participant)

POSTER 1: HOW COMMUNITIES USE AND PROTECT THEIR LAND

This poster shows the different ways that communities use and protect their land. It shows how the whole landscape is connected and how people rely closely on the land for all areas of their lives.

TYPES OF LAND USES IN MALAITA	
Cultural and Religious	Farm and Market
<p>Land can be used for burial sites, sacred sites and shrines. Shrines allow priests to offer sacrifices on behalf of families or tribes for; healing, resolving ancestral problems or blessings.</p> <p><i>“If there's no burial ground people will not respect the land because there is no sense of linkage with the land.” -Male community member, Wai-Hau</i></p>	<p>Land can be used to plant commercial crops like coconut, cocoa, kava and betel nuts. These crops can be sold at local markets for income to support households.</p> <p><i>“I plant coconut and betel nut plantation to earn income to support my family.” -Female elder, Waisisi Community</i></p>
Social and Traditional	House and Garden
<p>The land can be used to raise livestock. Pigs are not only a source of income, but they are important for traditional ceremonies like bride price, mortuary feasts and settling tribal conflict.</p> <p><i>“Land connects people and brings people together. It is the foundation of our relationships.” -Female elder, Kwainai' si, Cultural Centre, Kwaio</i></p>	<p>The land can be used to grow food to feed families and basic materials for survival, such as sago palms for building shelter.</p> <p><i>“When we keep our land, we make garden in it to feed our families, tribes and our communities, this is what we like about our land.” -Male youth, Aifasu, Kwaio</i></p>



This project is a collaboration between Jubilee Australia Research Centre and Mai Maasina Green Belt to support the sustainable livelihoods of communities in Malaita, the Solomon Islands. These posters are based on discussions with community members from Kwaio Mountains, Wai-Hau, Leleigele, Takataka, and Waisisi about their land use. The conversations aimed to find out local people's thoughts and perspectives about the uses of land and their connections to land and forests.

For more information about the project, please contact:

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“Land is our mother. We make garden on our land for survival. We harvest building materials from the forest. We harvest and use waters in our land. Land is our source of life and wealth. And if it is affected, our life is also affected.” (Takataka, East Areare, participant)

POSTER 2: WHAT LAND AND FORESTS GIVE LOCAL COMMUNITIES

This poster shows what the land gives to people in Malaita and how community members use the land and forests to benefit their families and communities.

“[In] Are Are we value our land. All the goodness, wealth and life are in the land.” -Male elder, community member, Takataka

WHAT LAND AND FORESTS GIVE COMMUNITIES IN MALAITA	
Natural Surroundings	Farm and Market
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat for local animals <input type="checkbox"/> Fresh streams and rivers for drinking water, washing, fishing, and recreation <input type="checkbox"/> Mangroves for shade and wind protection <input type="checkbox"/> Caves for shelter and resting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Crops such as coconut plantations, copra, taro, watermelon and cocoa that can be sold to earn an income <input type="checkbox"/> Land to raise livestock such as pigs and chickens <input type="checkbox"/> Trees for commercial timber <input type="checkbox"/> Natural resources to sell or barter with for other goods or services
Herbal Medicines and Building Materials	Cultural Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Plants for herbal medicine <input type="checkbox"/> Natural building materials such as vines to make houses or trees to build canoes <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood for cooking and keeping the house warm during cold weather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Natural resources to make traditional artifacts, musical instruments, and crafts <input type="checkbox"/> Sacred sites or taboo sites, burial sites, historical sites where people can perform rituals and sacrifices



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“Land (wado) is our life. Land is better when it is in its original state. But if it is destroyed from its original state, then it is no longer valuable. If things like logging come and destroy our land, they will destroy our food, our water and every species that lives there. When we take good care of land then it will look after us, our children and the future generations.” (Kafurum, Kwaio, Participant)

POSTER 3: THE IMPACTS OF LOGGING

This poster shows some of the advantages and disadvantages of logging that community members in Kwaio, Wai-Hau, Leleigela, Takataka and Waisisi have witnessed or experienced.

“Logging causes destruction, fighting, and disagreement in the communities. I have witnessed that in West Kwaio and fought to chase the loggers away from our land.”

-Female elder, Leleigela community

Advantages of Logging	Disadvantages of Logging
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary income for some people <input type="checkbox"/> Short-term financial benefits for some landowners and tribal members <input type="checkbox"/> Improved road access <input type="checkbox"/> Access to unwanted timber 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of land for gardening and farming <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of resources to make an income <input type="checkbox"/> Destroyed mangroves and primary forests that provide us wild foods <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of habitat <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in pollution from logging waste <input type="checkbox"/> Pollution of waterways <input type="checkbox"/> Water washes the soil away <input type="checkbox"/> Community conflict over relationships between loggers and local women <input type="checkbox"/> Disputes between tribes over royalties <input type="checkbox"/> Family and tribal conflict over different opinions on logging <input type="checkbox"/> Spoils people’s connection to their land and cultural practices <input type="checkbox"/> Trespassing into people’s land <input type="checkbox"/> Destruction of sacred sites



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“The value of logging is only little and for short term, but the value of land represents the existence of people's life and the future of our children” (Leleigela, West Kwaio, participant)

POSTER 4: PROTECTED LAND VS. LOGGED LAND

This poster shows the benefit of a plot of land without logging vs the negative impacts of a plot of land with logging. The left side of the poster shows the benefits available to all community members when the land is protected from logging and people live in harmony with the land. The right side of the poster shows how logging can cause damage to people and nature that can continue after the logging has finished.

“The benefit of logging is only a little and for the short term, but the value of our land represents the existence of people’s life and the future of our children.” -Male youth Fulanitofe, Kwaio, Participant

Benefits of a plot of land without logging	Negative impacts of a plot of land with logging
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clean water sources <input type="checkbox"/> Abundant food gardens <input type="checkbox"/> Access to traditional medicine <input type="checkbox"/> Timber for building <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood <input type="checkbox"/> Materials for cultural activities <input type="checkbox"/> Access to land for farming <input type="checkbox"/> Safe home for wildlife <input type="checkbox"/> Land for social gathering and ceremony <p>Land protected from logging can support the lives and livelihoods of all community members and future generations. Our traditional ways of living and protecting the land can benefit our people and nature.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Polluted water sources <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of wild food and herbal medicines <input type="checkbox"/> Poor soil and land for growing food <input type="checkbox"/> Less resources for local people <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of biodiversity and habitats <input type="checkbox"/> Logging waste including oil spills, unused logs, old machinery <input type="checkbox"/> Cleared land for illegal roads <p>Logged land may provide some individual landowners and tribal members with short-term financial benefits. However, the rest of the community may be left without access to resources to support themselves and their families. This is not a sustainable way to live.</p>



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