



To Whom it May Concern:

16 Mar 2016

I am pleased to add my support to the proposal for Tetepare to become a Verified Conservation Area. I have worked closely with the Tetepare Descendants' Association (TDA) in the conservation of Tetepare Island and its surrounding coral reefs for 17 years, including the last decade as Patron of TDA. 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 the Honey Pot Fund 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Read", written over a white background.

John L. Read PhD

Director

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