

Chief Esau Kekeubata



Kafurum Village, East Kwaio
[esaukekeubata@gmail.com]

- Currently working for the Atoifi Hospital and the Atoifi Health Research Group as Research Coordinator and cultural broker across many projects including: the soil transmitted helminths projects (2014-2016), Tuberculosis (TB) 2014-2016), Yaws study (2016-2017), Skin study (2017) and IUCN and Museum Biodiversity projects (2014-2017).
- Presented research findings at national and international conferences for international media
- Kwaio chief and a key member of the Kwainaa`isi Cultural Centre. Community liaison for local and international partners
- Strong believer in culture, conservation and a better health living for the mountainous people of East Kwaio, Malaita

Mr. Tommy Esau



From Wyfolonga Village, East Kwaio,
Malaita Province

[fataiaman@gmail.com]

- Holds a Bachelor of Education Geography/English, Pacific Adventist University(PAU), PNG (2013).
- 2014 – current. Research worker for the Atoifi Health Research Group – working across collaborative research projects with James Cook University, Atoifi hospital to provide research support and cultural knowledge for the soil transmitted helminths projects (2014-2016), Tuberculosis (TB) 2014-2016), Yaws study (2016-2017), Skin study (2017) and IUCN and Museum Biodiversity projects (2014-2017).
- Secretary and key member of the Kwainaa'isi Cultural Centre who works with the traditional Kwaio Chiefs, leaders and people in the mountains, to teach them how to record and archive endangered traditional knowledge about plants and animals in the region.
- Interested in community development, healthful environment, conservation and **balancing traditional knowledge with scientific Knowledge**

Community-Based Responses to Protecting Biodiversity in East Kwaio, Solomon Islands.

Esau Kekeubata and Tommy Esau
Kwainaa`isi Cultural Centre



People of East Kwaio



People of East Kwaio

Last language group to practice
ancestral religion and culture

Several thousand people live in the
remote mountains



People of East Kwaio



Many cultural practices remain where lost in other areas



People of East Kwaio

Ongoing struggle between cultural autonomy and introduced ways

Knowledge of plants and animals in forest lost in other places



The Kwainaa'isi Cultural Centre

- Land of `Ai`eda Tribe
- Leadership structure
- Community involvement
- Kwaio Archive
- Link to research projects



The Medicinal Plants Research Project

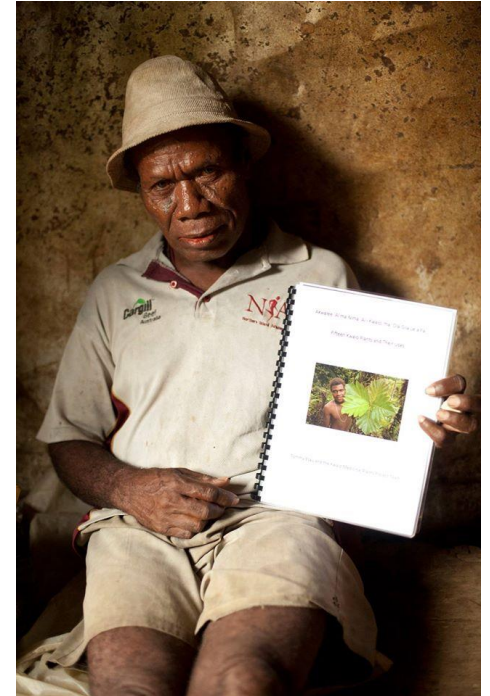
- Project to document medicinal plants found in the rain forest and build capacity to undertake similar research in the future.



- Strengthen capacity to preserve, photograph and identify medicinal plants
- Strengthen capacity in project management, organizational governance and financial management.

Conservation Project Achievements

- Booklet and 15 videos on traditional and scientific information for 15 plants
- Started Kwainaa`isi Cultural School
- Established partnership with local, national, regional and international partners
- Established 3 conservation areas
- Documented signs of undescribed giant rat and new bat for Malaita



Mammal Surveys

- First high elevation mammal survey for Malaita
- Documented signs of an undescribed giant rat (kwete)
- We recorded a new bat for Malaita in one of our conservation areas (bare-rumped sheath-tail bat)



Grassroots Research Capacity Strengthening

- Proficient use of equipment to preserve and identify medicinal plants
- Skills to photograph and video plants
- Archive materials in cultural centre
- Activities in project management, organizational governance and financial management



Where to next?

- Expand work on documentation and trainings
- Forest resource management/establish conservation areas (3)
- Document and survey other species
- Mapping and monitoring
- Extend partnership and network



Bao le`a Ba`ita

Research Partners and Linkages

- Atoifi Adventist hospital
- Wai-Hau Conservation (West Are`Are
- Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership
- Ministry of Environment
- Kainake Community Conservation
- Pacific Adventist University
- James Cook University
- Australian Tropical Herbarium
- Tropical Health Solutions
- Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEFP)
- Australian Museum
- NSW Health
- University of Michigan
- Field Museum of Natural History

