



# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Producer: Gill Fickling  
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### SOLOMON ISLANDS: THE WOOD FOR THE TREES

#### INTRO :

In a land of dense trees once populated by head-hunters, a struggle is underway – how to keep up with the 21<sup>st</sup> century, while also protecting the land and way of life. In the Solomon Islands, local people have some solutions. Here's our story.  
(15")

#### VIDEO

SEQUENCE – BULU AND NAEMA  
WALK THROUGH THE FOREST

#### AUDIO

NAT SND – birds, crackle of leaves  
underfoot

#### BULU (In English)

*Our grandmothers, they lived here.  
Then they gave birth to our mothers  
and my mother lived here. Then she  
gave birth to me. I still live in the place  
where she lived too. (13")*

BULU GATHERS NUTS

*My name is Alice Bulu Sakui .... I have six children.*

*Some of the nuts that we pick, they are planted by our forefathers, our grandmothers. When we were born, they shared the nut trees between us children. (21”)*

*All of us who live here in Zaira, we all own this land. (4”)*

MAP – ZOOM OUT FROM ISLANDS

#### NARRATION

Zaira (ZAYRA), where Bulu (BOOLOO) and her family live, is a tiny community in the Solomon Islands, a group of over a thousand small islands in the southern Pacific Ocean. The village, surrounded by dense rainforest and accessible only by sea, is one of the most remote corners on earth. The sea and the forest are the people’s lifeline. (26”)

PEOPLE ON BOAT

ROUGH SEA

FOREST SHOTS

BULU WITH FAMILY

BULU (In English)

*We usually go to the forest to find some wild yams in the forest.*

COOKING PIG OVER FIRE

PUTTING FIREWOOD ON FIRE

*Sometimes people go to the forest for hunting wild pigs // We women go to the forest to find leaves for baking or cutting of firewood. (23”)*

ARCHIVE: CORAL REEF, FISH;

NARRATION

The forest, by filtering ground-water and holding soil in place, also helps maintain the coastal ecosystem; healthy coral reefs and tree roots provide feeding and spawning sites for fish – and sea food for the villagers. (19”)

BULU PREPARES SHELL-FISH

BULU:

*For food, we just go to our gardens, to the forest or to the sea to collect it. (7”)*

NARRATION

And the forest products also provide a small income. (4”)

SEQUENCE OF WOMAN GRATING COCONUT

BULU (In English)

*Women from here, we sell coconut oil, betel-nut that we get from the bush – we planted it. Then we take it to market. A lot of the things we get from the forest, we can sell them, to get a little bit of income to help our families. (27”)*

BULU ON CAMERA

RAIN FOREST SHOTS

RAINFOREST SHOTS

NARRATION

But communities like Bulu’s are not the only ones with their eyes on the rich forest resources. (6”)

ARCHIVE FOOTAGE LOGGING  
DESTRUCTION – CHAINSAW;  
BULLDOZERS

ARCHIVE LOGGING

## NAT SOT HEAVY MACHINERY

### NARRATION

Valuable tropical timber is the logger's prize – but to get it, swathes of virgin forest are destroyed – perhaps forever. Logging of the country's forests, largely by commercial companies from overseas aiming to satisfy the growing global demand for hard-wood, is changing not only the landscape but also a whole way of life for the Island's people. (31")

REVEREND MOSES ON CAMERA

TREE CUTTING

### REV MOSES (In English)

*Solomon Islands may have made many mistakes about logging in the country since it started engaging in large scale logging back in the 90s.*

*And so while it helps the economy, it doesn't really help the people in the long run. (20")*

SET-UP SHOTS REV MOSES  
TALKING TO PARISHIONERS

### NARRATION

Reverend Moses Maezama (MY-ZAMA), who ministers to many small communities on Bulu's island of Vangunu (VAN-GOONOO) and has seen first-hand the impact of unsustainable logging, says that forests must be better managed before it is too

BARREN LAND, LAKES

late - or the result for local people, he says, could be disastrous. (22”)

AERIAL SHOTS

REV MOSES (In English)

UNDERWATER

*We find rivers polluted. you find the animals which form part of the diet of the community starting to leave the place. You find that even the reefs and the marine resources are starting to feel the effects of it (23”)*

FISH

WOMAN FISHING

*It affects the food security of the community and it may take years before it can come to normal. (8”)*

ZAIRA VILLAGE – “NAT GEO” SHOTS  
E.G. WOMEN FISHING

NARRATION

Reverend Moses calls for better regulation of logging companies by the government, to protect local communities. While laws are in place to regulate logging activities, he says they are rarely implemented. (14”)

REV MOSES ON CAMERA

REV MOSES (In English)

*I am of the opinion that the government is not really responsible when it embarks on this logging industry. They are letting the operators and the people sort out the agreements and many times people fell victims to those agreements not realizing the costs*

*involved and the impact. (21”)*

SET UP SHOTS JULIUS HOURIA

NARRATION

Julius Houria (HOORIA), from the Ministry of Forestry, disagrees. He says that laws DO exist to protect the forest and the rights of those who live there but, as most land here is owned communally, ultimately, it is the people themselves who decide whether to sell the logging rights on their land. (18”)

HOURIA ON CAMERA

JULIUS HOURIA (In English)

*It is the people who own the forest, and therefore, they determine what to do with their forest. (4”)*

LOGS

NARRATION

And, he continues, there’s no doubt that logging brings wealth into the country. (5”)

TIMBER YARD ACTIVITIES

JULIUS HOURIA (In English)

*The Solomon Islands economy depends heavily on logging – about 60% of the GDP comes from the forest. (10”)*

TIMBER YARD ACTIVITIES

NARRATION

And when funds are tight, as they are for many islanders, offers from

commercial companies to buy logging rights can solve immediate financial problems. (9”)

KIDS GOING TO SCHOOL

JULIUS HOURIA (In English)

HOURIA ON CAMERA

*A lot of Solomon Islanders find it hard to meet school fees in the village and, as such, they are tempted to allow logging companies to work on their land. (14”)*

GREEN JINO WALKS IN FOREST;  
PLANTING BANANAS

NARRATION

PLANTING BANANAS

One chief who steadfastly resists such temptation to sell-out the rights to their tribal lands is Bulu’s uncle and Chief of her community of Zaira, Bishop Green Jino (JEEN-O). He has been approached several times with large sums of money from loggers. (18”)

JINO ON CAMERA

GREEN JINO (In English)

PLANTING BANANAS VARIOUS

*Money is the biggest temptation // They did try to bribe me with money. But the important thing that // I learned since I grew up with my daddy and my people here ,// that the land is not a thing to be sold. // Doesn’t matter we are not rich but we have to depend on the land for the future of our generations. Our young people, our children, their children’s children - for the future.*

*Where should they go if we destroy the land? (37")*

#### CONSERVATION AREA SHOTS

#### NARRATION

But Green Jino faces a dilemma. He knows that simply blocking logging companies from their forest won't work. His people need to also gain an income from their natural resources, or they will be tempted to give in to lucrative offers - or to leave the community to seek jobs elsewhere. He has come up with a scheme to protect both the forest and his people's livelihoods – a scheme he hopes will both bring in visitors AND money without harming the trees! First step – he's declared a part of the forest next to the village a conservation area. (47")

#### JINO ON CAMERA

#### GREEN JINO (In English)

*This does not mean that I stop the people from using the land but to use the land wisely. (5")*

#### COLLECTING BANANA LEAVES

#### NARRATION

And this means taking from the forest ONLY what they need to live. (4")

#### JINO ON CAMERA

#### GREEN JINO (In English)



*Any family can go to the community preservation area to choose one tree to cut and sell it to pay for their school fees to help their family.(11”)*

NARRATION

And when the family needs a home, the forest, as it always has, provides. (4”)

MEN (AND BULU) COLLECT LEAVES FROM FOREST

BULU (In English)

MEN PREPARE LEAVES FOR ROOF

*All the materials we use to build this house, we took from the forest... sago palm, loya-cane and even timbers, we collected them from our forest. (18”)*

BULU’S HUSBAND PREPARES LEAVES FOR ROOF

NARRATION

Bulu’s husband prepares the leaves for their new roof. (3”)

NAT SOT: CHURCH SINGING

MEN BUILDING CHURCH

NARRATION

The other village building that needs a roof is the new church – and harvesting timber for this is also permitted. In 2015, the village will celebrate their church’s centenary – the community’s biggest celebration for years. (17”)

MEN BUILDING CHURCH

UP NAT SOT: BUILDERS CHANTING

NARRATION

But Green Jino is clear on how this tree-felling should be managed. (4”)

GREEN JINO

*Just take the one that you need but don't destroy the small ones // so that you can harvest for next year and so on. So they are sustainable. (11”)*

GREEN JINO WITH VEIRA IN FOREST

VEIRA WITH MEN WORKING ON TIMBER FOR CHURCH

NARRATION

Working with Green Jino is one of Zaira's few college graduates, environmental scientist Veira (VAYRA) Pulekera (POO-LEK-ERA), now with the Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership or SICCP. Veira also knows that simply restricting use of the communal forest to the villagers could cause problems. (21”)

VEIRA ON CAMERA

VEIRA

*So that's why we need to // manage it and then we have to work on something that will not destroy the forest but we get something that will provide for us in the long term. (10”)*

KIDS DIVING IN WATER

NARRATION

Veira and Chief Green Jino saw the

potential to develop eco-tourism. The acres of un-spoilt forest teeming with fauna and flora, and crystal clear rivers and playgrounds, could be just the wilderness adventurous tourists are looking for. (24”)

#### VEIRA

*When they manage the forest, they need to get something out from it.// And they agreed on that and we started to promote local tourism programmes here. So we call it eco-village stay programme. (10”)*

#### NARRATION

BULU WITH VEIRA AT “ECO-LODGE”

Bulu was one of the first to offer home-stays to visitors. They stay in a traditional village house, and eat food plucked from the forest and the sea, which Bulu and the other women take turns preparing.(25”)

#### BULU

BULU PREPARES ROOT VEGETABLES IN FIRE

*Everyone of us has to get the benefiits because this conservation we are running, it’s for the whole community of this place. (9”)*

#### NARRATION

BOAT ON ROUGH SEA

Due to the remote location and

WAVES BREAKING ON ROCKS

SHOT OF HIKERS

treacherous seas, only a few determined visitors have made it to Zaira. And, once there, hiking in the unspoilt forest is one of the main draws. But this is just a beginning - finding a way to earn a livelihood from the forest that excludes unsustainable logging, is a challenge. (24")

That's why, the United Nations Forum on Forests, or UNFF, encourages governments and international donors to support small scale ventures like this. Since 2012, the UNFF has worked with Pacific Island countries, like the Solomon Islands, to find viable, long-term alternatives to logging. For many communities such as Zaira, the growing eco-tourism industry is an opportunity to both preserve their forest and provide a sustainable future for generations to come. (37")

SHOTS OF THE COMMUNITY  
PEOPLE

VEIRA

*That's our responsibility, to look after our forest and manage our resources. I see that's the future. (6")*

BULU

*We will struggle, we will face a lot of problems if logging comes and*

*destroys our forest. (9")*

GREEN JINO WALKING ON BEACH

GREEN JINO

*I will never sell out the land ... because  
people are important and land is  
important for the future. // I will never,  
never do that until I die. (17")*