

Melanesian

Geo

Issue 6

UNDERSEA MINING
MININGS LAST FRONTIER?

CONSERVATION SERVING
COMMUNITIES IN A RAPIDLY
CHANGING WORLD

THE STATE OF OUR FOREST
AGRO – FORESTRY FOR
LAURU STATE

Kavachi
submarine **BIRTH OF AN ISLAND**
Volcano

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Wildlife Awareness & Monitoring of Melanesia



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6 Vanuatu: Santo's Big Bay
The island of Espiritu Santo, more commonly known as Santo, is the largest in the Vanuatu archipelago with an area of some 4000km².

10 Kavachi submarine volcano: the birth of an island
Kavachi represents a classic example of fore-arc volcanism. The earlier products of this process - the high rugged caldera of Vangunu and the symmetrical peak of Gatokae - tower to the north and east of Kavachi, totally cloaked in luxuriant tropical rainforest.

15 Undersea mining: Minings last frontier
The sustained bullishness of world gold and copper markets, however, coupled with advances in remote ore extraction technology, have again raised the prospect of viable undersea mining, this time the initial focus is PNG's Bismarck Sea, and the enighbouring Solomon Sea adjacent to Kavachi and it's sister submarine volcanoes Kana Keoki and Coleman.

16 Fiji's Sago Palm: A palm under threat
The long life span, late maturity and reproductive method of sago renders even large populations vulnerable to sudden and dramatic disturbance.

18 Conservation serving communities in a rapidly changing world
Traditional culture is what helps defines Pacific people: the fine weaving of traditional mats and kits, the adornment of pacific jewellery, the cultural practice of tattooing, traditional costumes worn during customary dances and

the ethnic foods eaten.
22 The state of our forest: Agro-forestry for Lauru State
Our forest is an invaluable entity. The forest and its contents cannot be expressed in monetary terms. Forests have all the essentials to fully support our lives and the lives of the millions or billions of living creatures and plants in and around it.

26 Marine Products Research
Sponges are mostly known to the islanders as bath tab sponges, used to clean pots and pans. But they also have a great potential of holding the key(s) to medicines as they, together with their bacterial symbionts produce chemicals that can fight cancer, kill other bacteria or might just hold the key to fight malaria.

30 Rare tree species endangered by logging and mining in Solomons
According to an inventory survey conducted by the Forestry Department, Zeleboe land contains an average stock of 29,232 *Xanthostemon* sp occurring on 252 hectares of land. Hence, there is a stock concentration of 116 trees per hectare. It is the second highest tree concentration

40 Journeys through Marovo Lagoon
Just an hour by 25-horse powered boat ride from Seghe is the Bareke Peninsular of North Marovo, the mountains of the peninsular rising above the mangrove shores. The area has a long history of human occupation reaching back to the headhunting years and prehistoric times.



Cover:
Kavachi submarine volcano erupting (Photo: Corey Howell)