

BirdLife aims to protect forests and wildlife

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A BirdLife International community conservation programme introduced in the remote Natewa Peninsula in 2005, has become a demonstration project that is hoped to be a model for the protection of forests in the South Pacific.

According to BirdLife International's Senior Technical Advisor for the Pacific Region James Millett, the programme was introduced to forty participants from Fiji, French Polynesia and New Caledonia at a two-day workshop held in the village of Navetau in the Tikina of Natewa recently.

Millet says the workshop was to provide training for our overseas participants in community oriented conservation techniques, less widely practiced by our regional neighbours.

The BirdLife International initiative focuses on the Natewa and Tunuloa Important Bird Area (IBA) that contain untouched forest and is home to rare birds such as Silktail and Orange Dove.

As a result of the workshop, eleven mataqali from the area agreed to protect over 6000ha of their forest over a ten-year period reinforcing the 2005 agreement.



A orange dove, a rare bird that can be found in the Natewa and Tunuloa forests.

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