

Vanuatu's Key Biodiversity Areas: Tongoa-Laika

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

Sites qualify as global KBAs if they meet one or more of 11 criteria, clustered into five categories: threatened biodiversity; geographically restricted biodiversity; ecological integrity; biological processes; and, irreplaceability. The KBA criteria can be applied to species and ecosystems in terrestrial, inland water and marine environments, and must be confirmed by the KBA Secretariat. Vanuatu has 27 KBAs in total.



Royal Parrotfinch
Source: Phil Bender

Threatened Species

Vanuatu has a total of 138 species that have been identified as threatened or near threatened on the IUCN Red List. The Threatened Species Project has received funding from CEPF to work with 27 of the threatened species. Seven of these 27 threatened species are found on Tongoa-Laika's land or in its surrounding waters. They include:

Endemic

- Vanuatu Flying Fox
- Vanuatu Megapode

Found only in Vanuatu and one other country

- Royal Parrotfinch
- Palm Lorikeet

Widely distributed

- Hawksbill Turtle
- Green Turtle
- Moluccan Ironwood

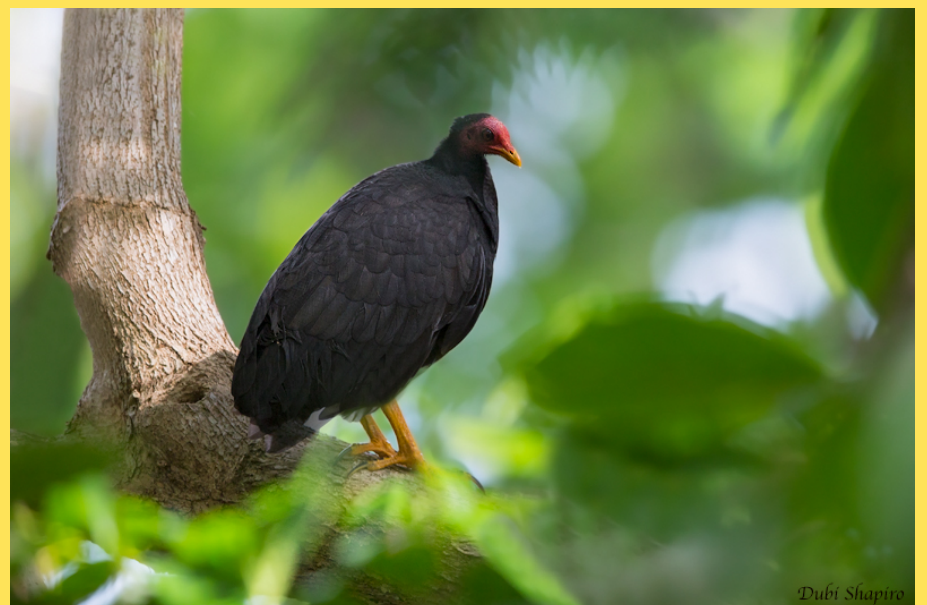
Why are these Islands Special?

In Vanuatu, CEPF has chosen six priority sites out of the 27 KBAs, including Tongoa-Laika. Tongoa, particularly the northern part is mostly forested providing suitable habitats for many bird species including the vulnerable Royal Parrotfinch and Vanuatu Megapode.

Laika is a small island off the north coast of Tongoa. It is an important breeding ground for Wedge-tailed Shearwaters.



Tongoa-Laika
Source: Google Maps



Dubi Shapiro

Vanuatu Megapode
Source: Dubi Shapiro