



## **Tim Flannery to Speak at the TTRA International Conference in June 2019**

Travel and Tourism Research Association (TTRA), the leading association for travel and tourism research announces internationally acclaimed scientist, author, conservationist and explorer, Tim Flannery will be speaking at the TTRA International conference in June 2019 on his recent experiences in the Solomon Islands, the Southwest Pacific's Galapagos.

In this presentation, Tim will explore how tourism can affect the region and researching ways that it can support positive outcomes while minimising negative effects on the communities and environment.

Session description below.

### **A Modern Tale of Wildlife Conservation, Murder and Redemption: Does Tourism have a Role?**

New species still being discovered and many indigenous communities remaining isolated, but even they have been touched by colonialism, choosing to remain isolated. Nonetheless the world is catching up with them, regardless...

As a British Colony from 1893-1977, coconut plantations were established with a focus on money-making, resulting in violence from and towards the primarily British (and then Australian) settlers and missionaries. As recently as 2003, an Australian missionary Lance Gersbach, 60, was killed in the town of Atoifi, in Malaita, where the local Ramo were renowned for their fierce and independent nature.

In 2018, the new Paramount Chief of Malaita, Esau Kekuabata proposed a Reconciliation Ceremony to bring peace to the region. For weeks he walks between villages, gaining agreement. As 2007 Australian of the Year, and with extensive contacts in the region, Tim Flannery was invited to participate in the ceremony, and by the time he arrived in July 2018, 90% of people agreed to end their violent ways.

After the powerful Ceremony, the region's conservation and community initiatives began with renewed vigour. Tim led a small tour to Malaita in October of that year with Heritage Expeditions, raising the possibility of tourism as a conservation and community force.

The reconciliation ripples out to north Malaita. Next, Guadalcanal, with the hope that it will cover the whole Solomons.

### **For More Information:**

For more information and to register for the 2019 TTRA International conference, please visit the conference website <https://ttra.com/conference/international>, or contact the Conference Chair, Sue Beeton, [s.beeton@outlook.com](mailto:s.beeton@outlook.com).