



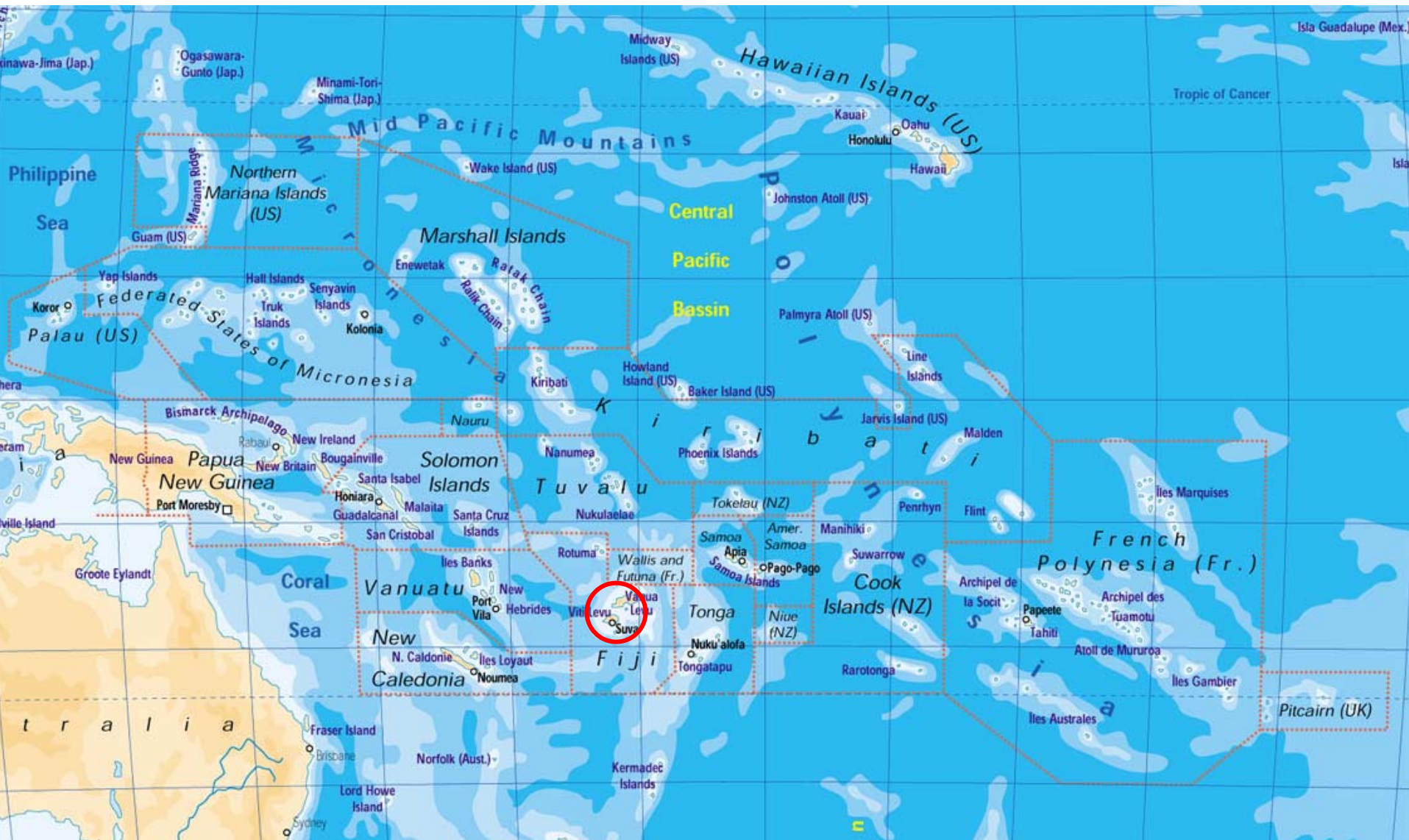
Enhancing Project Legacies in Small Island Environments

**Lessons from the Pacific and
Caribbean**

James Millett

for birds • for people • for ever

- **Community Based Conservation Groups at Fiji's Key Conservation Sites**
- **BirdLife International 2006 – 2009**



- **Enabling the People of Montserrat to Conserve the Centre Hills**
RSPB 2005 - 2008
- **Reducing The Impacts of Feral Livestock in and Around The Centre Hills Darwin Project**
RSPB 2009 – 2011 (post project)



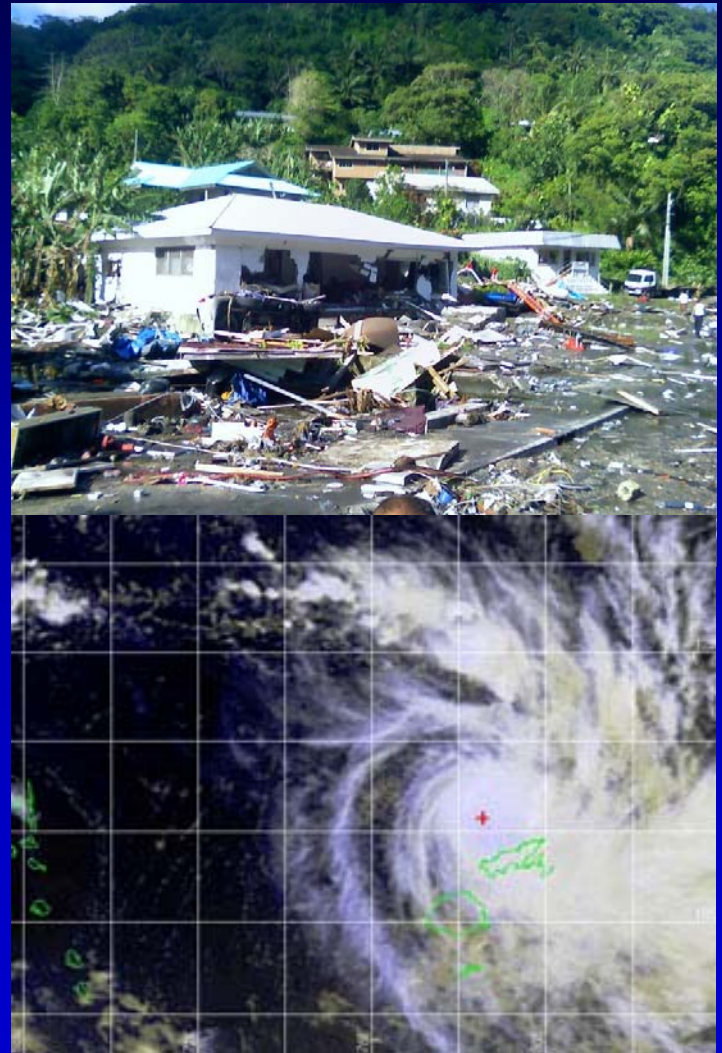
Small Island Developing States and Dependent Areas

- *SIDS: recognized as a distinct group of developing countries facing specific social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities (UN-OHRLLS)*
- *Dependent areas territories governed by a sovereign state but they are not part of the motherland or mainland and They often have a certain degree of autonomy represented by a local government, but they do not possess full political independence or sovereignty as a state*
- *Dependent areas, with few exceptions are small islands*



Common Challenges to Sustainable Development in Small Islands

- small but growing populations
- limited resources
- remoteness
- susceptibility to natural disasters
- excessive dependence on international trade
- fragile environments.



Challenges to Project Implementation: Identifying Potential Partners

Restricted number of in-country partners (local NGOs, Statutory Agencies and Govt Departments):

- **Can lead to inappropriate partner selection**
- **Credible institutions can become over burdened by partner demands**
- **Often results in a programmatic approach being adopted by IGOs as an alternative strategy**



Common Institutional Characteristics Impacting on Project Delivery

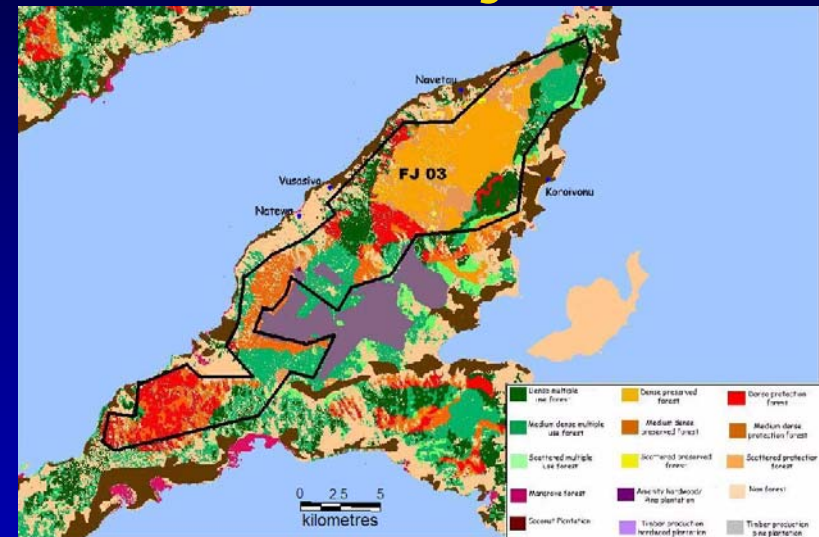
- Strategic planning often absent or weak
- Limited fundraising capacity (especially inadequately diversified funding streams)
- Small and vulnerable staffing capacities (restricted skill base, brain drains)
- Boards have limited capacities / undefined roles
- Organisational leadership
- Over commitment of staff and resources

Also see Building civil society capacity for conservation in the Caribbean UKOTs. Implemented by CANARI funded by Darwin



Developing Capacity for Community Based Protected Areas in Fiji

- Robust technical foundation following a Darwin Initiative Funded IBA inventory
- Developing community based PAs and / or management planning on 4 IBAs
- Promoting fundraising and IBA monitoring
- Implemented by the *Birdlife International Fiji Programme*



Fiji: a land of opportunity... and constraint

- **A supportive government, lacking capacity to manage PAs**
- **Legislative framework did not enable modern PAs**
- **Strong International NGO presence**
- **No national conservation NGOs**
- **Limited number of mid-career conservationists**
- **A large number of motivated but inexperienced graduates**



Measures to Enhance Impact and Sustainability

- Strong investment in developing young conservation professionals
- Support the establishment of a local NGO *Mareqeti.Viti*
- Supporting the development of a statutory agency as a PA focal point
- Facilitating the establishment of a PA advisory group
- Project was responsive to developing PA models to meet needs of land owners



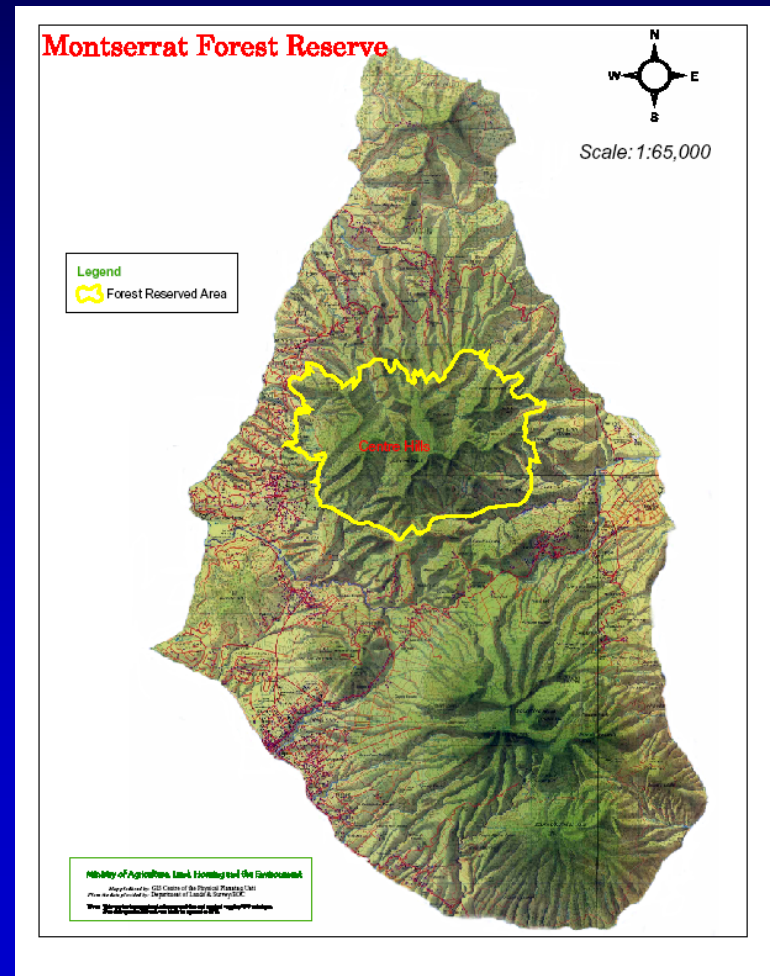
Post Project Actions

- Continue to develop the community PA model to support livelihoods (CEPF GEF)
- Work towards a statutory designation / legislation review
- Continue to support the development Mareqeti.Viti to manage the project
- Continue professional development of the project team



Building capacity for the Conservation of Montserrat's Centre Hills

- Project need identified from long running work on the Critical Montserrat Oriole
- Undertook Biological and socio-economic assessment
- Developed a management plan through participatory process
- Supported a review of existing environmental legislation
- Built the capacity of institutions and individuals



Impact of the Soufrière Hills Volcano

- Volcanic activity from 1995 to present
- Exclusion zone covers half land area
- Most habitation and governance centres relocated
- Emigration reduced the population to 3000 – 4000
- Economy has been severely impacted
- Partner institutions are tiny



Measures to Enhance Impact and Sustainability

- Socio-economic survey demonstrated value of a PA
- Legislative review integrates PA in to government objectives
- Extensive skill development (project management, communication and field)
- Provided credibility / track record to a new government department
- Successfully levered other resources



Continuing to Support Post Project Activities

- Darwin Post-Project providing technical expertise to manage feral animals
- Continuing to support Oriole conservation
- Fundraising support
- Education and outreach
- Management plan activities – further support required



Key Lessons Learned

- Projects can build long term capacity but also detract from organisational objectives
- Long-term enduring partnerships strengthen project legacies
- Seek opportunities to embed project objectives in plans and or policies
- Vision and provision for organisational development is important
- ✓ Strategic planning
- ✓ Fundraising
- ✓ Organisational structuring
- Plan personal development
- ✓ Mentoring / on the job training



Thank you and Vinaka Vaka Levu

- Darwin Initiative
- Birdlife International Fiji Programme Team
- CANARI
- Montserrat Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Housing and Environment (MALHE)
- National Trust of Montserrat
- National Trust of Fiji
- Mareqeti.Viti
- Supporting Funders – OTEP, GEF SGP, CEPF, Jensen Foundation

