#### **Protected Areas in the Pacific**

Stuart Chape

Director – Island and Ocean Ecosystems, SPREP







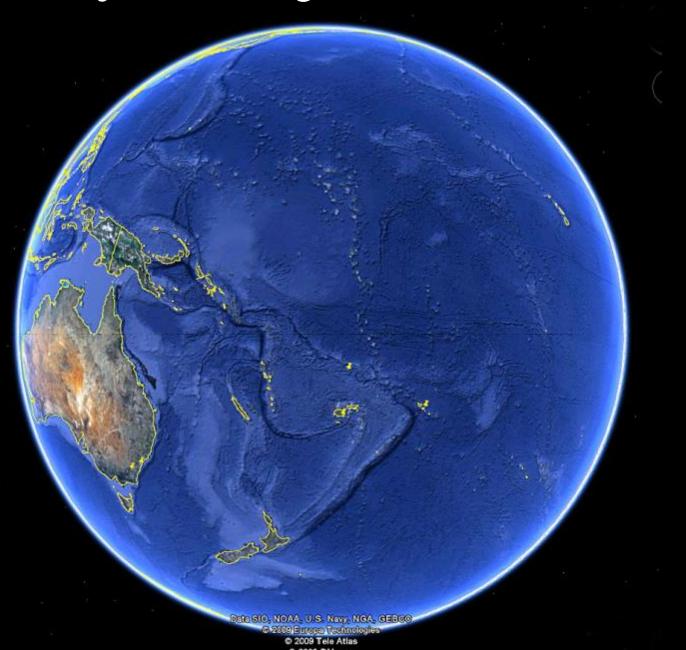


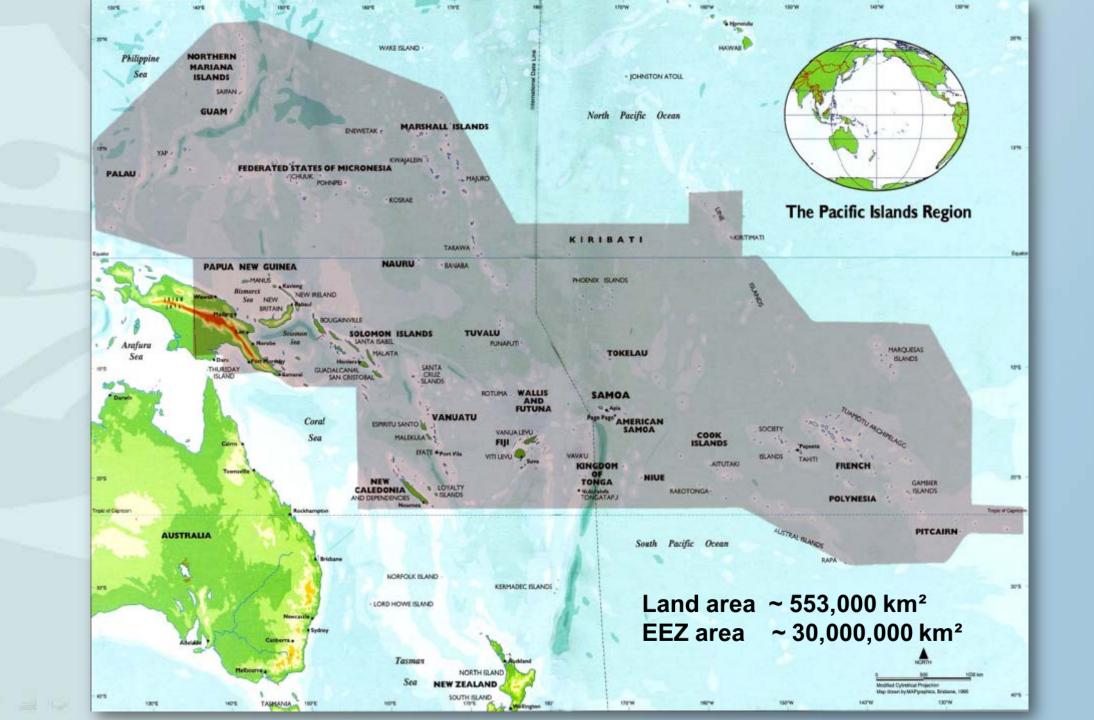




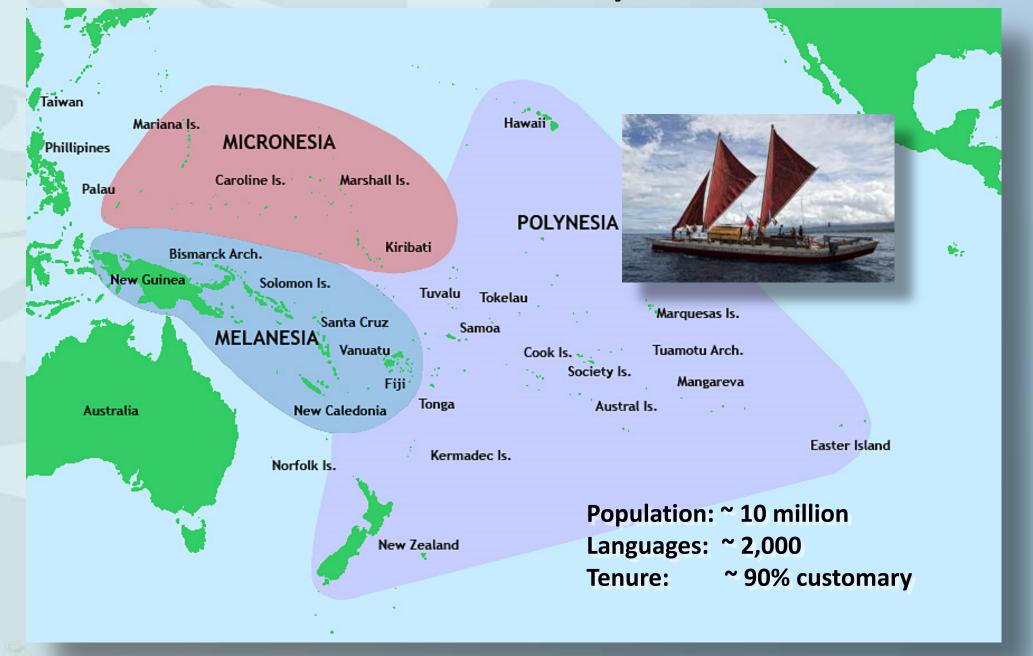


# Pacific Islands Region — an Oceanic Realm





#### **Cultural Diversity**



#### **Today: Pacific island people reliant on natural resources**

70-80% of the catch from inshore fisheries is used for subsistence purposes



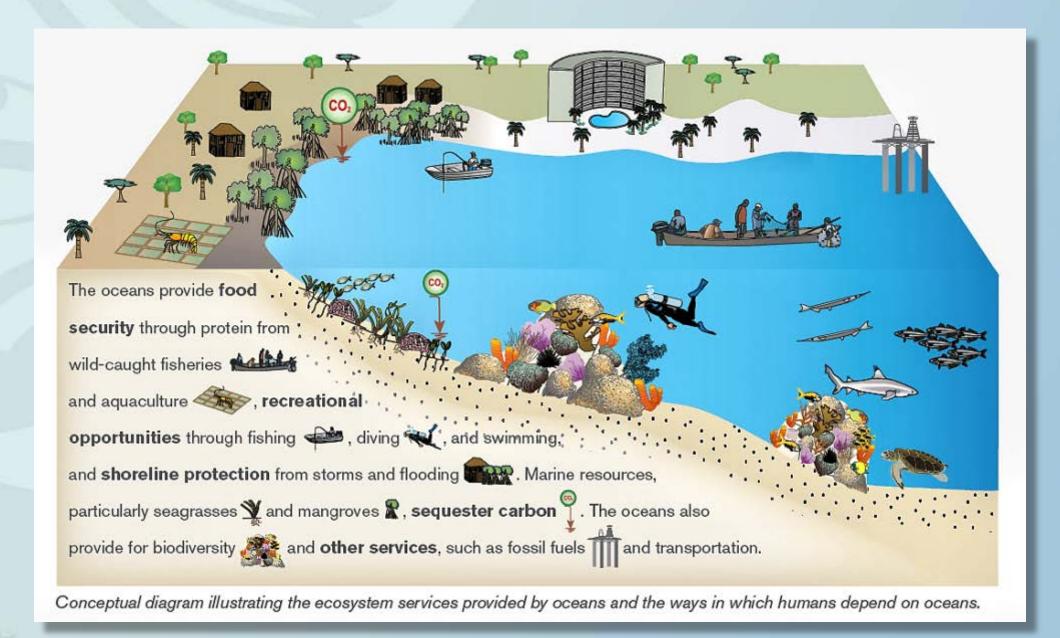






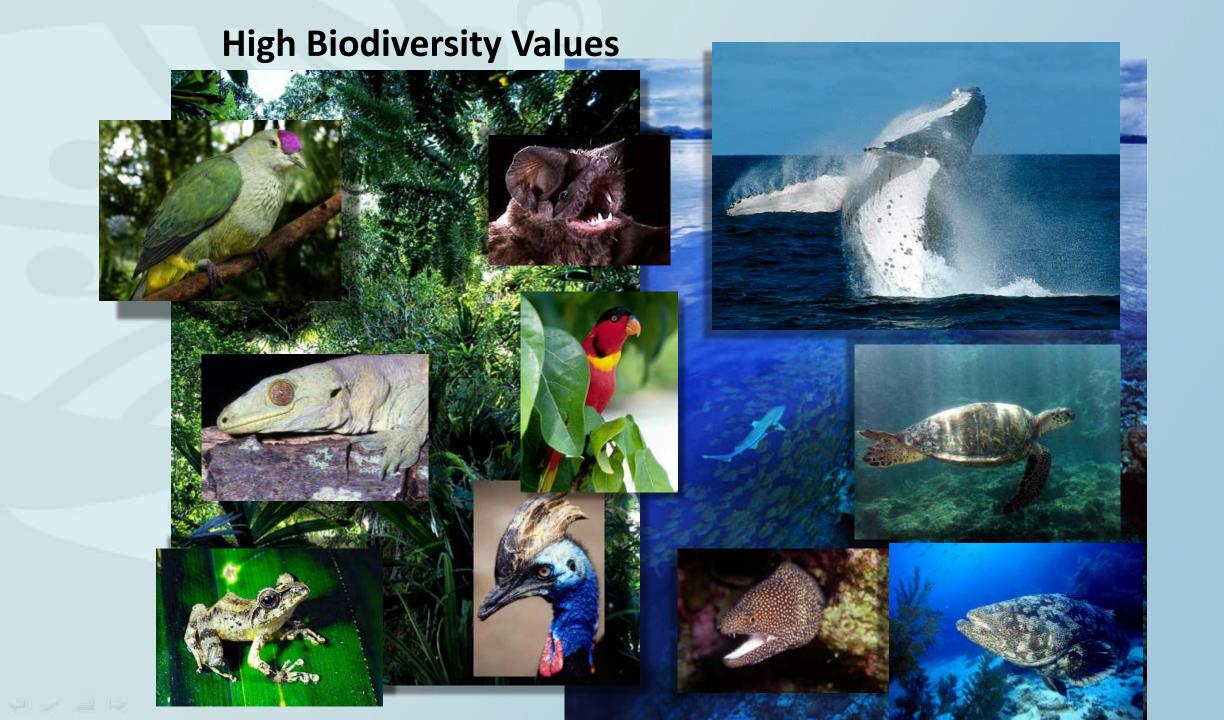


#### Ecosystem services even more important today



### **Island Ecosystem Diversity**





# Values of Biodiversity and Ecosystems





## Values of Biodiversity and Ecosystems

TEV Pacific island coral reefs in 2009: US\$3.8 billion p.a.

TEV of Pacific island mangroves: US\$3.9 billion p.a.

**Shark watching** tourism in Fiji **\$42 million** in 2011

Whale watching tourism in Tonga \$5 million p.a. in 2009











## Threats to Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services













#### **Exploitation of natural resources:**

Impacts on freshwater supplies, flooding and coastal ecosystems





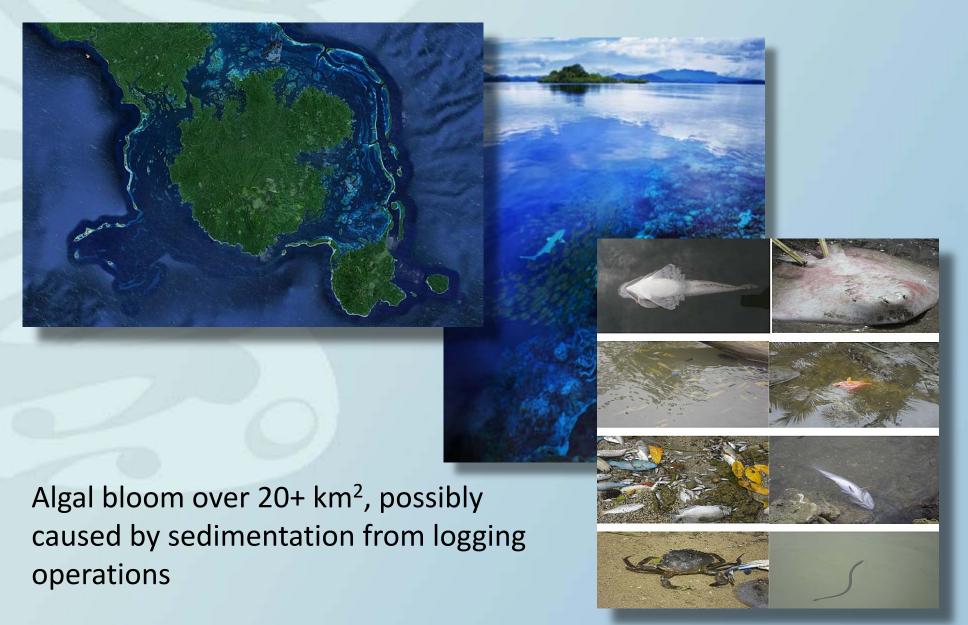




#### **Forest Cover**

- 0.4% forest cover area lost per year between
   2005 and 2010 global deforestation average:
   0.14%. Most of the loss in Oceania in Papua New Guinea.
- Forest habitat loss mostly due to logging and agriculture

#### Marovo Lagoon, Solomon Islands 2011

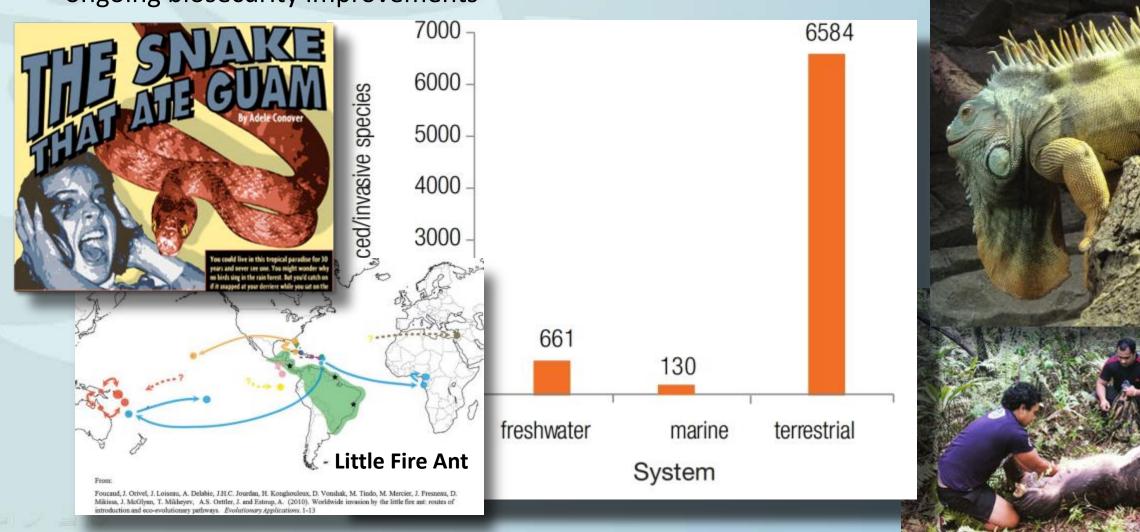


#### **Introduced and Invasive Species**

 Primary threat to endemic and threatened species in Oceania, as well as economies and livelihoods

Region continues to have incursions of new introduced and invasive species, necessitating

ongoing biosecurity improvements



#### **Poor Development Planning - Contradict Policies and Commitments**

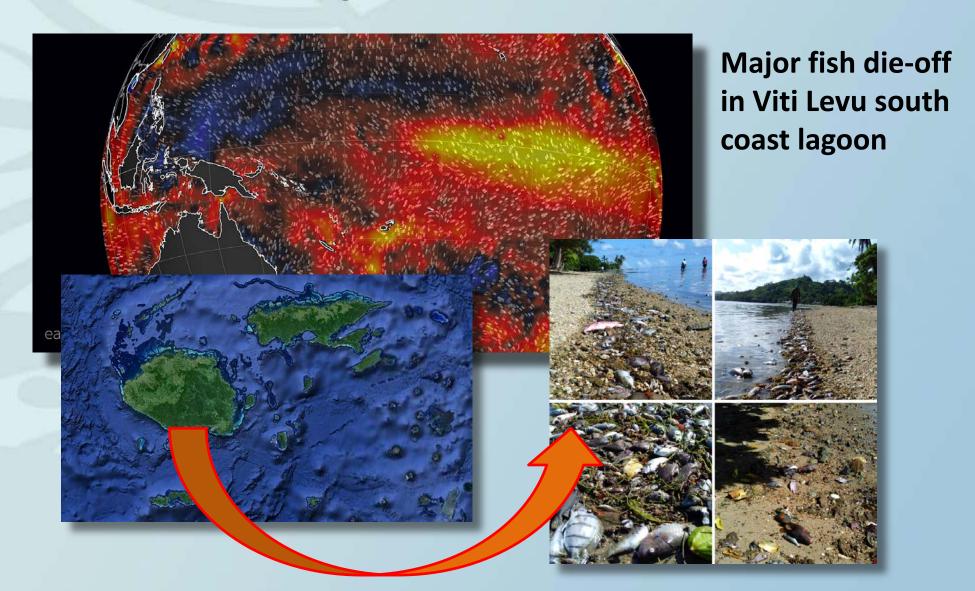




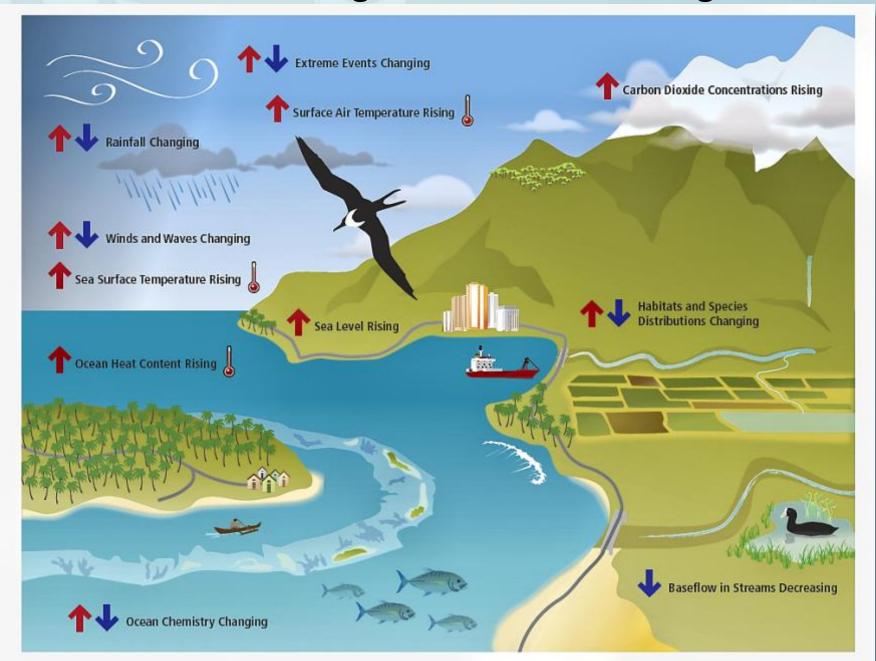




# El Nino and Increasing Sea Surface Temperatures e.g. El Nino 2015-2016 event



#### **Climate Change in Pacific Islands Region**



# **El Nino SST**









#### IPCC 5th Assessment Report.

Even meeting emission control targets critical aspects of climate change are inevitable

"...even under good management...coral cover is expected to decrease from the present-day maximum of 40% to 15-30% by 2035 and 10-20% by 2050, matching the rate of decline over the past 30 years.

As coral cover decreases, the ability of corals to compete with macroalgae...for space will be reduced, **potentially** leading to 40% seaweed cover on reefs by 2035". (Bell et al 2013)



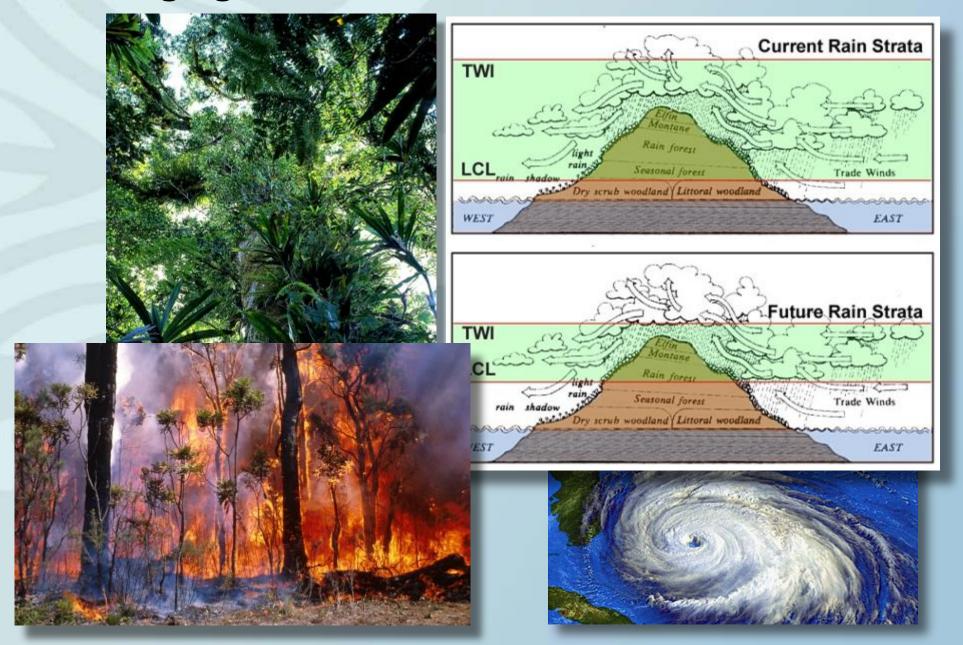








#### **Changing Rainfall Patterns and Weather Events**



#### Responses to safeguard Oceania's biodiversity through Protected Areas

Marine and coastal protection: +6,000,000 km<sup>2</sup>: 20%

Terrestrial protection: +27,000 km<sup>2</sup> : <5%







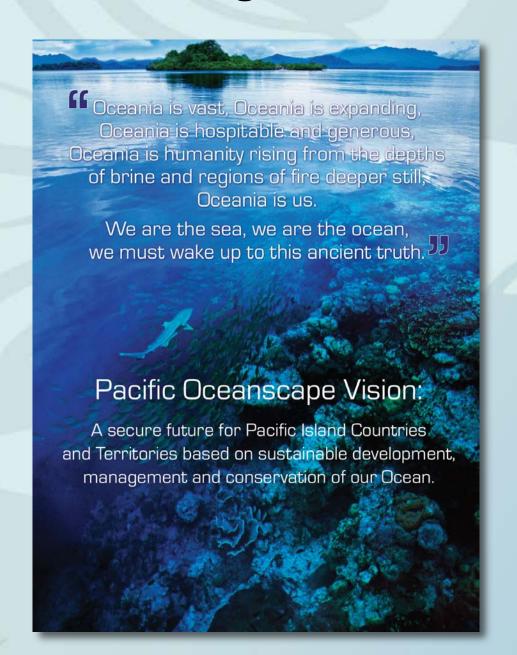


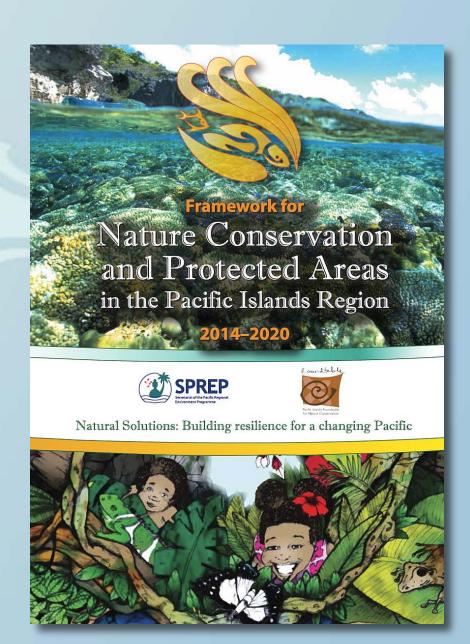


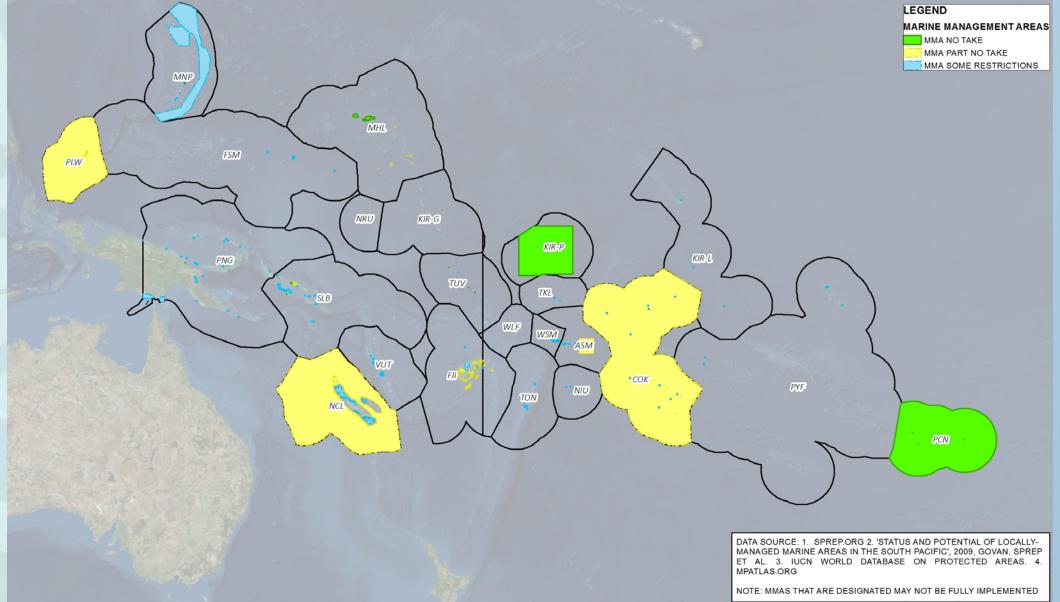




#### **Regional Policies and Frameworks**







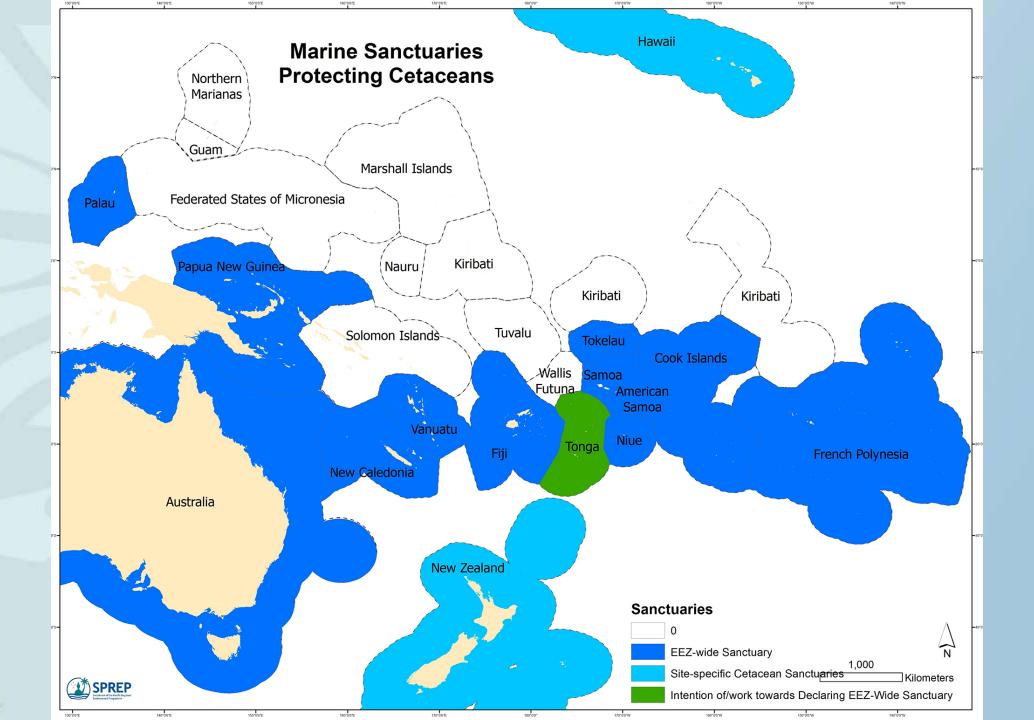


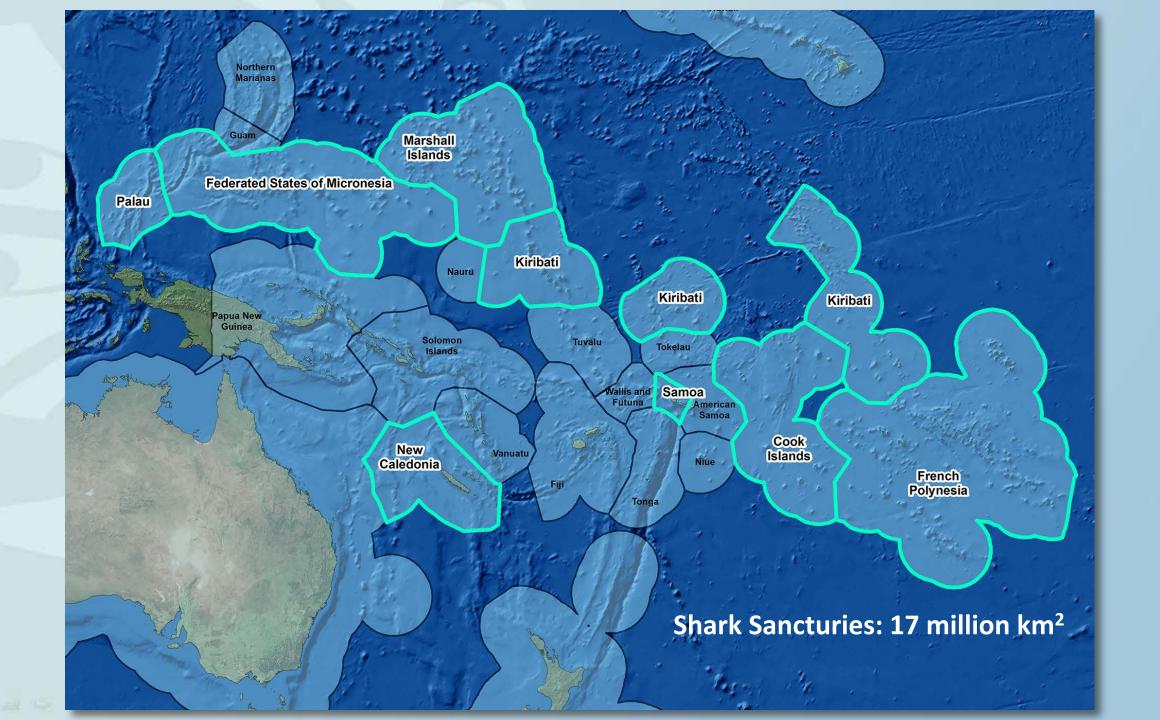
MMA % per EEZ Area (SPREP Member Only)	
Area	Km2
MMA Sept 2017 (SPREP member inc. Pitcairn)	6,091,419
EEZ Area (SPREP member inc. Pitcairn)	30,413,800
MMA % of total FEZs	20%



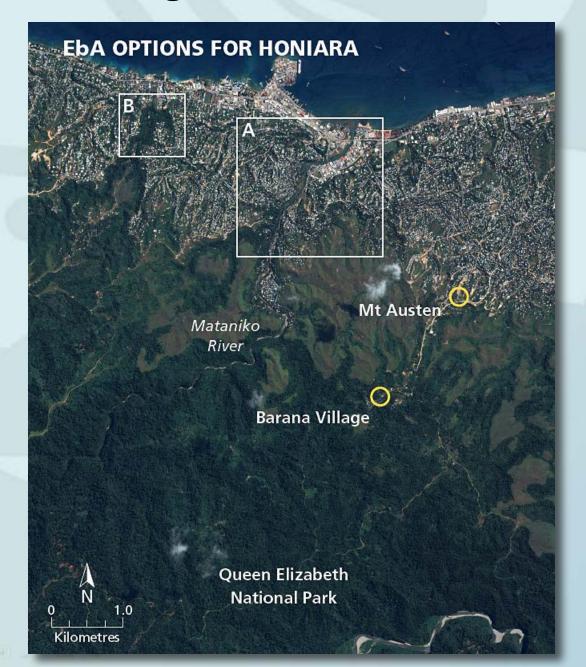
#### MARINE MANAGEMENT AREAS SPREP REGION SEPT 2017

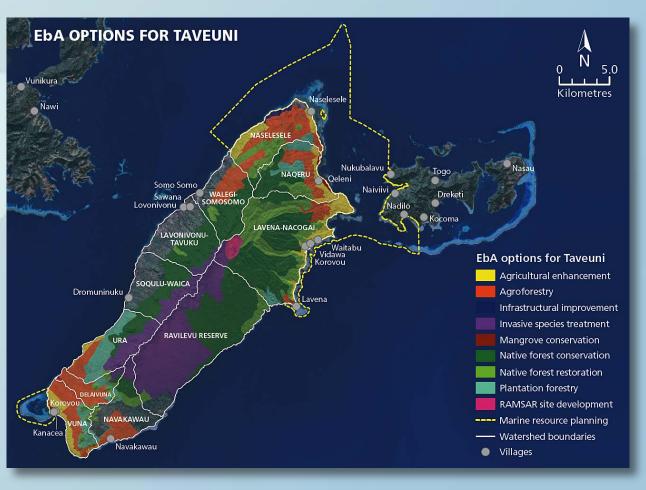
DATE: 07 Sep 2017 SCALE: 1:34,500,000
PROJECT: GENERAL AUTHOR: Ryan Wright
MAP:SPREP-EMG-2017-002\_MMAs\_SPREP\_Sept17.mxc





#### **Building Protected Areas into Climate Change Adaptation Responses**





#### **Working at Landscape Scale**



VATU-I-RA LAND/SEASCAPE



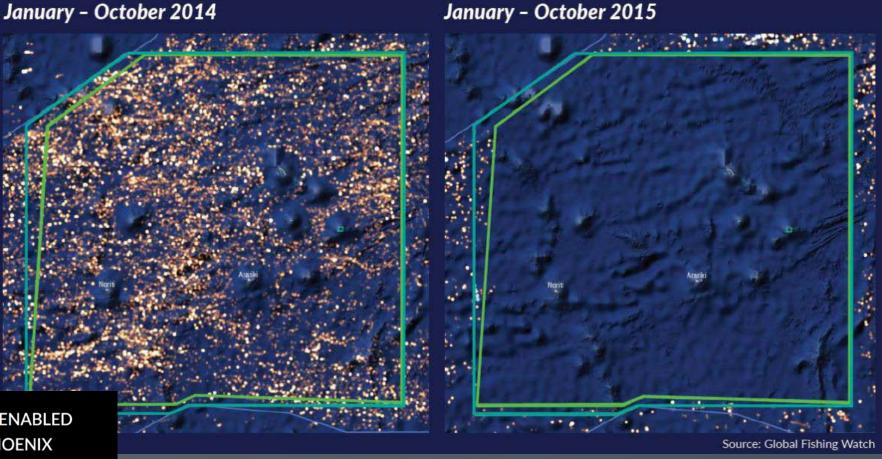


#### Working at Landscape Scale: Communities and Private Enterprise



#### Working with Partners to Monitor PAs

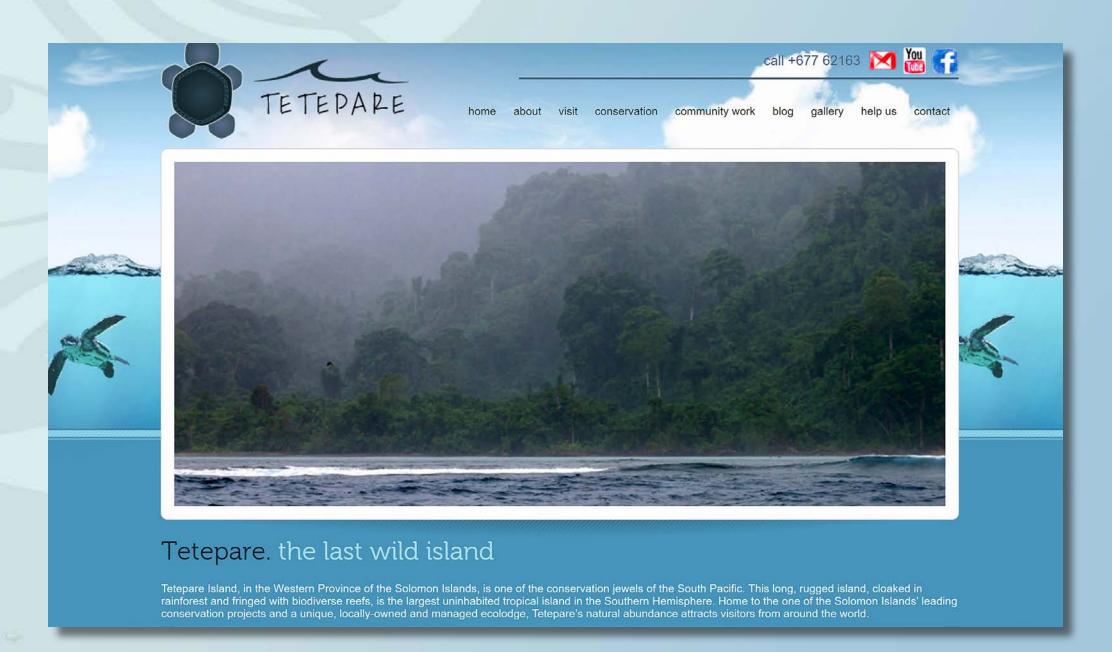






GLOBAL FISHING WATCH HAS ENABLED
OCEANA TO MONITOR THE PHOENIX
ISLANDS PROTECTED AREA (PIPA) AND
DOCUMENT A DRASTIC REDUCTION IN
OBSERVED FISHING ACTIVITY FOLLOWING
NEW REGULATIONS THAT ESTABLISHED IT
AS A NO-TAKE AREA

#### **Community initiatives**



#### Whole-of-country/landscape Approach



National policy implementation



Sub-national policy implementation



**Community engagement** 

Country-wide integrated planning

Whole-of-island integrated planning, ridge to reef approach, watershed management, etc

#### Concluding thoughts....

- Working with communities and governments connecting and supporting
- Working at scale
- Improving our knowledge base surveys, BIORAPs, SOCO, NBSAPs
- Monitor impact and progress or lack of it
- Address critical invasive species issues
- Strengthen planning and management capacity
- PA solutions that work in the Pacific context
- Secure sustainable financing
- Link PAs to other ongoing critical issues: climate change and resilience building













# Thank you















#### From Knowledge to Action for a Protected Planet









#### www.biopama.org

The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA) is an initiative of the ACP Group of States funded by the European Union's 11th European Development Fund.

