The Development of a
Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal

Thursday 28th November 2011
USP, Suva, Fiji

Vision and Target Users

Vision: To Provide a Doorway though which Pacific Islands Protected Area Practitioners can Share Expertise and Benefit from Resources

Target Users: Protected Area Managers (community-based and Government/NGO staff) from the SPREP PICTs

This includes all aspects of protected area implementation & management (e.g. monitoring, compliance, outreach etc.).

Relevant Policies to support a Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal

CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA)

Convention on Biological Diversity

- "Strengthen regional networks……and collaboration between neighbouring protected areas across national boundaries" (1.3)

- "Build capacity for the planning, establishment and management of protected areas" (3.2)

Pacific Oceanscape Framework

Pacific Oceanscape Vision:
A secure future for Pacific Island Countries and Territories based on sustainable development, management and conservation of our Ocean.

- "Facilitate processes that utilize existing knowledge …….and targeted capacity building for achieving policy and management" (4A)

- "Connecting People and Places for Sharing Learning and Action" (4C)

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Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal

- Web-based portal (housed on SPREP website)

- Links to & summaries of protected area networks and initiatives from all scales (e.g. GLISPA and WCPA networks; Micronesia Challenge, PIMPAC, LMMA etc.).

- Resources to be categorized logically & key resources to be annotated.

- Opportunities for social networking & advertisement of funding/training etc.

- News to be updated & a short monthly newsletter or similar to be considered.

- Needs assessment to determine content/format and usefulness or portal.

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Social networking

- The portal will provide a means of connecting Protected Area Practitioners across **all the Pacific Islands**

- Activities such as learning exchanges and training opportunities should be accessible to practitioners from all countries.

- Sustainable financing will facilitate the enhancement of social networking opportunities.

- Needs assessment to help determine appropriate methods.

![SPREP logo] Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

![CLEAN PACIFIC logo]
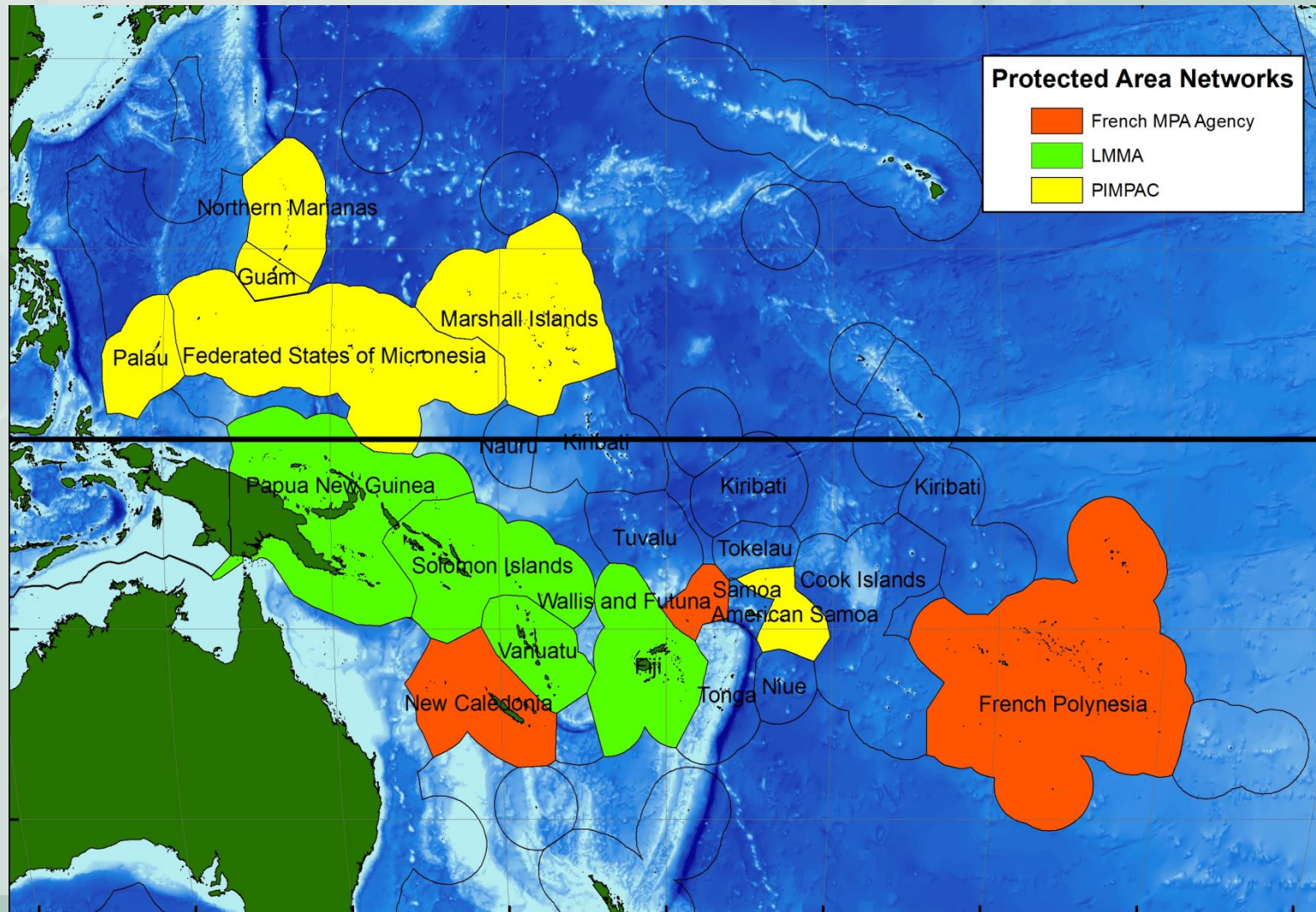
How to add value to existing networks?

- The Pacific already has several successful and highly effective **marine** protected area networks (e.g. LMMA and PIMPAC)

  - A portal for the entire region will enable the expertise and knowledge contained in these existing networks to be scaled up to all the PICTs.

  - This portal will also include information from global initiatives and will represent the full scale of networks (e.g. Global, regional, National and sub-national)

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Pacific Island coverage by key PA networks

Needs Assessment Survey

- Designed to find out whether target users are likely to use such a portal and where they normally go to access information and resources.

- Questions focus on categories of resources and social networking tools.

- Available online (and paper) and advertised at 9th Pacific Conference for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

SURVEY FOR PACIFIC ISLANDS PROTECTED AREA PORTAL (PIPAP)

1. Full Name (optional)

2. Email Address (optional)

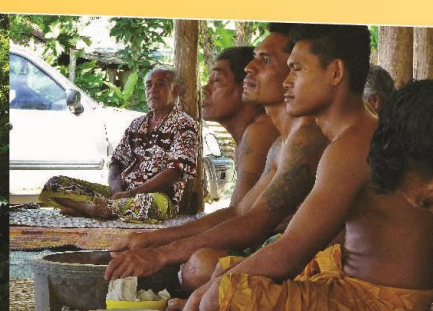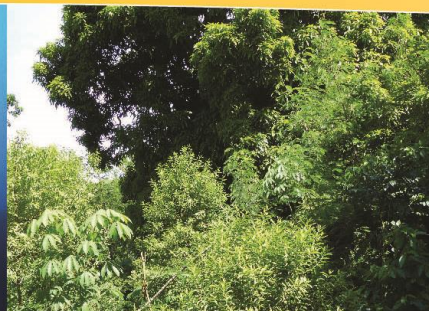3. Place of work (organisation or protected area and country)

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VVTFSP7

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Next steps

- Needs assessment to be advertised during 9th PI Nature Conference and emailed to Protected Area Practitioners in PICTs.

- Feedback from this workshop and the needs assessment survey will be used to refine the portal.

- Sustainable financing options to be explored (Capacity Building component of projects such as BIOPAMA?).

- Consultant (Lucy Jacob) to continue populating website with resources/networks and establishing links throughout Pacific Islands.

- Establish a Steering Committee?

Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal

Thank you for your time

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VVTFSP7

Contact: Lucy Jacob or Tim Carruthers at pacificprotectedareas@sprep.org for more information.

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Summary of the Benefits

➢ **Facilitate knowledge exchange among Protected Area Practitioners in the Pacific Islands.**

➢ **One portal through which to access a wealth of existing information with summaries of most useful tools and resources.**

➢ **Build capacity to plan, implement and manage marine and TERRESTRIAL protected areas in the region.**

➢ **Create links between existing networks in the region to maximize the value from regional successes.**

➢ **Provide a forum for communication and advertisement of opportunities.**

➢ **Achieve multiple objectives within international and regional targets.**

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Discussion Topics

1. How to best design the portal to add value to existing networks and provide maximum benefit to the end-users.

2. Is a definition of protected areas needed for the portal or can we leave it open to be inclusive?

3. Recommendations for the portal name and acronym.

4. Provide recommendations for a steering committee to guide decision making related to the portal.

5. Resources and networks to be included/excluded from the portal.

6. Sustainable financing.