

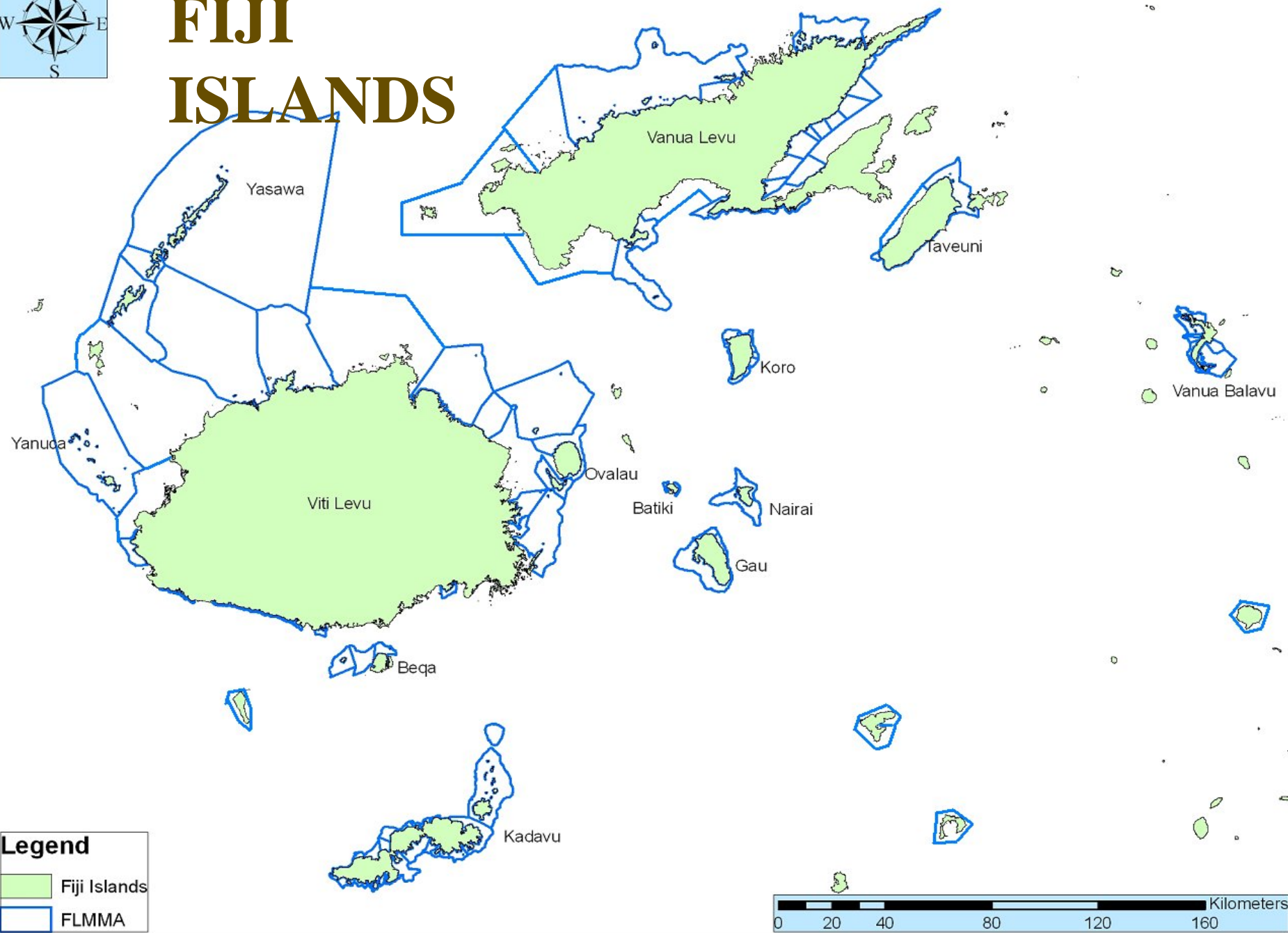
# Traditional Knowledge Management in Marine Conservation

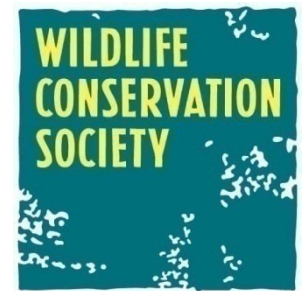
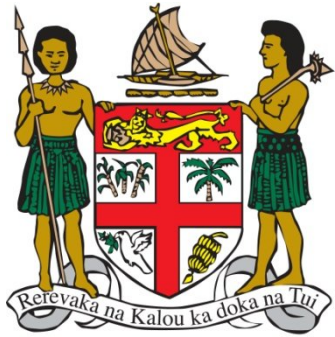






# FIJI ISLANDS





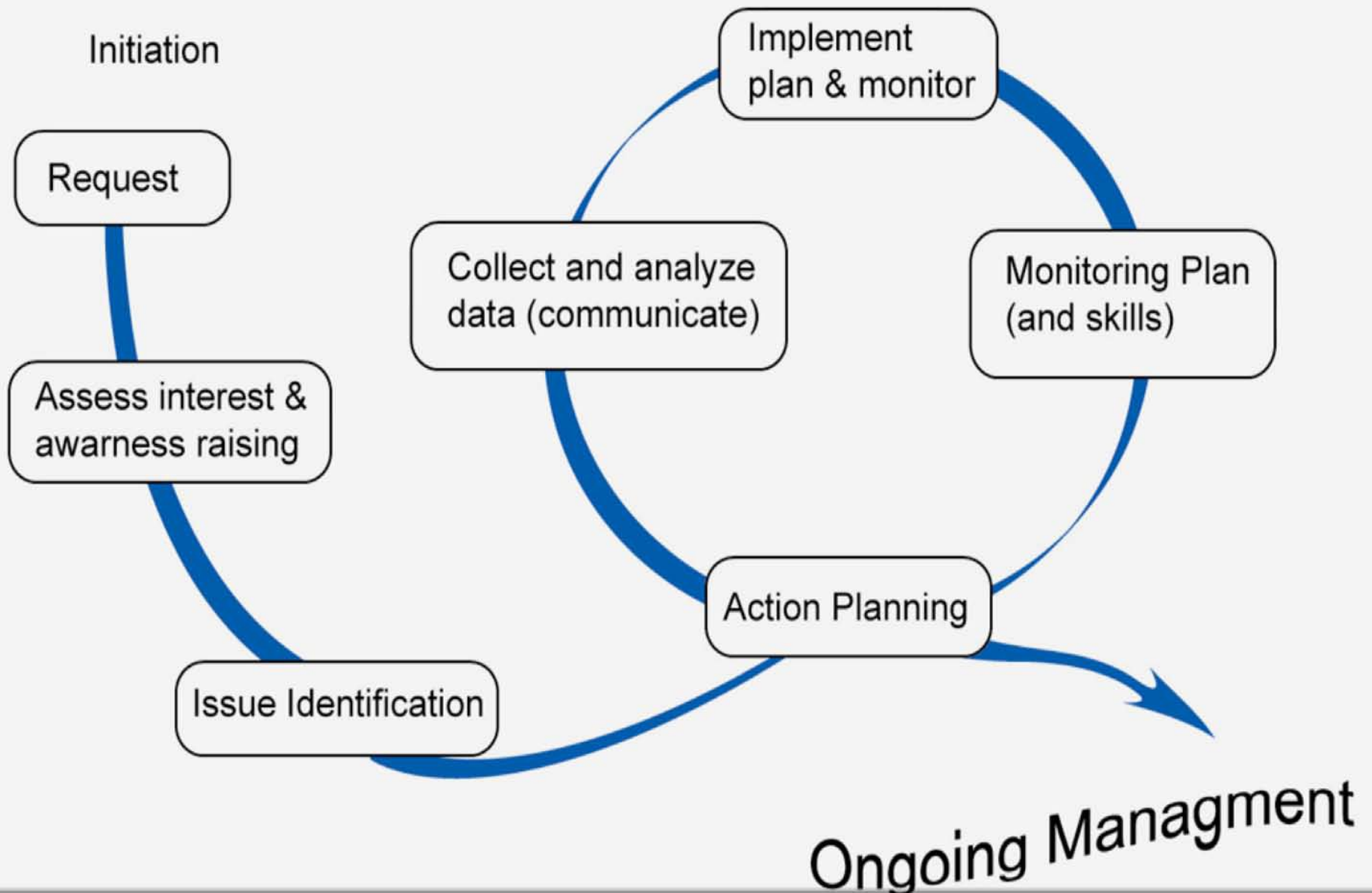
RESORT  
support



U.S. Peace Corp  
South Pacific Projects  
Coral Reef Alliance  
Fiji National University



# Adaptive Learning at site Level







Collect data –community monitoring



Analyze data and information



Present results



Socialize information

# Traditional knowledge and Culture

- Founded in our village & our home
- Fishing ground ownership, legends, folklore, tales and history
- allied to our spiritual believes and values
- connected to our natural resources (tree, fish, birds, turtle fishing rules, gods)
- Social groups function, role and skill (chief, fishermen, builder, men and women, generations)
- Special knowledge of the *vanua* (land and sea) and its resources (seasonal calendar, prediction potential etc)
- Tabu processes (location, timeline, reasons)





House arrangement



## Community workshop





---

# Fiji Today

- Strengthening sustainable resource management and use
  - Onus on resource owners to lead resource management
  - Traditional and local knowledge are to be fully tapped
  - Effective participation of community and resource owners
  - Changes are considered and adapting
  - traditional cultural values allow for the effective implementation of management decisions
-

Fishing in  
Fiji

Hand-throwing spear

Hand-throwing spear

Hand-throwing spear

Hand-throwing spear

Hand-throwing spear

Hand-throwing spear

Hand-throwing spear









Abundant catches during spawning aggregation



# Traditional Ceremonial Menu







Harvested beche-de-mer



---

# Traditional resource use means

- Community interdependent and sharing is priority in doing things
  - The people are connected
  - Decision making is simple
  - Spiritual believe plays a major role
  - Can prohibit things
  - Good understanding of their natural assets
-





---

# Traditional Knowledge significance

- Importance of indigenous knowledge to the sustainability of life and settlements on the islands. Nunn (2007) stressed TK allowed the people to quickly recover from disasters and are more resilient
  - TK adds in more value when methods of resource management determined by local people are applied to ensure the sustainable use of environmental resources
  - Tabu (tool widely used in FLMMA) do not assume homogenous effect to villagers but depends on site context
-





Polluted coastlines



---

# Traditional Knowledge challenges

- Many issues relating to the use of environmental resources are new to local communities hence logical to receive advice and assistance from outside the communities
  - TK & close social relations lost in international and national resource management initiatives, are strengths to be emphasized in resource management
  - People live with the dilemma of choosing between incomes from immediate and unsustainable use of resources and the more remote future benefits of conservation activities
-







---

# TK and practice Challenges

- Increased population
  - Improved technology & fishing is unlimited
  - Good catches
  - Traditions weakening
  - Lack of compliance
-



---

# Cntd!

- Destructive methods
  - Uncontrolled villagers
  - Poaching
  - Ploying tactics and dirty dealings with villagers
  - Traditional knowledge vs emerging changes
  - Documentation of the visible & invisible learning and appropriate adaptive strategies to be incorporated into action plans
-





Pigs roaming in protected areas



---

# Highlights

- Resource management is a success
  - Traditional knowledge is utilized
  - Resource management varies across sites
  - Traditional social support
  - People are deciding what works for them
  - Increase demands to open tabu
  - Sense of tabu belonging to everyone
  - Site representation is not working
-



---

# Improvements to resource management

- Future of inshore resources depend on support in conservation
  - Outside input incorporated to ensure local communities learn and benefit from the experiences of others and not to be left to learn only from their own first-hand experiences
  - Govt - community integration and support
    - National sustainable development policies to enhance community based work
    - Regulations to respect traditional rules and bylaws
    - Legislative support
  - Participation and inclusiveness
-



---

# Improvements to resource management

- Strengthening leadership and management at all levels from village, district and province
  - Resource conflict management methods and skills
  - Integrate resource management to improving community livelihood
  - *Tabu* enforcement not communities role (state is the owner)
  - Prolonged investment in resource management
-



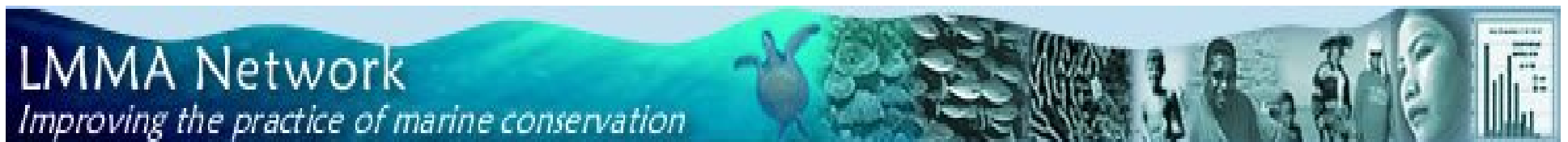
---

# *Vinaka Vakalevu*

Semisi Meo ([meo\\_s@usp.ac.fj](mailto:meo_s@usp.ac.fj))

*For more information...*

*Please visit: [www.LMMAnetwork.org](http://www.LMMAnetwork.org)*





---

# Acknowledgement

- CIMMAS Cultural Impact Assessment in FLMMA
  - Dr Joeli Veitayaki & Alifereti Tawake
  - Packard Foundation
  - 217 FLMMA Communities
  - 17 FLMMA partners
  - ICRI
-