Challenges for protected areas and other conserved areas – **critical and emerging issues snapshot** (from various sources)

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Some over-arching challenges …

- Ambitious biodiversity commitments vs low governance capacity vs vulnerable environments vs economic development priorities
- Sustainable livelihoods does not sit neatly with global PA definitions and categories
- Low political / public support, will, enthusiasm, awareness of PA benefits
- National governments under-investing in staff, recurrent budgets, management, monitoring, enforcement
- Limited follow through on policy and legislative instruments
- Limited (findable, accessible, comprehensible) data and information
- Huge need to have in place the right capacities
- Effective action requires serious and sustainable financing mechanisms

and some more over-arching challenges …

- Communities customarily own most of the land – as lynchpins in natural resource management they need recognition, support and appropriate legal frameworks
- Need for large scale conservation systems - integrated island management – supportive national planning frameworks
- Countless forums, processes, meetings, systems, workshops, discussions, reports, plans and well meaning initiatives, yet biodiversity decline prevails and underlying drivers continue without being tackled
- Insufficient attention to consistent monitoring and understanding management effectiveness (which is likely to be low)
- Bright spots yes,, but overwhelmed by the enormity of the pervasive issues

PIRT frame of reference

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Convention on Biological Diversity

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

PICTS are enthusiastic signatories

By 2020 :
<u>at least</u>

17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water

10 per cent of coastal and marine areas

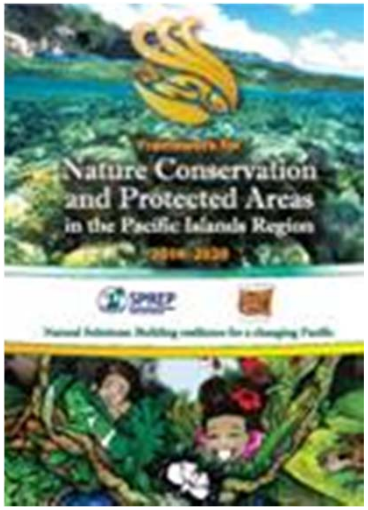
especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services

are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems

of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures

and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes

**** <u>interim</u> target only - to halt biodiversity loss - much better is required in reality ** and obviously closely coupled with other Aichi targets**



<u>Objective 3</u>
Identify, conserve, sustainably manage and restore priority sites, habitats and ecosystems including cultural sites

The numbers …

17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water
10 per cent of coastal and marine areas

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- WDPA figures -5% terrestrial , 2% territorial waters (region)
- Countries report higher % figures – a national/global reporting disconnect
- Some countries have higher targets (MC), some target the reality
- Nature conservation must be the principal outcome to count as a PA
- High % of customarily owned land - can deliver conservation outcomes, but not reported
- Big MPA commitments



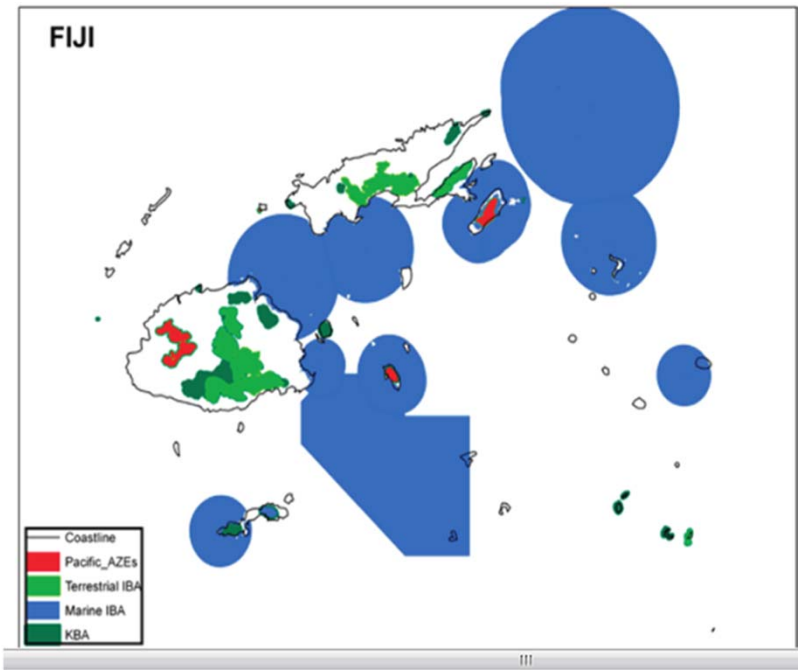
Connecting the best places …

areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services
ecologically representative and well-connected systems
integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes

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(regionally) low to modest overlap between sites established as Protected Areas and identified priority sites for protection -

- Important Bird Areas IBA
- Key Biodiversity Areas KBA
- Ecologically and Biologically Significant marine areas EBSA
- Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites AZE
- Threatened species sites



The quality components of Aichi Target 11 are more important than the percentage area

Requires science + a good planning picture (egs, PAC, MACBIO, BioRAPS) + multi stakeholder/partner dialogue + national policy

Effective ? …

effectively and equitably managed

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How do we know ?

- NBSAPs are the monitoring tool but most have no measureable targets and indicators
- Progress reports are incomplete for most countries
- Minimal work/progress has been made to achieve goal & targets

  GOAL 1: Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats, biomes

  1.1 At least 10% of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved

  1.2 Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected

- NBSAP revisions provide opportunity to improve

- Regional protected areas "human" networks - important role in data sharing as well as in capacity building.
- Evidence-based management systems still uncommon
- Site-level data are rarely collected and made available
- Prioritise management of what's in place already

PAs in a Pacific context …

protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures

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- Government designated & managed PAs may be at max. (some big MPA exceptions)
- Reaching conservation goals must recognize, support and enable diverse types of protected areas governance
- Protected area establishment, and its documentation, must broaden from public protected areas to also include private, community, and local governance
- Limited counting of, and recognition for, OECMs – they need to be well defined (IUCN taskforce)
- Will require a shandy of participatory and co-management arrangements





Promise from Sydney …

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