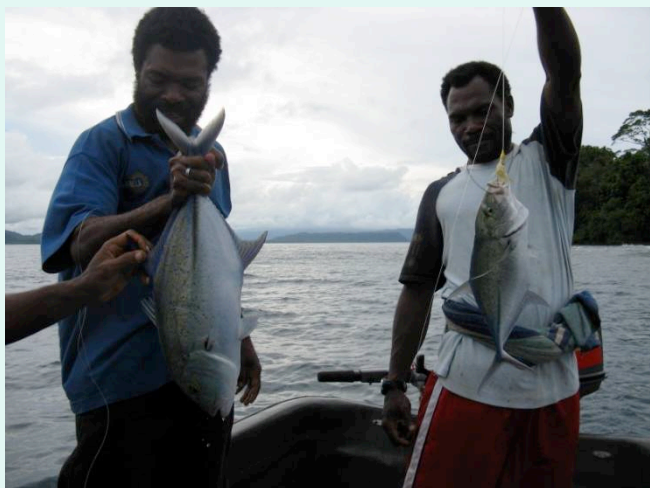


Empowering local communities: a key to biodiversity conservation and environmental protection in coastal communities in Melanesia



Dr. Jane Mogina
Executive Director
PNG Mama Graun Conservation Trust Fund

Coastal communities are dependent on their environment



- Food and food security
- Livelihoods
- Cash income
- Cultural activities
- Spirituality

Threats to coastal environment



- Rapid increase rural populations leading to habitat destruction and increased subsistence exploitation of resources
- Pollution from terrestrial based development , logging, mining, urban development
- Unsustainable exploitation of marine resources
- Climate Change





Can this woman continue to fish for her family in a busy shipping lane??



Challenges to minimise threats

- **Regulatory and Policy:** global, regional and national, community levels
- **Coordination of effort:** between different policy and regulatory levels and across jurisdictions
- **Mobilisation of resources:** financial, human and natural
- Capacity to respond to needs

Case study: Mama Graun Conservation Trust

Grant Programme in Papua New Guinea

What is PNG Mama Graun Conservation Trust Fund?



Established under PNG laws as a Charitable Trust Corporation

Mission:

Support biodiversity conservation and related sustainable development initiatives for the future of PNG (Melanesia) and the World.

Overarching Goal:

Provide community resource owners and managers in Protected Areas with a long-term source of funding to support biodiversity conservation and related sustainable development



Mama Graun's Focus on Protected Areas

Status of Protected Areas in Papua New Guinea

- PAs cover only a tiny area of PNG's land and even less for water
- No resources from government are allocated to individual PAs
- Logging and mining concessions are being declared on top of protected areas
- No clear processes for establishing or managing PAs
- New PA gazettals are taking far too long
- There is little public awareness of the value of PAs
- PNG has made a commitment in NBSAP to increase its PA coverage to 10% by 2010

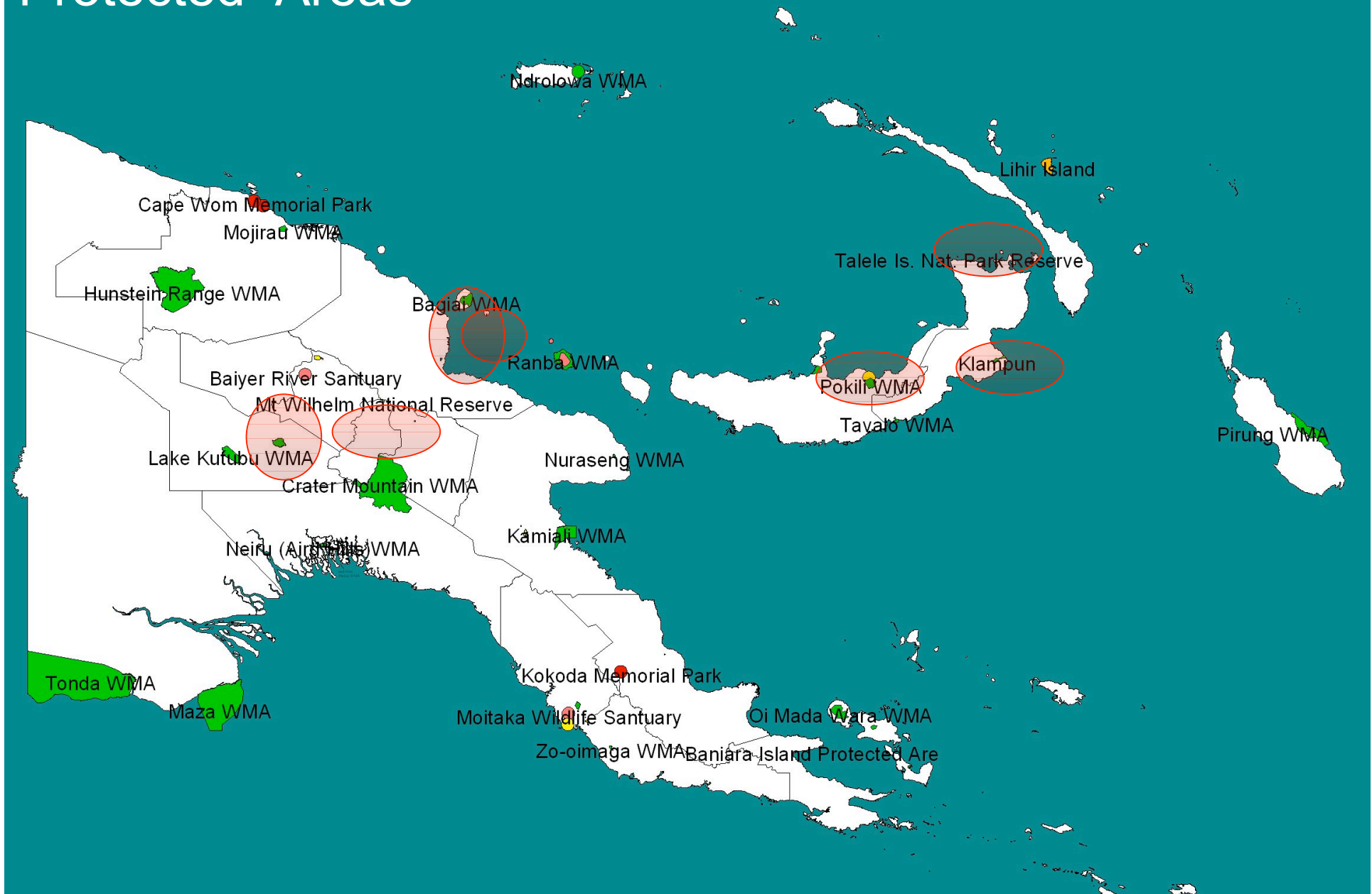
Protected areas are valued by many landowners

- **Some Protected Area communities still actively manage their protected areas despite limited or no support**
- **There are a range of motivations for maintaining protected areas** - delineating clan lands, improving community prestige, drawing tourists, sustainably harvesting resources, protecting spiritual sites, water catchment areas.
- **Regular visitation often strengthens interest in conservation (Mt Wilhelm, Kokoda Track, Madang Lagoon)**

Criteria for Selection of Priority Protected Areas

- Important Biodiversity Values- Landscape, endemic/threatened species and ecosystems
- Community readiness to enter into conservation activities- existence of management, subsistence livelihood activities
- Size of protected area- small (12 ha) to medium (10 000 Ha)
- Strategic positioning to wider coverage in future- organisational support, larger geographical areas

Mama Graun's Grant Programme: Selection of Priority Protected Areas



Granting Process



- Identify priority thematic areas
- Call for expression of Interest
- Evaluation by Grant Technical Committee
- Successful Expressions of Interest invited to submit full proposal
- Evaluation by grant technical committee
- Enter into Contract
- Monitoring and Reporting

Granting Process- cont

- Assistance provide to communities and community based organizations to write proposals- **Consultant**
- Who is eligible?: Community based organisations, local level government, government institutions, Local NGO, business organisations – **linked to a specific protected area**
- Identification of thematic areas for projects assist communities to organise themselves systematically – **establishment of management committees, development of management plans, education awareness etc**

What is Mama Graun achieving through its grant program?

- Rejuvenating and consolidating existing government gazetted Protected areas
- Capacity building at community and local level so that communities have the ability to access funds
- Develop credibility to expand our geographical coverage
- Establish models of best practice
- Developing a systematic process for rejuvenation, consolidation and expansion of Protected areas in PNG
- Creating important partnerships between Protected Area communities and neighbouring communities, national institutions, NGO and different levels of government

Next Steps - Expanding Marine Protected Area Coverage.

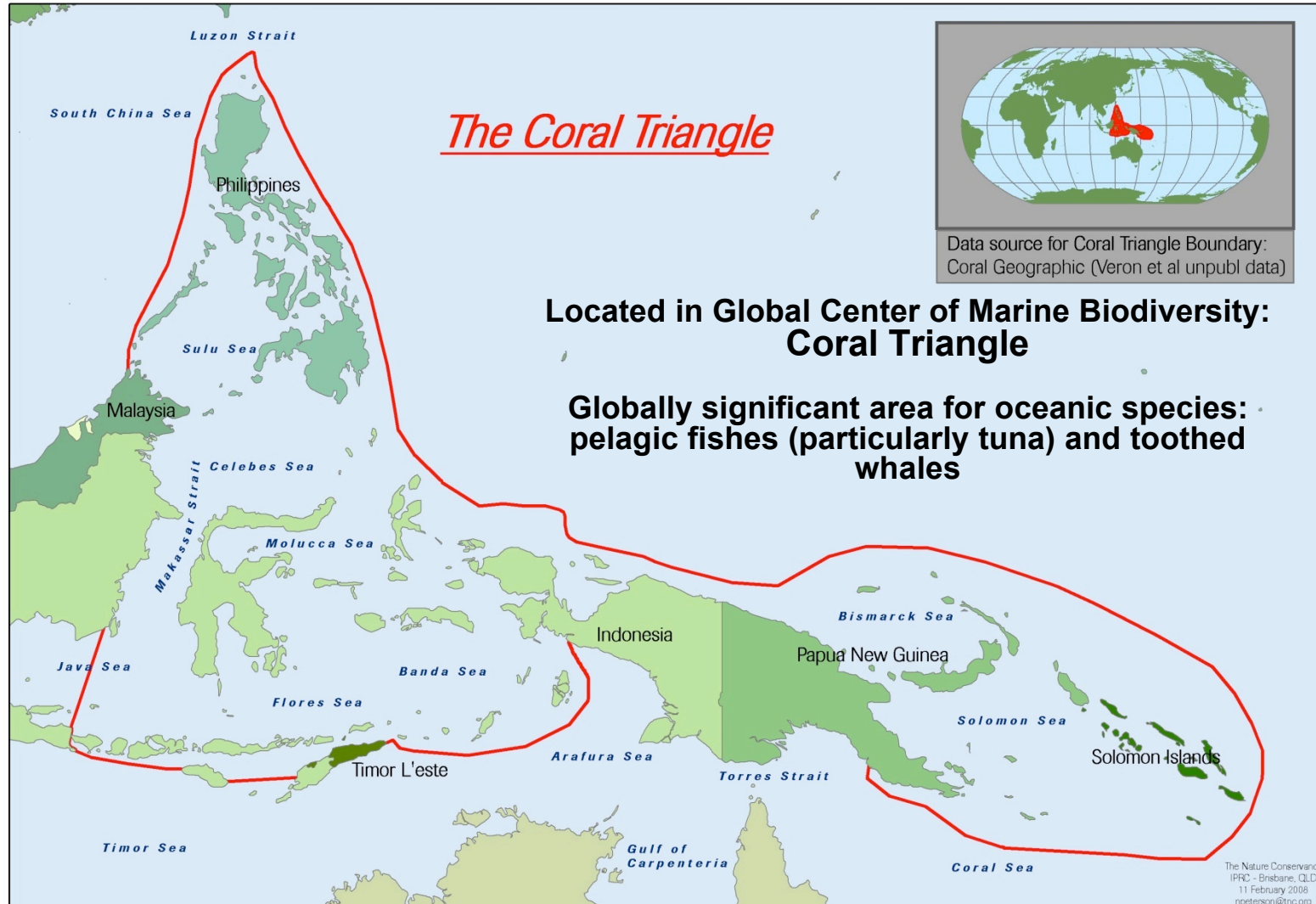
Main Focus

Bismarck Sea
Milne Bay

High diversity of
coral and fish
Environmental
awareness
Potential tourism



The Coral Triangle Initiative



Mama Graun's role in Coral Triangle

- Financial mechanism for disbursement of Funds to communities in the Melanesian CTI countries – Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, and Solomon Islands (Vanuatu and Fiji)
- Provide technical support to build sustainable funding in each country – sustainable funding is not just about \$\$\$\$

Pathway to expanding grants programme

- Attract More funds to Increased level of grants
- Increased level of support for communities to access, implement, monitor and report on grants
- Increase promulgation of good practice standards, transparency & accountability
- Duplicate PNG success in other Melanesian Countries

Future for Mama Graun



- Growing our endowment for long term sustainable funding
- Explore alternative methods of facilitating benefits to flow into communities who manage their land for conservation purposes
- Assist Melanesian governments achieve its conservation goals

Concluding Remarks

Mama Graun's long term commitment is a new and exciting venture because:

- it provides opportunities for people in PAs to take action for conservation that was not there before.
- it strengthens peoples commitment to conservation
- funding to communities empowers them to take control development in their communities



Thank you