

OUR HERITAGE IN TRUST



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Director

Here We Are

- ▣ There is no dedicated legislation specifically for protected areas in Fiji.
- ▣ > 26 different legislative descriptions mandating 15 government authorities - protection of the environment and natural resources
- ▣ Complex mix of conservation & heritage areas - different mechanisms, different values and different levels of legal status or protection.

NTF ACT 1970

- ▣ Promote permanent preservation of lands (including reefs), buildings & objects of national historic, architectural or natural interest
- ▣ Protect & augment the amenities of any such land or buildings & their surroundings & to preserve their natural aspects & features
- ▣ Protect plant & animal life
- ▣ Provide for the enjoyment by the public of such lands, buildings & chattels.



Heritage – A Global Identity

- ▣ The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Convention (World Heritage Convention)
- ▣ identification, presentation and transmission to future generations of cultural and natural heritage of OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE.



States Parties

- ▣ 14 Pacific Island States Parties
- ▣ Cook Islands, Tonga, Marshall Islands, FSM, Palau, Vanuatu, Samoa, Niue, Kiribati, PNG,
- ▣ SI, Fiji, Australia and NZ
- ▣ Nauru, Timor Leste, Tokelau & Tuvalu are yet to ratify the convention

Nomination Process

1

- TENTATIVE LIST

2

- NOMINATION DOSSIER

3

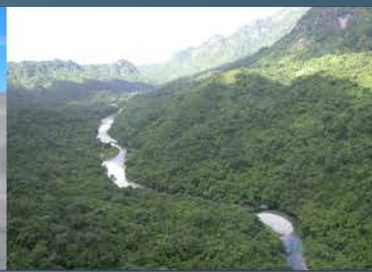
- ADVISORY BODIES

4

- WORLD HERITAGE COMTEE

World Heritage in Danger

- When a property is faced with threats which could have negative effects on its World Heritage values. Under the 1972 *World Heritage Convention*, the World Heritage Committee can inscribe on the List of World Heritage in Danger properties whose protection requires 'major operations (...) and for which assistance has been requested'.
- The World Heritage site of East Rennell has been inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger due to logging that is affecting the ecosystem of the Solomon Islands' World Heritage site. June 18 2013



World Heritage Sites in the Pacific

Criterion (v)

Be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change

Chief Roi Mata's Domain – Vanuatu



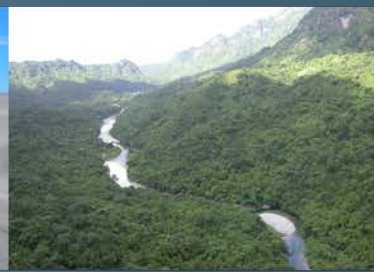
Criterion (II) Exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design

Criterion (iv) Be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates a significant stage in human history

Criterion (vi) be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal value

Levuka Historical Port Town, Fiji (ii & iv)

Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands (iv & vi)







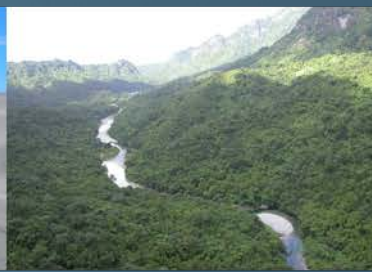
KATUDRAU

AMBALAL & CO

FOOTWEAR

Criterion (ix) Be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, and communities of plants and animals

East Rennell, Solomon Islands



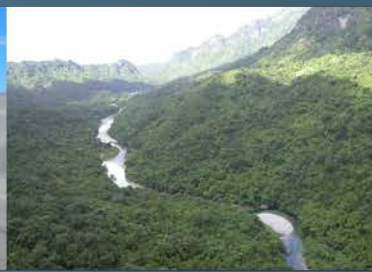
Criterion (vii) Contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance

Phoenix Islands Protected Area, Kiribati



Vision for 2015

We share a dream that our Pacific Islands heritage is protected and enriched for future generations.



Outcome of Periodic Reporting

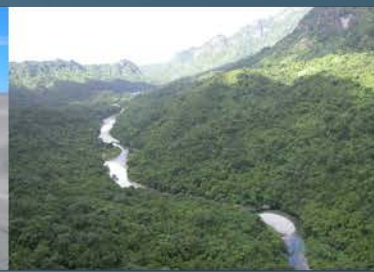
- ▣ 5 main factors affecting properties:
 - ▣ Invasive alien species
 - ▣ Climate change & severe weather events
 - ▣ Service infrastructure
 - ▣ Loss of social and cultural use of heritage
 - ▣ Transport infrastructure

- ▣ 5 training priorities:
 - ▣ Conservation
 - ▣ Education
 - ▣ Risk preparedness
 - ▣ Visitor management
 - ▣ Community outreach



Challenges

- Institutional capacity, legal mechanisms, human & financial resources, and inventories
- Climate change
- Environment & development assessments



Challenges

Management Plans

- ▣ Affected by national/political events
- ▣ Adherence/Compliance to MPs at all levels – community, local, national
- ▣ Implementation of MPs – level of understanding & engagement
- ▣ Pressures of development

Heritage Tourism Plans/Assessments/Needs

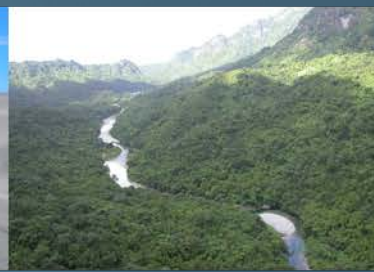
Sharing information with communities – tiered approaches



Challenges

Human Resources

- ▣ Staffing – number of in-country staff
- ▣ Capacity & training - do we have the capacity to absorb grants? Non-performance/delivery, slow progress
- ▣ Capacity for appropriate studies/feasibility/research/

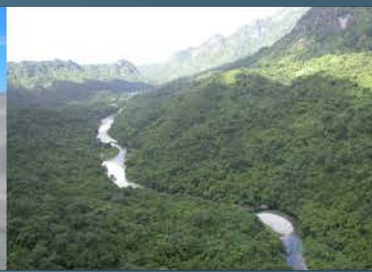


Opportunities/Recommendations

Capacity Building

- ▣ Implementation of the capacity building strategy
- ▣ Specific regional training initiatives
- ▣ Report progress against this strategy

Working with other Conventions for Nature & Culture & SIDs



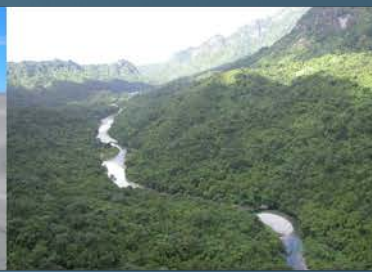
Opportunities/Recommendations

Assisting with National Inventories

- ▣ Identification, Statements of significance, Recording
- ▣ Database software/ Potential for regional database and information sharing

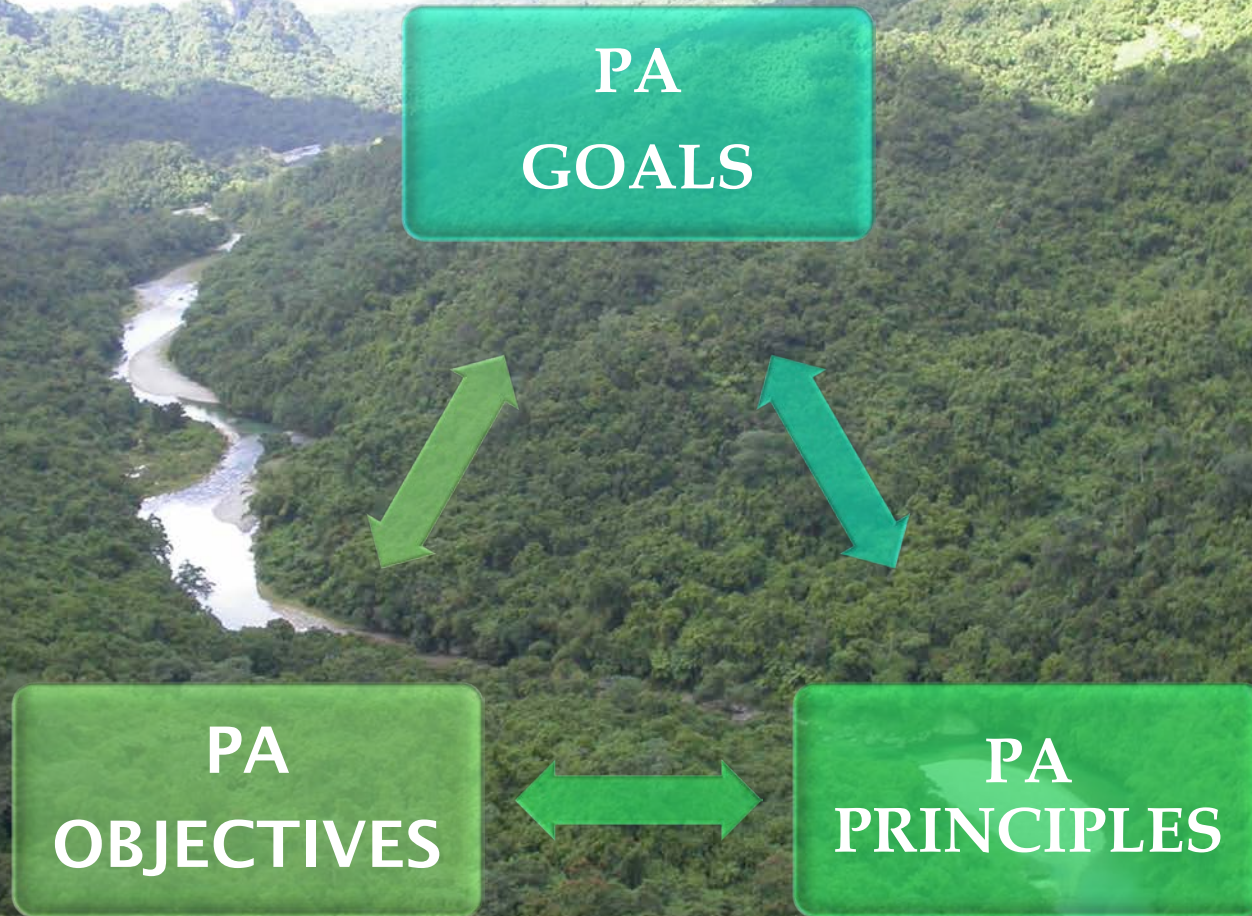
Linking with land use/marine use planning as tools for heritage planning, GIS spatial planning

Awareness – a regional plan?



SOVI BASIN PROTECTED AREA (SBPA)

“The protection of the SBPA for future generations”



Sovi Basin Protected Area

- Most biologically diverse terrestrial ecosystem in the entire **Polynesia/Micronesia Hotspot**
- Key historical and community significance
- UNESCO World Heritage Declaration - on the tentative World Heritage List



Pink-billed parrotfinch

Sovi Basin Protected Area



Fiji ground frog

- National Priority Key Biodiversity Area (Fiji NBSAP)
- Fiji's Largest terrestrial conservation area... (99.9% of Fiji's endemic biodiversity is found in our forest)
- Fiji's largest surveyed & registered land under lease with TLTB



Long legged warbler



Flora of Sovi Basin

- 660 plant species.
- 46% endemic.
- 29 species rare or endangered.



Degenaria vitiensis



Physokentia petiolatus



Schefflera euthytricha

Avifauna of Sovi Basin

- 34 species
- 43% endemic
- 3 species endemic to the main island
- 5 species threatened



Freshwater prawns & fish

- 12 species of freshwater fish.
- 2 endemic.
- 11 native.
- 1 introduced.
- 6 species of freshwater prawns.





SKINK
S



FRUIT
BAT



TREE
FROG



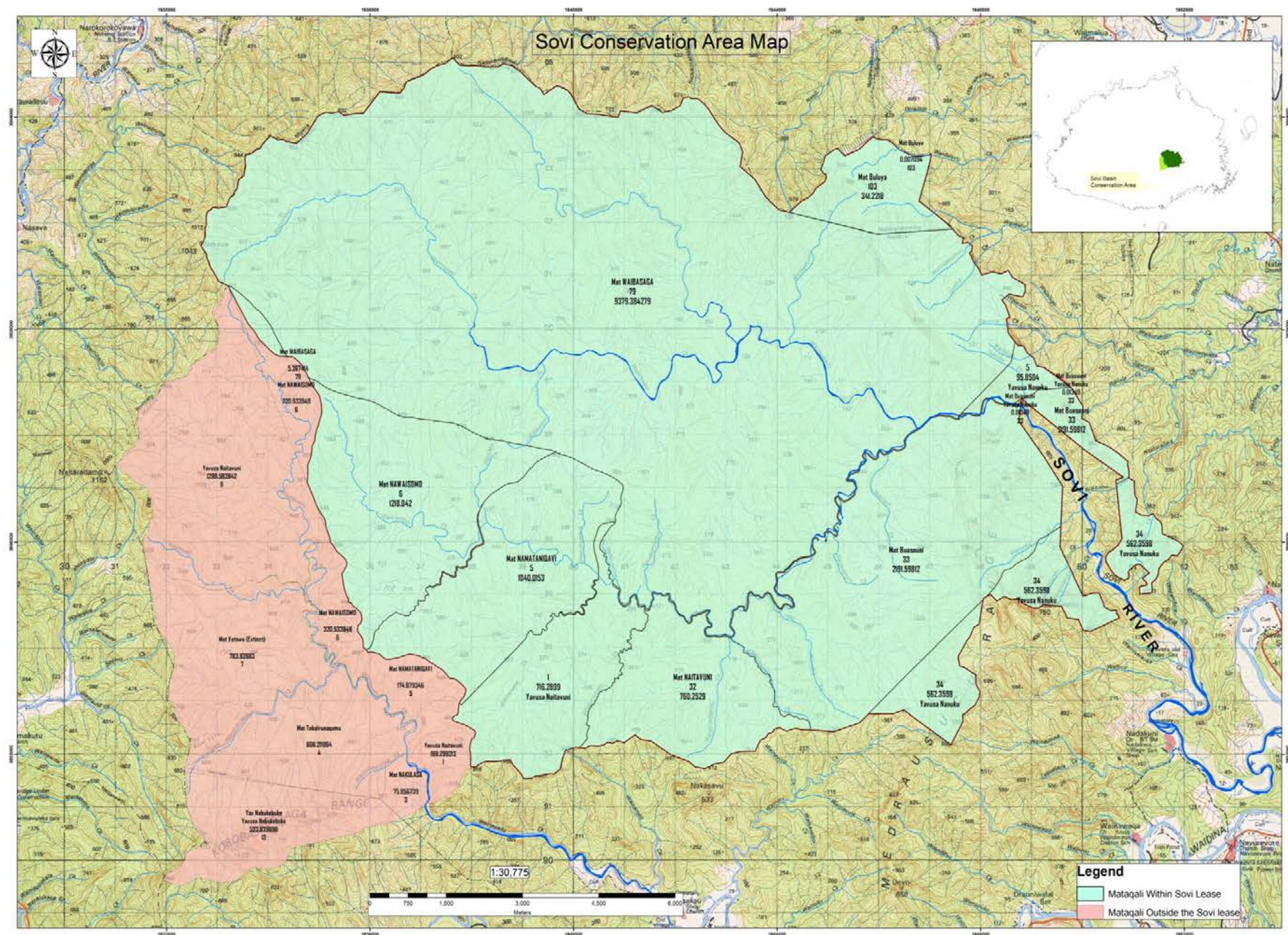
BLOSSOM
BAT

Herpetofauna

- 3 species of skinks.
- 1 species of gecko.
- Tree frog.
- Cane toad.
- Pacific Boa

Mammals

- 2 fruit bats.
- 1 species of gecko.
- 1 blossom bat.
- Wild pig



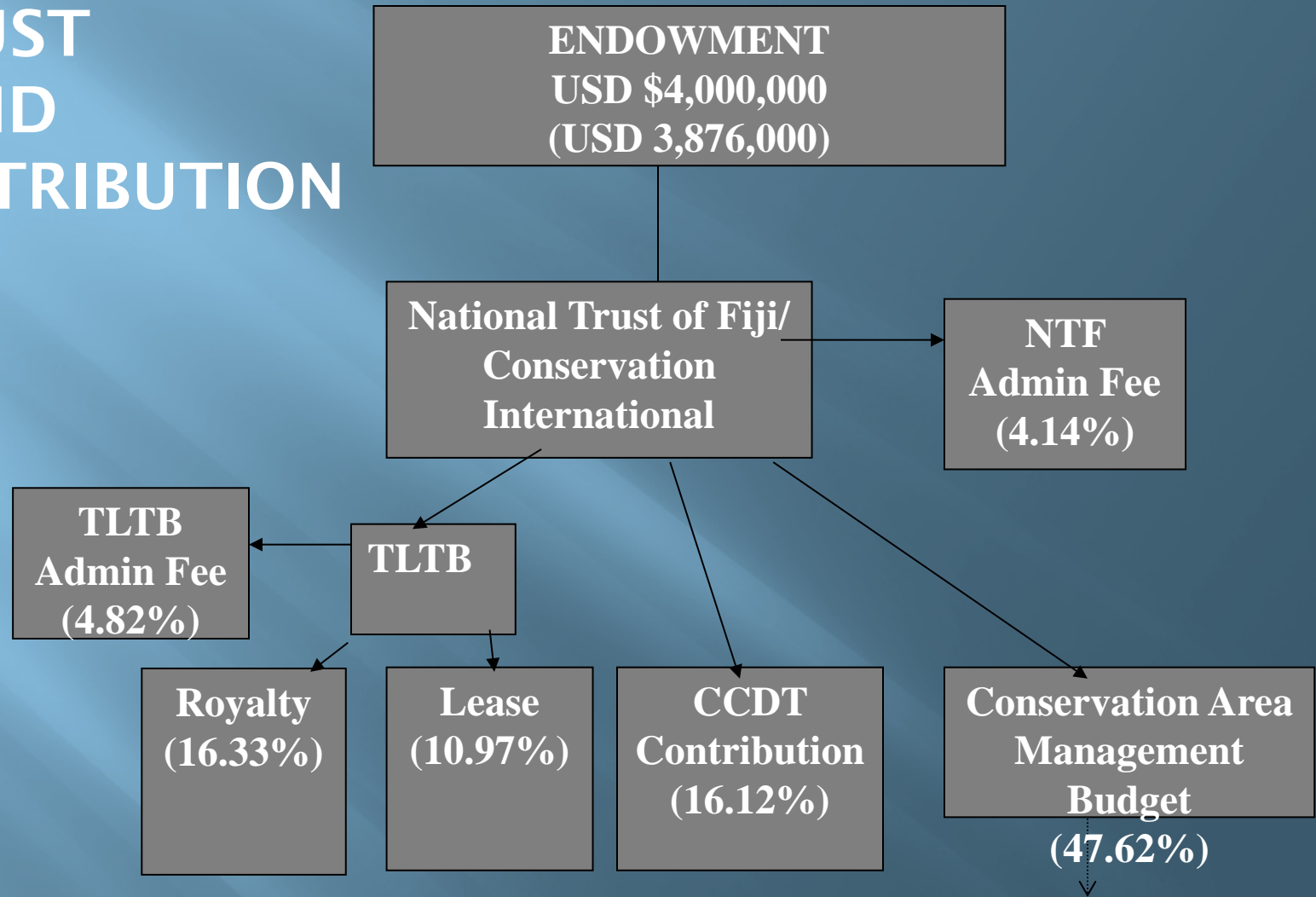
Lease and Royalties

Lease based on UCV – countrywide assessment

Royalty based on standing timber assessment by FD

- Paid through TLTB
- Reviewed every 5 years with max. increase of 5%

TRUST FUND DISTRIBUTION



Out of the total amount, at least 61% goes to communities.

Of this budget, a large % goes to communities through ranger salaries, education programs, etc.

Guiding Principles

In implementing the SBPA Management Plan, the following principles are adopted:

1. **Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem functions is to be the highest management priority.**

This statement reflects the original designation of the SBPA and its status as one of Fiji's most important natural heritage assets.

2. **Landowners are equitable beneficiaries of the designation of the site and any management interventions.**

The intent here is to ensure that the landowners are effective co-management partners and equitable beneficiaries of the SBPA.

3. **Management discussion and decision-making is to be transparent and accountable.**

This is to ensure that decision-making considers the multi-stakeholder aspirations in particular, the landowners. Central to this Management Plan is the establishment of a Co-management Framework for this purpose.

4. **Capacity building at both national and local levels.**

This is a commitment to capacity building in the area of scientific and technical expertise as well as in other areas that may be identified by the landowners.

5. **Access is subject to feasibility.**

This is a commitment to ensure that visitors to the SBPA have access, provided it does not negatively impact the integrity of the SBPA.

POLICIES

- ▣ Co-Management Framework
- ▣ Customary Rights
- ▣ PA Legislation
- ▣ Zoning
- ▣ Boundary Marking
- ▣ Training
- ▣ Tourism
- ▣ Invasive Species
- ▣ Threatened Species
- ▣ M & E
- ▣ EIA
- ▣ Infrastructure Dev.
- ▣ Mining & Quarrying
- ▣ Research

Infrastructure

1. Infrastructure development (roads, buildings etc.) within, or adjacent to the SBPA, will be permitted only if rigorous environmental impact assessment reveals that the impacts can be minimised to acceptable levels.
2. All infrastructures permitted for SBPA development will be the property of the NTF but may be sub-leased subject to compliance with the lease with ITLTB.
3. No third-party infrastructure should be constructed in the SBPA. This includes amongst others: roads, hydro development, transmission lines and telecommunications.
4. Any proposals to construct third-party infrastructure in the SBPA will be subjected to rigorous environmental impact assessment at the planning stage, and if approved will be subjected to appropriate conditions to minimise impacts on conservation values.

Mining

- ▣ Mining and quarrying activities, including surveying or new prospecting, are not permitted within the SPBA

Monitoring & Evaluation

- ▣ **Monitoring Systems:**
 - **State Indicators**
 - ▣ Forest quality & Health
 - ▣ Species Indicators
 - ▣ Forest Cover
 - **Pressure Indicators**
 - ▣ Invasive Alien Species
 - **Response Indicators**
 - ▣ Research
 - ▣ Financial Management
 - ▣ Socio-economic improvements & Equitable Benefits

Responses to call for EIA TOR or Feasibility Study

- ▣ Ecosystem impacts
- ▣ Impacts on terrestrial ecology
- ▣ Invasive & Bio-security protocols
- ▣ Socio-economic impacts
- ▣ The legality of any enforced breach of the National Trust's lease of the Sovi Basin Conservation Area;
- ▣ The risks of such an action in respect to
 - Fiji's international commitments;
 - Sovi Trust Fund.

Upcoming PA Legislation

- ▣ Establish a strong link between current EIA legislation to protected areas
- ▣ Establish a role of the PA authority in the EIA regulations specifically with respect to approval of development which affect PAs

An aerial photograph of a vast, lush green forested mountain range. The foreground is filled with dense, vibrant green trees. In the middle ground, several mountain peaks are visible, some with more pronounced ridges. The background shows more distant, hazy mountain ranges under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The word "Vinaka" is superimposed in the center of the image in a blue, stylized font with a white outline.

Vinaka