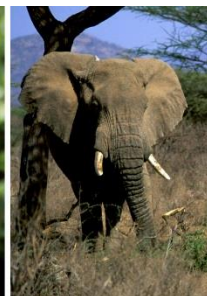


# Darwin Initiative and Darwin Plus Case Study Webinar



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



# Webinar Panelists



**Kelly Forsythe**

- Technical and Admin support to the Darwin Initiative and IWTCF
- Day to day contact with all IWTCF projects
- [IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk)



**Victoria Pinion**

- Technical advisor to the Darwin Initiative and IWTCF
- [Victoria-Pinion@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Victoria-Pinion@ltsi.co.uk)



**Tara Pelembe**

- Deputy Director of Innovation for SAERI
- Project leader for DPLUS094



**Ximena Velez-Liendo**

- WildCRU-Chester Zoo Conservation Fellow
- Part of the project team for 25-011



**Shashanka Sharma**

- Programme Officer for ZSL Nepal
- Part of the project team for 26-012

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- **Case Study 1:** Project 25-011
- Questions
- **Case Study 2:** Project DPLUS094
- Questions
- **Case Study 3:** Project 26-012
- Final Questions

# Objectives

- To provide a lesson learning opportunity for key personnel from new Darwin Initiative and Darwin Plus projects
- An opportunity for past project leaders to share their experiences and tips

# Welcome & Congratulations!

## **Darwin Round 27 :**

- 436 applications received at Stage 1
- 67 applications invited to Stage 2
- 46 new Darwin main projects funded

## **Darwin Plus Round 9:**

- 54 applications received at Stage 1
- 37 applications invited to Stage 2
- 31 new Darwin Plus projects funded

# Poll

## **What is your role on your project?**

- Project Leader/Co-Leader
- Technical
- Admin/Finance
- Other

# Poll

## **Is your project new or from a previous funding Round?**

- New Project
- Existing Project
- I currently don't work on any Darwin/Darwin Plus projects

# Case Study 1

Project Reference:	25-011
Project Title:	Andean bears and people: coexistence through poverty reduction
Lead Organisation:	Chester Zoo
Project Duration:	July 2018 – September 2021
Country(ies):	Bolivia





Ximena VELEZ-LIENDO

.....  
Chester Zoo-WildCRU  
Conservation Fellow

# Andean bears and people

Darwin Case Studies Webinar, 9 november 2021

# Background

## Part 1: Bears

.....



## Part 2: People

.....



## Part 3: Coexistence

.....

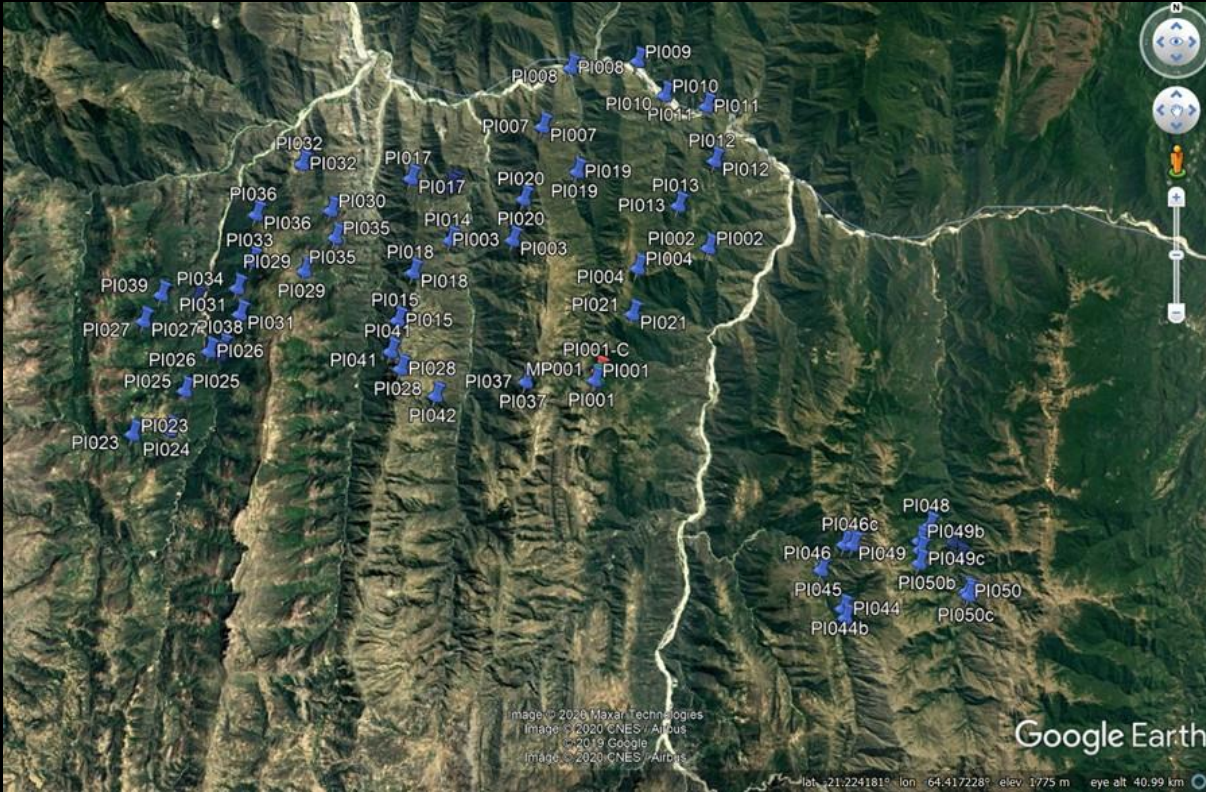




**THE GLOBAL GOALS**

- ONLY bear species in SA.
- Bolivia, southernmost
- region. Vulnerable to extinction: illegal hunting, habitat loss and climate change.





WILDCRU  
Wildlife Conservation Research Unit

CHESTER ZOO

Part 2:

ANDEAN BEARS & PEOPLE

# People

NOVEMBER, 2021

# Understand human dimension of conflict

## The Levels of Conflict over Wildlife



**1** Zero bear kills

.....

No retaliatory or sport bear hunting has been reported since our intervention

**2** Increase in tolerance

.....

Tolerance to bear attacks has increased. changes in people attitudes, from "your bear" to "the bear"

**3** Prevention of future attacks

.....

To prevent attacks. Use of fireworks and dogs to chase away bears and pumas

**4** Cattle management

.....

Key to reduce human-carnivore conflict is to improve people's cattle management.



WILDCRU  
Wildlife Conservation Research Unit

CHESTER ZOO

A photograph of two people, a woman and a man, standing on a rocky mountain ridge. They are looking at a map or document together, with the woman pointing towards the distance. The background is a vast, hazy mountain range under a clear blue sky. The word "Coexistence" is overlaid in large white text across the middle of the image.

# Coexistence

# Value of conservation



# Challenges

## 1 COVID-19

---

Adaptation, adaptation  
adaptation.  
Protect communities, a must  
Protect your team, a must  
Be creative

## 3 Administration

---

If new, invest in a good  
administrator.

## 2 Targets/ Expectations

---

People change their minds.  
No-show / no interest in be  
part of the project.

# Advice

## Time

Plan ahead a good portion of your time in writing / finishing your proposal

## Organize your time / budget

ALWAYS double check your numbers and keep your timeline printed out

---

## Communication

Keep a good communication with DI and please ASK

## Plan B

Invest in capacity building

---

## Reports

Keep your records organized and prepare your reports with time.

## Other applications

Read previous applications, and learn.

# Thank you!

Contact us if there are any questions.

Social Media ..... @ConservacionCamivoros Andinos  
@andeancarnivore

Email Address ..... [andeancarnivore@mail.com](mailto:andeancarnivore@mail.com)

# Case Study 2

<b>Project Reference:</b>	<a href="#">DPLUS094</a>
<b>Project Title:</b>	Developing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) tools for Turks and Caicos
<b>Lead Organisation:</b>	South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI)
<b>Project Duration:</b>	April 2019 – October 2021
<b>Country(ies):</b>	Turks and Caicos Islands, Falkland Islands

# Developing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Tools for the Turks and Caicos Islands

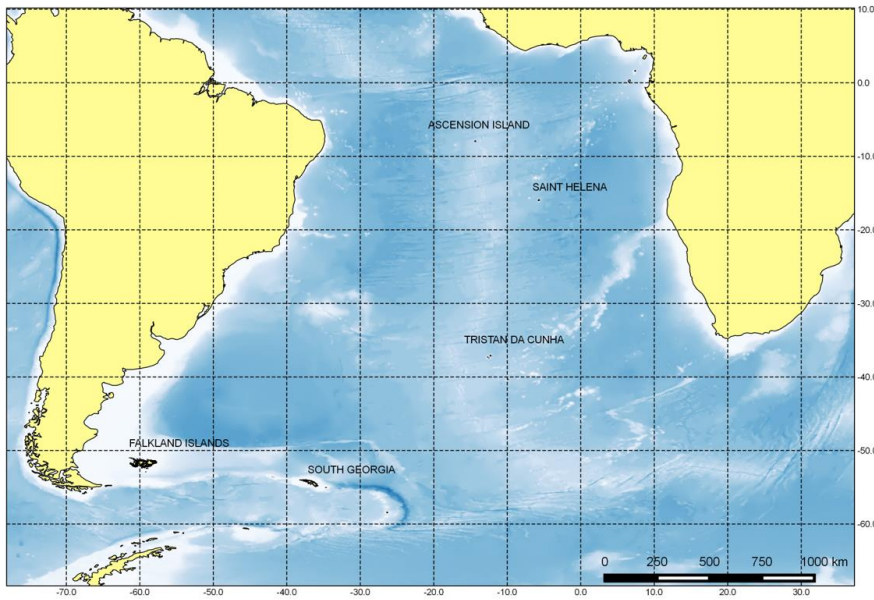
Tara Pelembe – Deputy Director SAERI and Luc Clerveaux – Deputy Director DECR

Prepared by Dr Julian Tyne – Project Manager

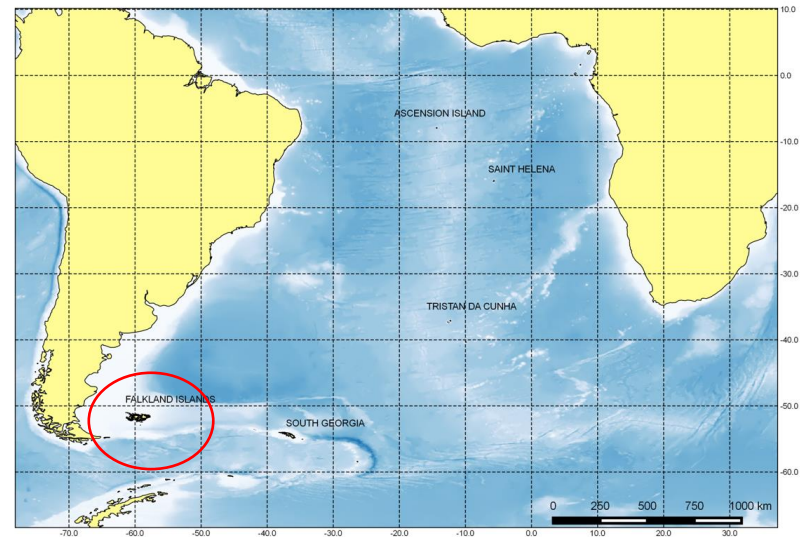
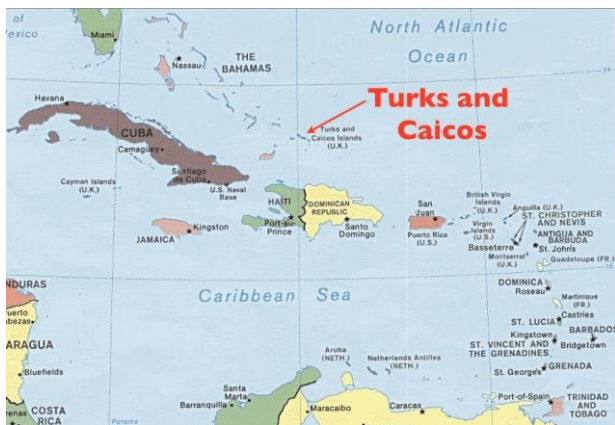


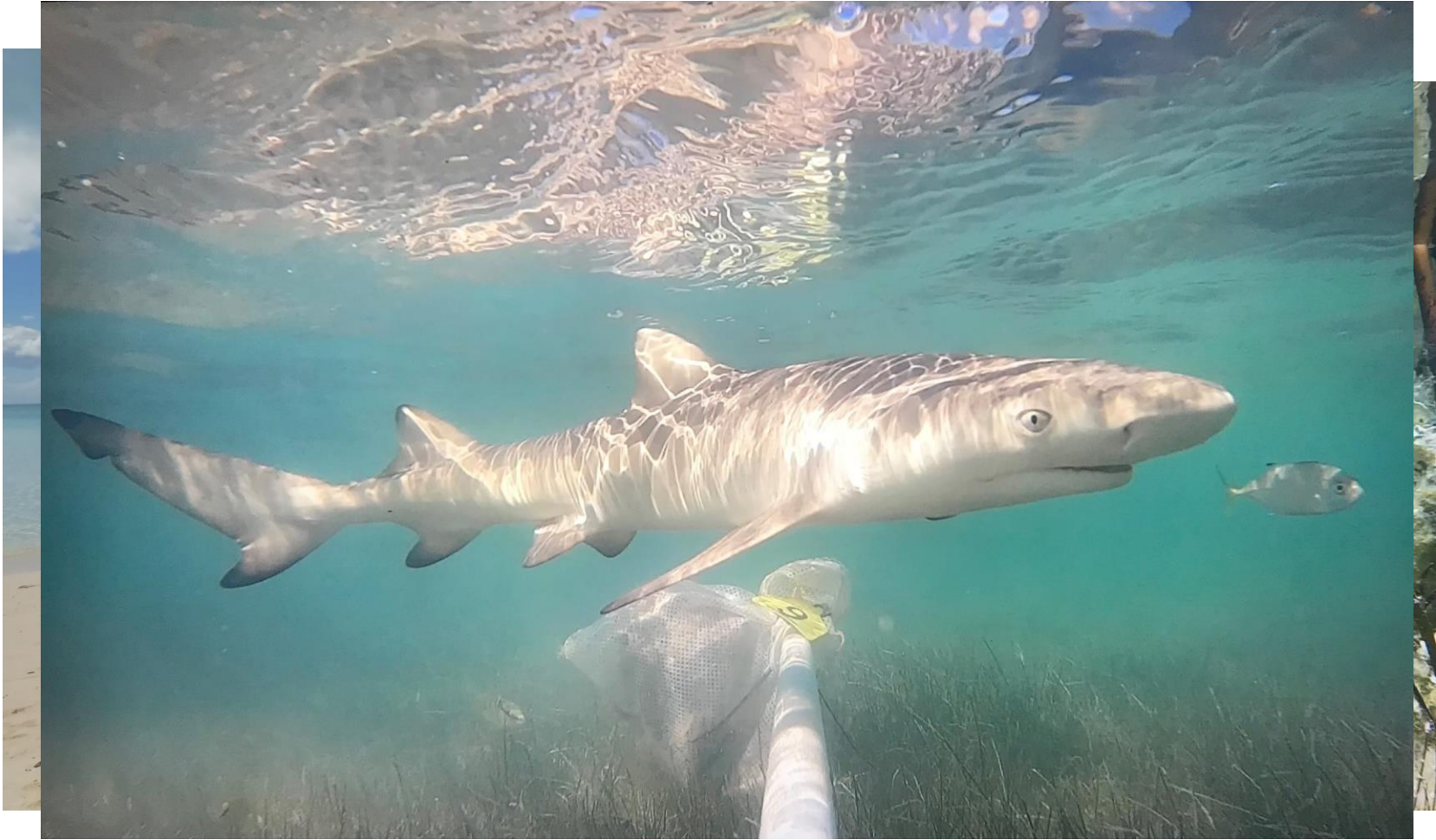


# South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI)



# Territory to Territory working



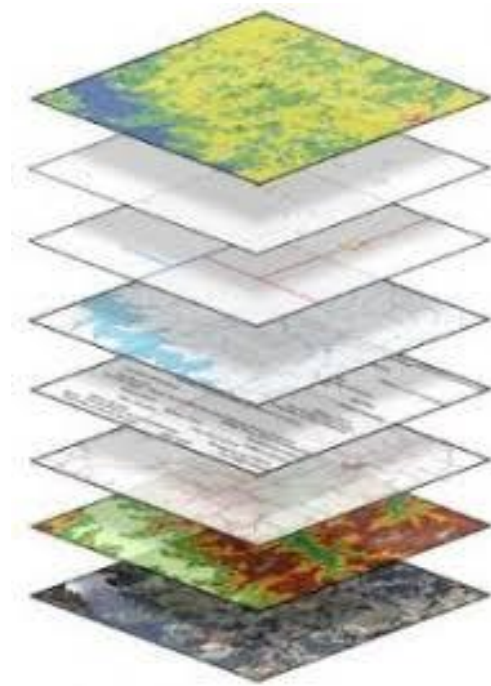


# Developing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Tools for the Turks and Caicos Islands

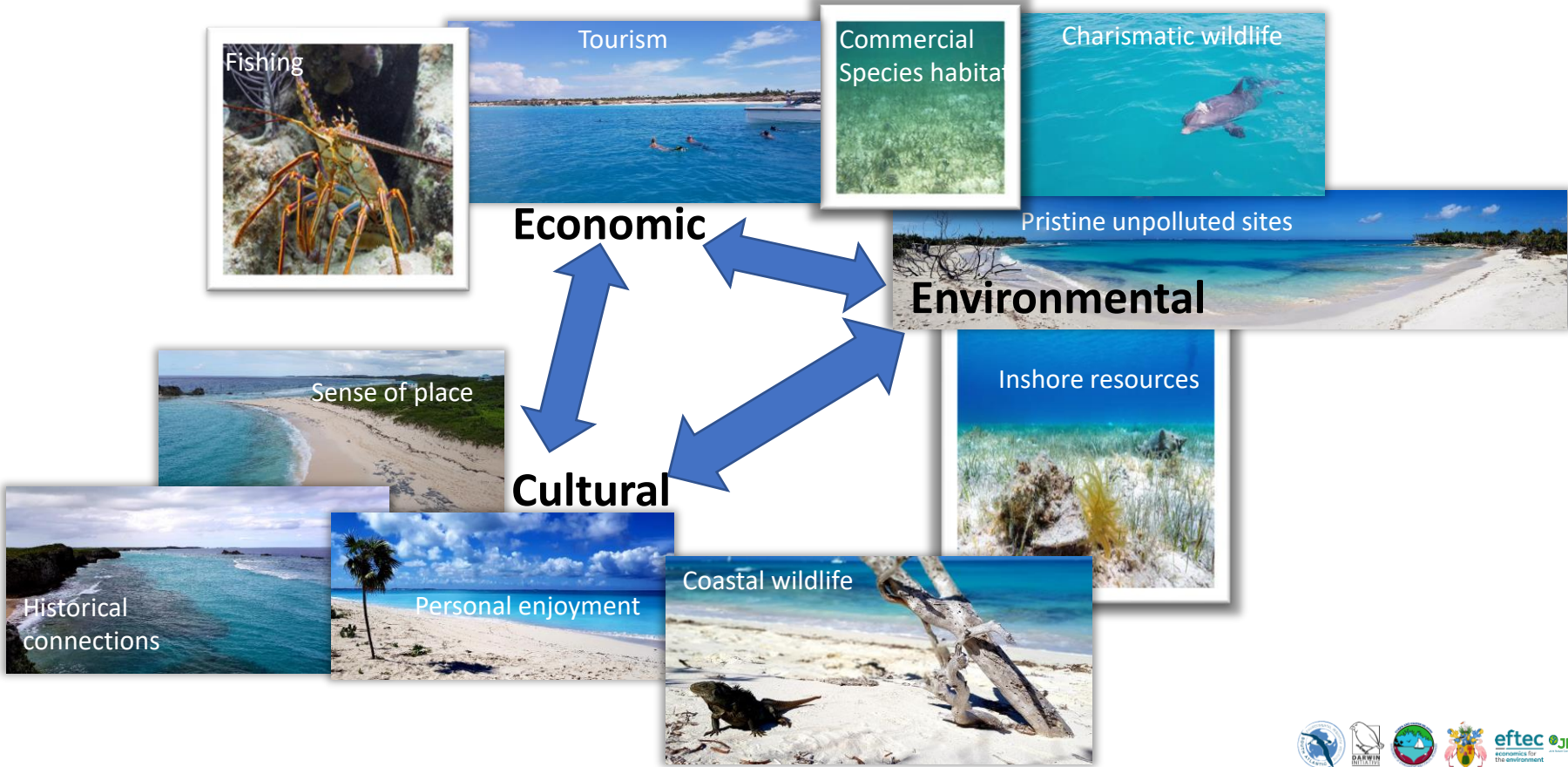
- Stakeholder led approach
- Partnership between SAERI and DECR
- Develop MSP Tools for the TCI
- Building on model developed in the Falkland Islands
- Long-term planning and decision-making

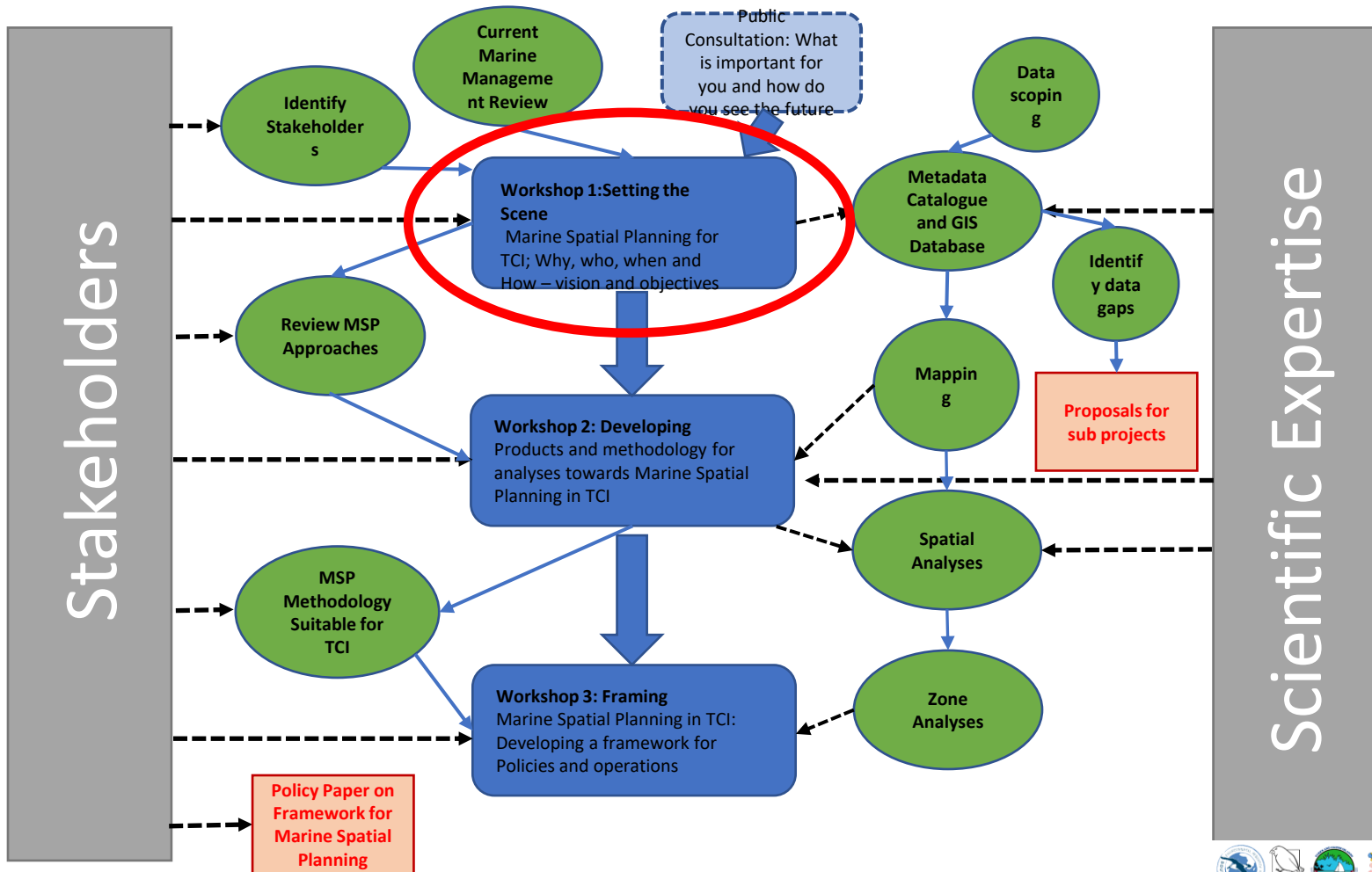


# What is Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) ?



# Marine Values - Interlinked





# TCI Policy Framework

TCI Constitution (2011)

Environment Charter, Turks and  
Caicos Islands (2001)

TCI Vision 2040 (2019)

Environment Strategy Vision  
Statement





# Metadata Training

## Metadata Form

	A	B	C	D
1			PLEASE COMPLETE BELOW	
2	region			The region where the data was collected: 'FK' Falklands, 'SH' St. Helena, 'AC' Ascension, 'TA' Tristan da Cunha, 'GS' South Georgia
3	organisation			Codes for departments and organisations: please add only the name of the organisation in few an Examples: 'UCL' (University College London), 'UMAINE' (University of Maine), 'BGS' (British Geologic
7	title			Descriptive name of the file. Possibly add the year in the title if the data is collected repeatedly eve and month in case data is collected seasonally
8	language			eng (english); spa (spanish); fre (french); ita (italian); ger (german)
	abstract			Should provide a clear and concise statement that enables the reader to understand the content o e.g. "SSSI in Wales classified by habitat type with the limit of each SSSI recorded as a polygon as at
9	topic_category			Please refer to the worksheet called topicCategory - CLICK HERE
10	keyword			Use keywords to indicate the general subject area of the data resource provided. Multiple entries a separated by COMMA e.g. landcover, fields boundaries. Refer to <a href="http://www.eionet.europa.eu/gen">http://www.eionet.europa.eu/gen</a>
11	temporal_extent_start			This is the date or date range that identifies the content of the data. It may refer to the period of c which the data are current IT MUST BE: YYYY-MM-DD or YYYY-YYYY if a range period, where possibl
12	temporal_extent_end			This is the date or date range that identifies the content of the data. It may refer to the period of c which the data are current IT MUST BE: YYYY-MM-DD or YYYY-YYYY if a range period, where possibl
13	dataset_reference_date			This is the date that identifies the currency of the publication data. It MUST BE: YYYY
14				Should provide indication of how the data was created.

# Stakeholder Workshops Setting the Scene



South Caicos



Providenciales



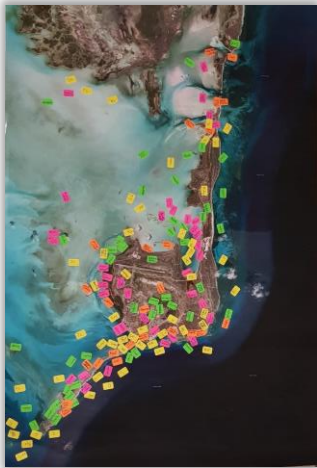
Grand Turk



Providenciales

# Stakeholder Workshops

## Setting the Scene



South Caicos



Grand Turk



Providenciales



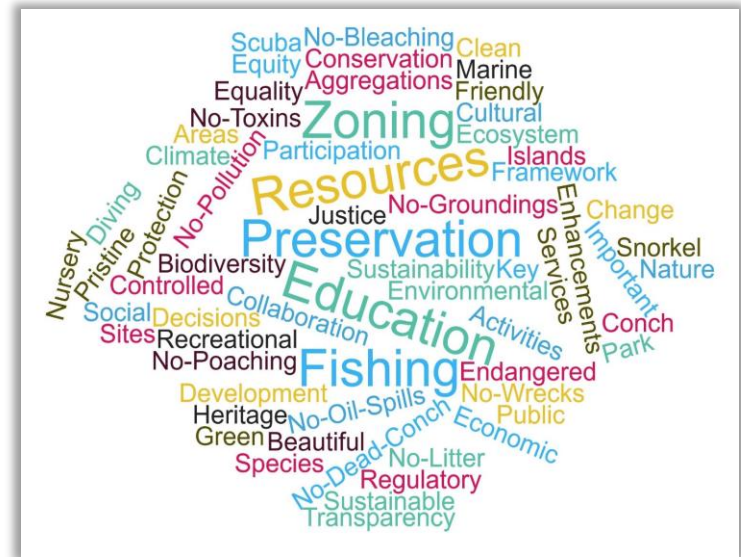
Providenciales

Coral Reef	Vulnerabl e
Mangrove	Marine Species
Seagrass	Favourite Places
Other	Human Activities

- Suggestions for other information we should include and where could/should we get it from?
- Top three things it would be useful for you to have mapped?
- Keywords to be included in the stakeholder vision for MSP TCI?

# Stakeholder Workshops

## MSP Vision Statement



# Turks and Caicos Islands Data Portal

Welcome - Turks and Caicos D. x +

https://dataportal.gov.tc

Log in Register

## Turks and Caicos Data Portal

Datasets Organizations Groups About Search

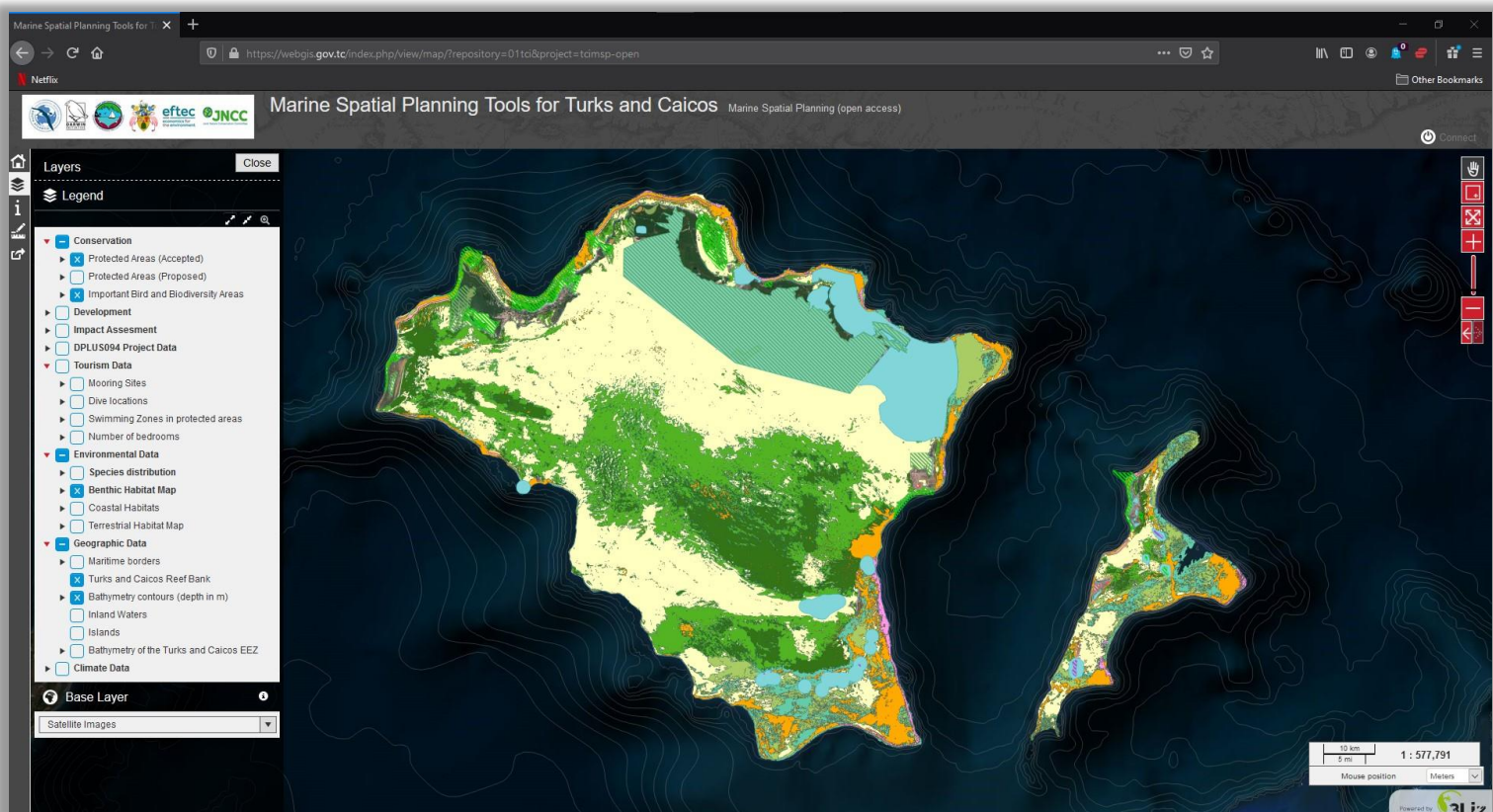
### Search data

E.g. environment

Popular tags ocean coral reef tourism

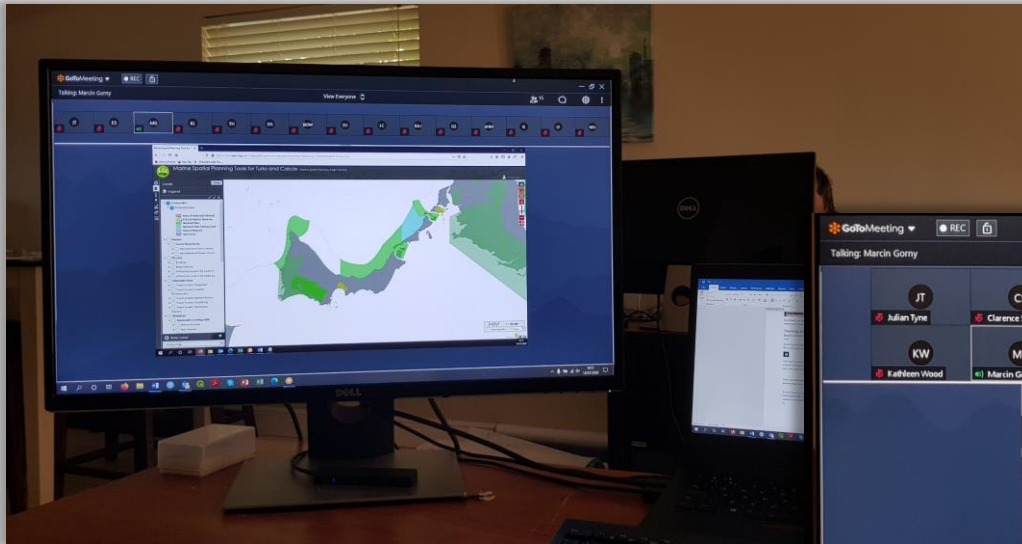
- Atmosphere, Climatology, Meteorology**
- Biota**  
Flora and/or fauna in
- Boundaries**  
Legal land descriptions.
- Economy**  
Economic activities and
- Elevation**  
Height above or below sea level
- Environment**  
Environment protection

# Turks and Caicos Islands WebGIS

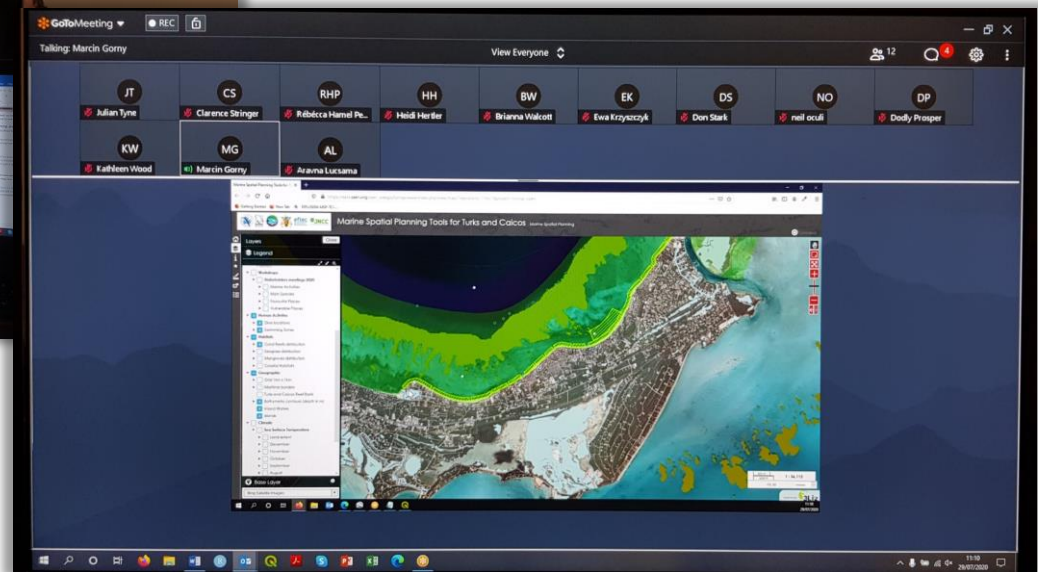


# WebGIS Training

July 29<sup>th</sup>  
12 participants







July 16<sup>th</sup>  
15 participants



# Data Portal Training

Recording...

<b>Marcin Gorny</b>	<b>Julian Tyne (SAE...</b>	<b>Tyann Henry (D...</b>	<b>Devlin Yon</b>	<b>oshin</b>
<b>Megan.Tierney</b>	 Heidi Hertler	 Lavern Rogers-Ryan	<b>Joshua.Day - JN...</b>	 Don Stark - TCI...
<b>Tara Hooper, JN...</b>	<b>Eleonora Manca...</b>	<b>Adam Britton</b>	<b>Kathy Lockhart,...</b>	<b>Cat Gallagher</b>
 Ewa Krzyszczyk	<b>Jane.Hawkridge...</b>	<b>Sophie Neupauer</b>	<b>Dan Edwards</b>	<b>TCI - Thecla Jos...</b>
<b>Amanda Gregory</b>		<b>Mr Jones</b>		



# Data Collection

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Turks and Caicos Data Portal'. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'https://dataportal.gov.tc/dataset'. The page has a blue header with the title 'Turks and Caicos Data Portal' and navigation links for 'Datasets', 'Organizations', 'Groups', and 'About'. A search bar is located in the top right of the header.

The main content area is titled 'Datasets' and features a sidebar on the left with two sections: 'Organizations' and 'Groups'. The 'Organizations' section lists various entities with their respective dataset counts: Department of Envir... (42), Joint Nature Conser... (5), World Resource Inst... (5), OpenStreetMap Found... (3), South Atlantic Envi... (3), The Nature Conservancy (3), UN Environment Prog... (3), Allen Coral Atlas (2), BirdLife International (2), and Blue Dolphin Resear... (2). The 'Groups' section lists: Biota (18), Environment (18), Economy (13), Elevation (7), Imagery, Base maps... (5), and Society (5).

The main content area includes an 'Add Dataset' button, a search input field with the placeholder 'Search datasets...', and a search icon. Below the search field, it states '84 datasets found' and provides an 'Order by' dropdown menu set to 'Relevance'.

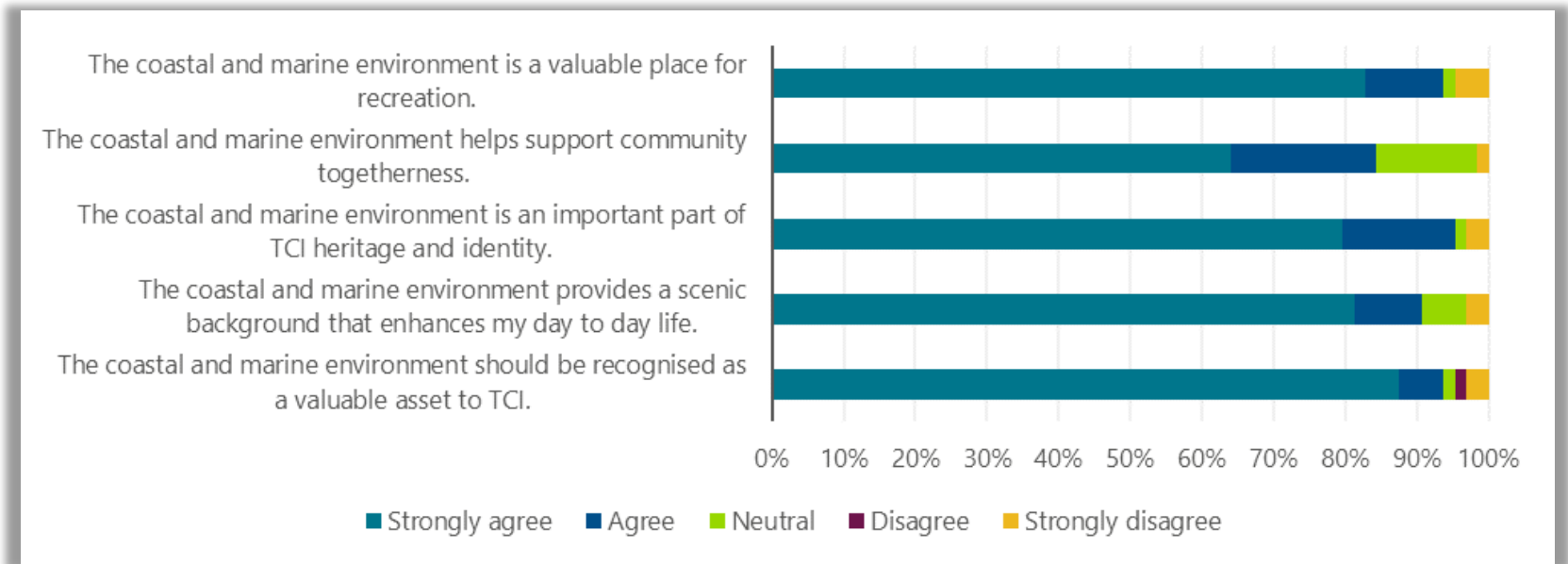
Three dataset entries are visible:

- Total reconstructed fisheries catches for the Turks and Caicos Islands between...**  
The dataset comprises total reconstructed fisheries catches for the Turks and Caicos EEZ. The data combine official reported data and reconstructed estimates of unreported data...  
Available formats: PDF, CSV, HTML
- Zones designated in the Turks and Caicos National Parks Ordinance**  
The dataset is a polygon layer consisting areas designed as zones within national parks, reserves, sanctuaries or areas of historical interests. These zones have been created in...  
Available formats: ZIP, GeoJSON
- National boundaries including territorial sea and exclusive economic zone**  
The dataset is comprised from all levels boundaries of Turks and Caicos and includes: internal water, territorial sea and two hundred miles exclusive fishery zone (exclusive...  
Available formats: ZIP, GeoJSON, PDF, JPEG

Additional dataset entries include:

- Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase Worldwide**  
This database represents the Maritime Boundaries of the world. The database includes five global datasets: Exclusive Economic Zones (200NM), Territorial Seas (12NM), Contiguous...

# Coastal Cultural Values – Findings



# Coastal Cultural Values – Masters Candidate

## Oshin Whyte, Masters by Research Candidate - Coastal Cultural Values of the Turks and Caicos Islands

We are pleased to announce that Oshin Whyte is the new Masters by Research candidate through the [University of Kent](#) in the UK.

Oshin will be investigating the Coastal Cultural Values of the Turks and Caicos Islands and be supervised by Dr [Robert Fish](#) Reader in Tourism Management and Dr [Mark Hampton](#), both geographers with expertise on small-island culture. The project will take one year to complete.

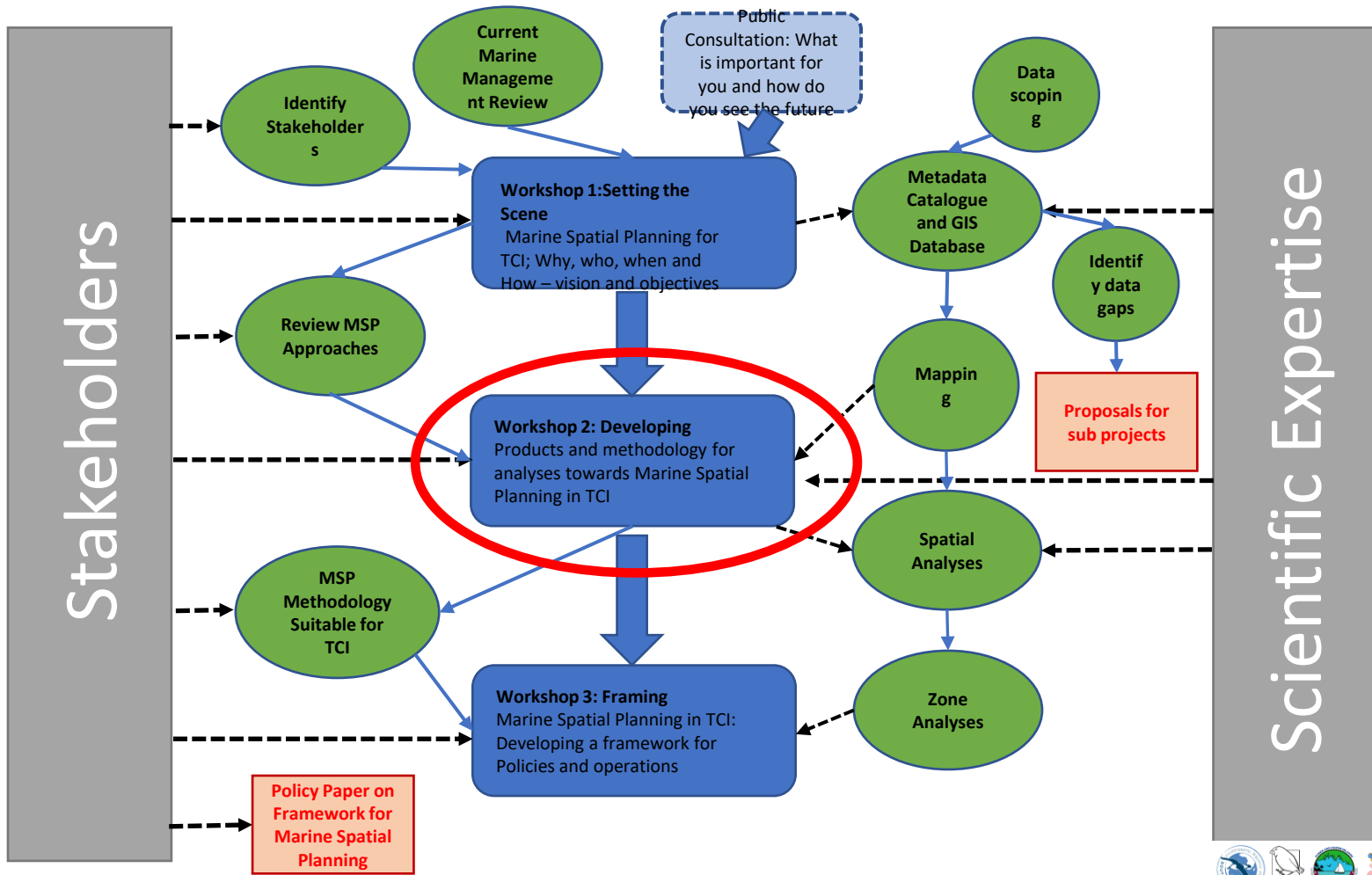
Oshin's project forms part of the Darwin PLUS funded [Marine Spatial Planning \(MSP\)](#) project, that is a collaboration between the Turks and Caicos Islands Government Department of Environment and Coastal Resources ([DECR](#)) and the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute ([SAERI](#)). The aim of the MSP project is to develop MSP tools for TCI to feed into long term planning and decision making in the marine environment, and to help achieve the ecological, economic and social objectives of the TCIG.

Coastal areas are especially important to human well-being with about half the world's population living close to the sea, and cultural identity is strongly associated with the ways in which people interact with their coastal areas. Coastal Cultural Values are the nonmaterial benefits people obtain from coastal areas. The Coastal Cultural Values project aims to contribute to the [MSP](#) project by investigating the distribution of the coastal cultural values around the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Oshin, a Turks Islander Divemaster and Environmental Scientist said, *"I have ample experience working in and around the marine environment in the Turks and Caicos and have over 1,000 logged scuba dives. I am beyond ecstatic about this Masters programme here at the University of Kent as it provides me with the opportunity to explore a topic that hasn't been explored in the Turks and Caicos. One that will contribute to the wider understanding and ultimately the better management of the marine environment of the islands. Something that I am passionate about!"*

The research by Oshin is informed by work conducted in the South Atlantic by Dr Robert Fish at the University of Kent and is designed to inform practical consideration of cultural values in marine decision making.





# Workshop 2



Developing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Tools for the Turks  
and Caicos Islands. DPLUS094

Workshop 2 September 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> and October 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>  
2020

Developing methodologies for modelling/analyses to identify  
ecologically important areas for Marine Spatial Planning in  
the Turks and Caicos Islands

# Workshop 2

The screenshot displays a Zoom meeting window with a grid of 20 participants. The interface includes a top bar with 'Zoom Meeting', 'Recording...', and 'Speaker View'. A right-hand panel shows a list of 29 participants with search and control icons. The bottom bar contains controls for Mute, Stop Video, Security, Participants (29), Chat (4), Share Screen, Pause/Stop Recording, Breakout Rooms, Reactions, and End.

Participant Name	Initials	Organization
Tara Pelembe	SAERI	SAERI
Julian Tyne	SAERI	SAERI
Jan Davies	UKHO	UKHO
Katie Medcalf	Environ...	Environment Australia
tammy.davies		
Kate Chadwick	(...)	Scientific Officer
Sophie Neupau		
Susan Baker		
Eric F. Salamanc...		DECR
Paul Brickle	SA...	
CJONES		
Lormeka Williams		
Jonathan Green		University of Liverpool
Amdeep Sangh		
Rhiannon Austi...		
Leo McLeman		
Debbie Bartlett		University of Greenwich
Jatavia Howell	(...)	Environmental Of...
Thecla Joseph D...		
Kathy Lockhart		DECR
Abbie Dosell		
Ewa Krzyszczyk		
Heidi Hertler		
Megan.Tierney		

# Workshop 2 – Outcomes - Data

- Challenges acquiring existing data
- Quality of those data
- Spatial layers that have been created thus far were said to be impressive
- Helpful in understanding available and missing data
- The data underlying these spatial layers may not be sufficient to provide robust modelling approaches.
- It was suggested that some data gap analysis be undertaken



# Workshop 2 – Outcomes – Data Gap Analysis (DGA)



## Data Gap Analysis for Marine Spatial Planning in the Turks and Caicos Islands

### Introduction

The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) is one of 14 United Kingdom Overseas Territories (UKOTs), a small island in the Caribbean that lies south-east of the Bahamas chain, 145 km north of Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic) and 925 km south-east of Miami. The easterly occurring Turks Islands are separated from the Caicos Islands by a deep-water channel approximately 35km wide. TCI is relatively flat. Providenciales rises to a high point of 50 m above sea level and Flamingo Hill on the North Western point of East Caicos has an altitude of also approximately 50 m. Sinkholes, caves and ridge formations are common. The islands consist largely of Pleistocene <sup>oolitic</sup> limestone and unconsolidated Holocene sands. The TCI population is 42,953 (Turks and Caicos Islands Government Statistics Department, 2019), and the total area of the EEZ is 154,058 km<sup>2</sup>. Tourism is the main contributor to the TCI economy, followed by the offshore financial sector, fishing for export to the US (mainly lobster and conch) is the third most important economic sector in the islands.

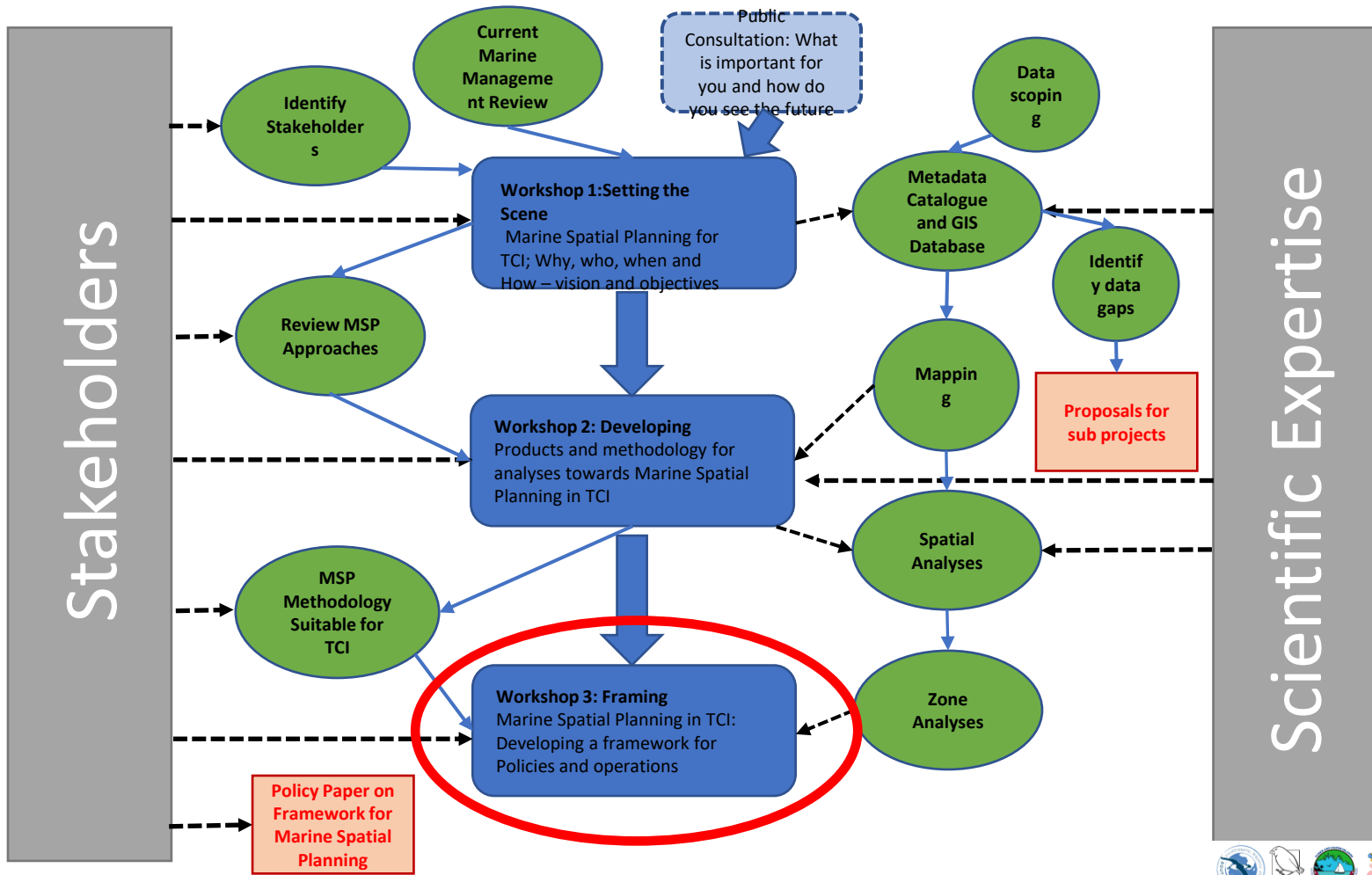
The major data gaps exist for species distribution data, this data is incomplete and not always accurate. The habitat data (both terrestrial and marine) is of good quality and accuracy.

Table 3.1 Data gaps for biological data and their significance for MSP

Geographic Datasets	ISO 19115	Significance for the MSP	Data Gaps										
			Significant			Moderate			Minor		No Gap		
			No data	medium	low	high	medium	low	high	medium			
Marine Habitats	Biota												
Terrestrial habitats	Biota												
Important species distribution	Biota												
Marine species distribution	Biota												
Terrestrial species	Biota												







# Workshop 3



## Developing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Tools for the Turks and Caicos Islands

Developing a policy framework for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Turks and Caicos Islands  
March 30<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup> 2021



# Workshop 3

- Identify existing zones and designated areas
  - Legislation context
  - Policy context
  - Evidence context

## **POLICY & LEGISLATION**

# Legislation Context

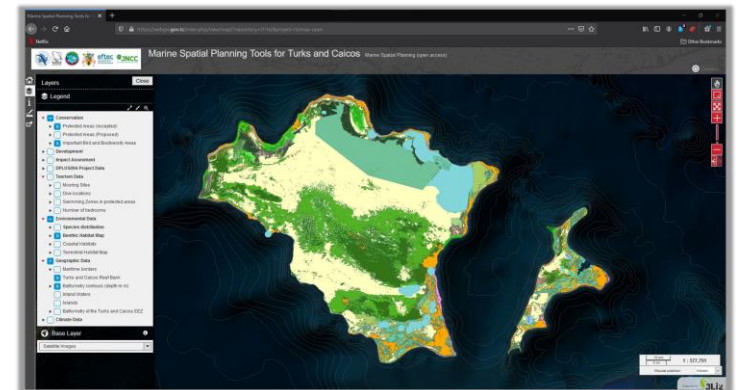
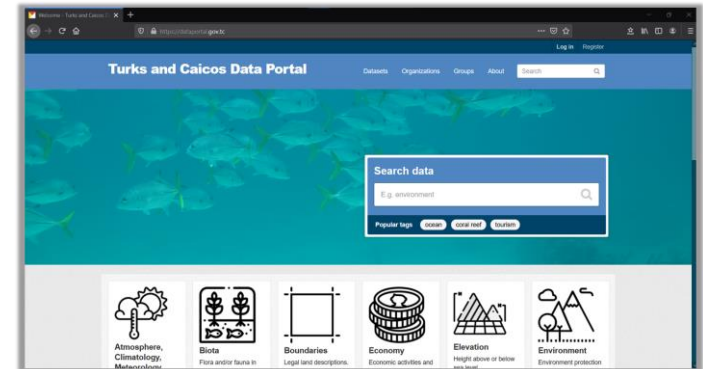
Ordinance	Description
<b>National Parks Ordinance (March 2018)</b>	To provide powers to permit the establishment of (a) a national park; (b) a nature reserve; (c) a sanctuary; (d) an area of historical interest; (e) or a critical habitat reserve and generally for the conservation of the natural environment and ecology of the islands and for the purposes connected therewith. The Ordinance also provides some rules relative to use of these protected areas. The Governor may make Regulations: to place restrictions on activities that may cause pollution or disturbance to the ecology of a protected area; or for the preservation of any particular form
<b>Coast Protection ordinance (December 2014)</b>	To provide for the protection of the coastline of Turks and Caicos Islands. It places restrictions on the taking of sand and other materials and prohibits the placing of offensive substances on the coast and littering of the coast.
<b>Fisheries Protection Ordinance (March 2018)</b>	To regulate, by Order, matters of conservation and management of marine fisheries resources of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Governor may, among other things, place restrictions or prohibit the taking of any fish, aquatic animal or vegetable matter living in water including turtles, carcharinidae, cetacea, crustacea, molluscs and spongiae and regulate the exportation of such fish or aquatic animals.
<b>Fisheries Limits Ordinance (December 2014)</b>	To define the fishery limits of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the purpose of certain enactments relating to fishing, to make provision for the regulation of fishing with those limits and for other matters connected therewith.
<b>Marine Pollution Ordinance (December 2014)</b>	To protect the marine environment by minimising intentional and negligent discharges of pollutants in the marine environment; and for connected purposes.
<b>Mineral Exploration and Exploitation Ordinance (December 2014)</b>	To make provision as to the exploration for an exploitation of the mineral resources in, and surrounding, the Turks and Caicos Islands; and for matters connected with those purposes.
<b>Wild Birds Protection Ordinance (December 2014)</b>	To make provision for the protection of wild birds and for connected purposes.
<b>Protection of Historic Wreck Ordinance (March 2018)</b>	To provide for the protection of wrecks in certain cases and for purposes connected therewith.
<b>Physical Planning Ordinance (February 2018)</b>	To make provision for the planning and regulation of the development and use of land, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

# Policy Context

Policy	Description
TCI Constitution (2011)	<p><i>Paragraph 18 - Protection of the environment.</i></p> <p><i>The Legislature and the Government shall, in all their decisions, have due regard to the need to foster and protect an environment that is not harmful to the health or well-being of present and future generations, while promoting justifiable economic and social development.</i></p> <p><i>To this end the Legislature and the Government should adopt reasonable legislative and other measures to protect the built heritage, the wildlife and the land and sea biodiversity of the Islands that—</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a) limit pollution and ecological degradation;</i></li> <li><i>(b) promote conservation and biodiversity; and</i></li> <li><i>(c) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources.</i></li> </ul>
Environment Charter, Turks and Caicos Islands (2001)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. To recognise that all people need a healthy environment for their well-being and livelihoods and that all can help to conserve and sustain it.</i></li> <li><i>2. To use our natural resources wisely, being fair to present and future generations.</i></li> <li><i>3. To identify environmental opportunities, costs and risks in all policies and strategies.</i></li> <li><i>4. To seek expert advice and consult openly with interested parties on decisions affecting the environment.</i></li> <li><i>5. To aim for solutions which benefit both environment and development.</i></li> <li><i>6. To contribute towards the protection and improvement of the global environment.</i></li> <li><i>7. To safeguard and restore native species, habitats and landscape features, and control or eradicate invasive species.</i></li> <li><i>8. To encourage activities and technologies that benefit the environment.</i></li> <li><i>9. To control pollution, with the polluter paying for prevention or remedies.</i></li> <li><i>10. To study and celebrate our environmental heritage as a treasure to share with our children.</i></li> </ol>
TCI Vision 2040 (2019)	<p><i>By 2040 a united Turks and Caicos Islands will be a global leader in levels of prosperity and human development. Our people will be positioned to be fully responsible for our collective future as a nation. We will have a more resilient country that balances economic, social and environmental development for the greater benefit of all our people and our posterity.</i></p>
Environment Strategy Vision Statement	<p><i>A healthy and resilient TCI which promotes sustainable development and where all citizens and residents recognise the importance of the rich terrestrial and marine natural resources that make us 'Beautiful by Nature' and strives to safeguard them for present and future generations.</i></p>
Climate Change Policy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. To educate the wider public on the potential impacts of climate change and the recommended adaptation strategies</li> <li>B. To ensure the preservation of protected areas which will act as carbon sinks</li> <li>C. To enhance and protect human health</li> <li>D. To conserve and guarantee a sustainable supply of fresh water</li> <li>E. To increase resilience to anthropogenic and natural systems to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, including through capacity building and the application of cleaner technologies.</li> </ol>
National Hazard Mitigation Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance sustainable social and economic development and environmental management through the integration of hazard risk reduction into national development processes.</li> <li>• Build the capacity of national institutions to more effectively implement programmes and projects to reduce vulnerability of the nation and people to natural and technological hazards.</li> <li>• Describes environmental problems following hurricane responses e.g. clearing up 'dead' mangroves and not leaving it to regenerate.</li> </ul>
Culture Policy	<p>The policy will be reflective of who we are as a people - our way of life, directions, limits, principles, and guidance for decision making as it relates to our Culture and Heritage</p>

# Next steps

- Data portal and WebGIS integral part of TCIG – on TCIG website
- Commitment to have a person in post
- MSP process to continue
- SAERI and DECR continue to work together



# Thank You



# Case Study 3

<b>Project Reference:</b>	<a href="#"><u>26-012</u></a>
<b>Project Title:</b>	Ghodaghodi's Guardians: Communities restoring a Ramsar wetland at watershed scale
<b>Lead Organisation:</b>	Zoological Society of London
<b>Project Duration:</b>	April 2019 – March 2022
<b>Country(ies):</b>	Nepal



A scenic view of a lake with a dead tree in the foreground and mountains in the background. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding greenery and sky. The sky is a clear, light blue with a few wispy clouds. The mountains in the distance are hazy and blue. The foreground features a prominent, gnarled, dead tree trunk that leans over the water. The background is filled with lush green trees and vegetation.

Darwin Case Studies Webinar, 9 Nov 2021

Shashanka Sharma, Programme Officer, ZSL Nepal

## Ghodaghodi's Guardians: Communities restoring a Ramsar wetland at watershed scale

Project Reference No – 26-012

Lead Organisation – ZSL

Country – Nepal

Duration - 01 April 2019 - 31 March 2022

# Ghodaghodi Lake Area



Globally-significant Ramsar wetland with high natural capital and biodiversity



Plays a crucial role in enabling conflict-free species movement through the transboundary Western Terai Complex



Fish diversity: 30



Vegetation: 450 sps



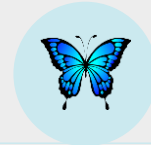
Birds: 314



Mammals: 30

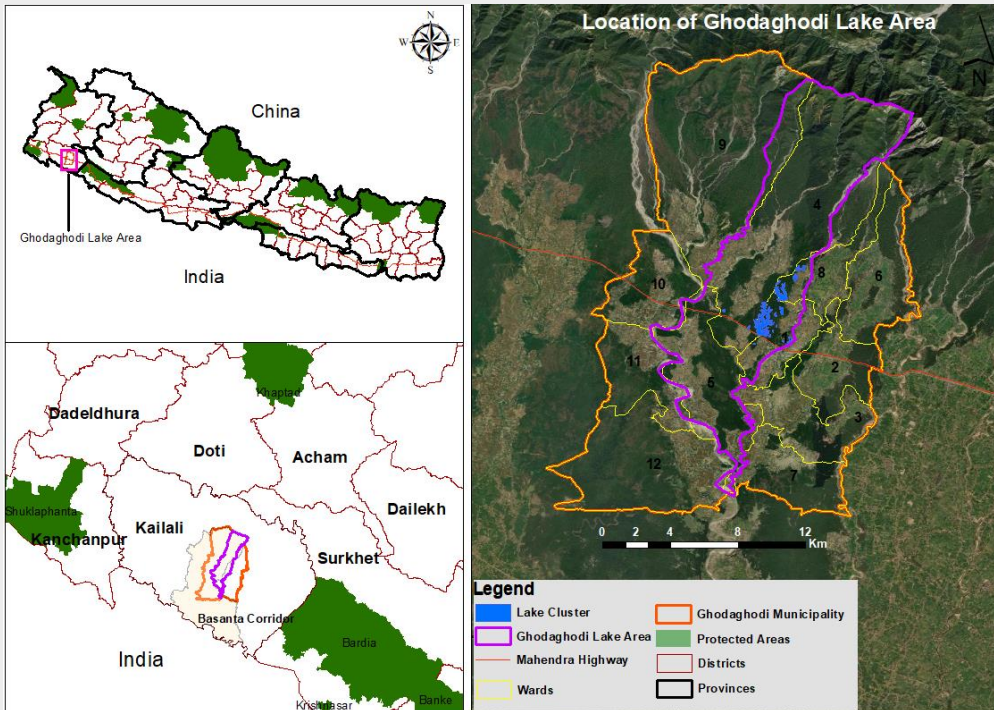


Reptiles: 7



Butterfly: 32

# Ghodaghodi Lake Area



Ghodaghodi Municipality, Kailali District, Sudurpaschim Province Nepal



Working Site: Comprehensive Lake Area: >10,000 ha (Including, all wetlands, fringe settlement and agricultural areas, CF)



Lies in western Terai Arc Landscape with the Basanta corridor supporting north-south linkages

# Issues at Project Site



Conversion of wetland into other forms

Uncontrolled resource extraction

Biodiversity Loss

Pressure on Forest Resources

Invasive plant species

Eutrophication/Pollution

Inadequate coordination among authorities

Encroachment

# Ghodaghodi Guardians: Communities restoring a Ramsar wetland at watershed scale



## TARGET IMPACT:

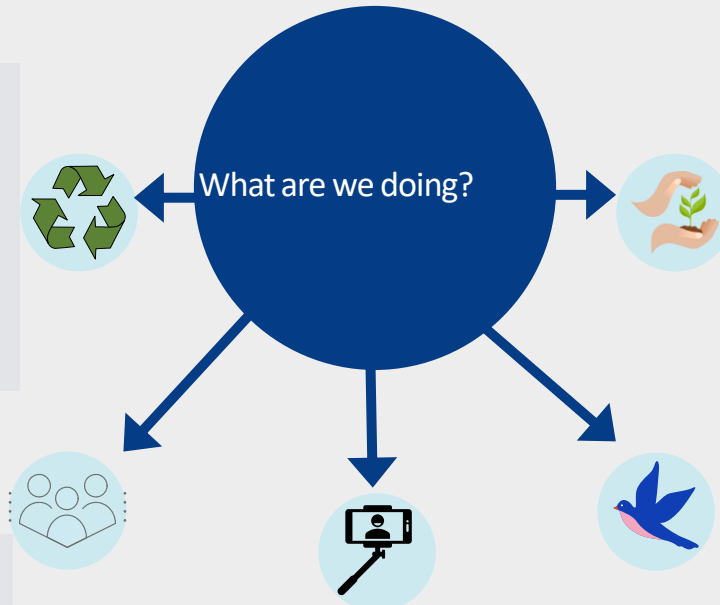
Ecological connectivity through the critical Western Terai Corridor is restored, with a well-managed community-led protected area at its heart, providing an innovative model of freshwater-based conservation of Nepal's ecological connectivity.



# Project Scope

A person is seen from behind, standing in a vast green field under a bright sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The background shows a line of trees and a hazy horizon.

This project is aimed at improving our understanding of the underlying threats to GLA and developing appropriate mitigation. Activities are aimed at restoring GLA's ecological integrity through community-led, natural capital-based sustainable management.



Output 1 - Assessing the natural capital and facilitating authorized body for its sustainable planning and management

Output 4 - Engaging communities in restoring the ecological integrity of Ghodaghodi lake and surrounding habitats

Output 2 - Supporting local communities for improved well-being

Output 3 - Promoting sustainable tourism management

Output 5 - Supporting local government in designating GLA as Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary





# Stakeholder Engagement



A good relationship with our project partners including Ghodaghodi Municipality (GM), Comprehensive Ghodaghodi Lake Tourism Development Board (CGLTDB), Department of Forests and Soil Conservation, Himalayan Nature (HN), local communities and other project stakeholders has been instrumental in delivering the project activities



Stakeholder engagement and project activities has brought about positive change in conserving GLA and improving community wellbeing.



Such positive feedback and support from all stakeholders are important for creating the desired changes, both during the project and over the long term.



# IMPACTS



2000 - 3000 local people have been involved, supporting project activities ranging from governance and development of management plans to biodiversity monitoring.



40 Freshwater Information System for Household (FISH) representatives recruited who act as a link between authorities and local communities by actively participating in workshops and relaying vital information for effective GLA conservation.



Community have been supported through competitive matching incentive fund grants based on eligible agri-business plans from farmer groups, cooperatives, agri-private firms, technology support, agribusiness development, post-harvest facilities and market linkages.

Annual participatory natural capital workshops and support in preparation of a performance-based incentive mechanism that deals with the economic empowerment of vulnerable communities including women and youths.



Support to GM in preparation of a master plan focusing on GLA's sustainable development and management.





The project has established two women-led cooperatives with a total 52 members from the most vulnerable, marginalized freshwater-dependent communities. A total of GBP 5,000 was provided as seed fund to each of the two women groups.

The community has already made profit of NRs. 719184 (GBP 5137) benefitting 137 households. A total of 43 cooperative members have already taken loans.



A sustainable tourism plan has been drafted and shared with DoFSC, DNPWC, and provincial and national government and will be implemented as a model of best practice by the end of the project.



Investments have been made to construct green tourism infrastructures, such as 825 m foot trails and upgraded information center regarding lake conservation and waste management



The CGLTDB and GM are continuously being supported to upgrade GLA to **Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary**, while different management plans are being prepared to formulate the Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary Management Plan. Provincial government will declare GLA as Nepal's first ever Bird Sanctuary by the end of the project.



Soft loans for IGAs to enable long-term income generation



We are striving to support women's participation in natural capital governance by ensuring women are adequately represented



Capacity building and conservation measures will protect terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity.

## Contribution to SDGs



A responsive, participatory and representative decision-making approach, across different jurisdictions within the GLA area, and cooperatives



Close partnerships have been built among the communities, conservation stakeholders and government agencies to carry out the activities that contribute to the goals.



The communities will have the opportunity to leverage their income sources, and gain access to improved healthcare, securing their wellbeing.




help monitor GLA and ensure clean water and sanitation,



Participatory management plans in place will guide resource harvest and consumption in a sustainable way





The project  
supports  
national  
obligations

CBD

Ramsar Convention

CMS

# Sustainability and Legacy

01

Local government bodies such as DFO, GM and CGLTDB along with local communities are actively involved in the project

02

The project has formed two women led co-operative groups and fishponds under the direct supervision of CGLTDB and GM, ensuring a sustainable financial mechanism beyond the completion of the project

03

Trainings and interactive workshops have helped CGLTDB and GM to independently conduct tourism assessments and, biodiversity and natural capital monitoring.

04

The project has also sought to upgrade the conservation status of GLA to become Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary. This will help leverage continuous support from the provincial government in GLA's conservation and development.

# Management Mechanism

01

Partnership built with in country and municipality-based entities, including HN, GM, CGLTDB

02

Capacity building of partners for effective project implementation

03

On site project activities carried out through partners

04

Quarterly activity plans developed to monitor project timeline, requirement and deliverable.

05

Half yearly activity reporting done by implementing partners

# Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism

01

Members of ZSL, GM, CGLTDB, and HN visited the intervention sites quarterly, overseeing project progress and adaptively planning the future course of action

02

Project milestones have been developed to measure monthly progress. The completion of milestones is being monitored through monthly reports submitted using ZSL's web-based system - these include activity tracking, indicator tracking, and finance tracking systems.

03

One staff member of HN and a CGLTDB focal person were based at the project site throughout the project period, and they kept ZSL informed about ongoing project implementation

04

All partners share the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) work, with M&E visits facilitated by ZSL

05

Programme Coordination Committee (PCC) formed centrally under the chairmanship of the Deputy Director General of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), with DNPWC section heads and ZSL as members, also monitors overall project progress and makes recommendations.

# Major Lessons Learnt (Management and ME)

01

Capacity building of partners has proven to be highly effective for project activity implementation

02

For project management and implementation, quarterly activity plan with well laid out project requirements, timeline and deliverables have been effective – this made expectations from partners and stakeholders clearer.

03

Regular meetings with implementing partners is a must for smooth activity operation and time management. Although Covid19 halted many in-person meeting, we made an effort to connect with partners virtually. Monthly or bimonthly meeting can make project tracking more efficient.

04

Partners have been sharing half yearly activity reports. We have learnt that activity wise detailed report can be more helpful in keeping track of project progress.

05

Involving wide range of stakeholders, from local authorities to community people, and having objectives ranging from governance and trickling down to local actions has made our project highly impactful.

# Ghodaghodi Guardians: Communities restoring a Ramsar wetland at watershed scale



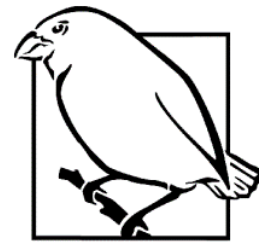
## Key Message

Communities are one of the key components in conserving local natural resources and play a fundamental role in biodiversity conservation.

Supporting them with alternatives to the direct use of natural resources will protect the ecosystem in the long run, while enabling communities themselves to be the stewards of nature.



Thank you!  
Any Questions?



**DARWIN**  
INITIATIVE



Thanks for listening!