



THE LORU FOREST CARBON PROJECT

Lessons learned from the Nakau Programme in Vanuatu, an innovative Payment for Ecosystem Services program in the Pacific Islands

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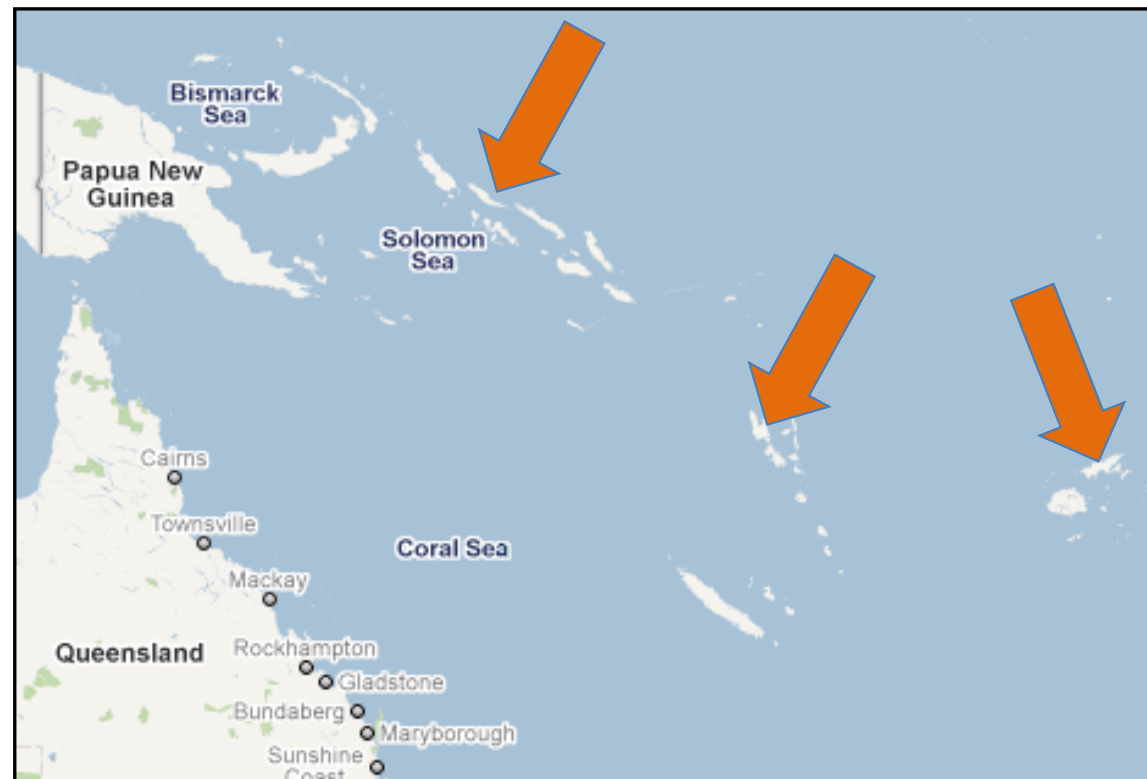


Australian Government
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What does PES look like? Nakau Pacific projects:

- Loru Rainforest Conservation project, Vanuatu
- Drawa rainforest conservation project, Fiji
- Sasaboe rainforest conservation project, Solomon Islands



“Ours are the first ever regional community-based REDD+ projects in the Pacific Islands to produce and sell carbon credits”

Importance of PES in Vanuatu

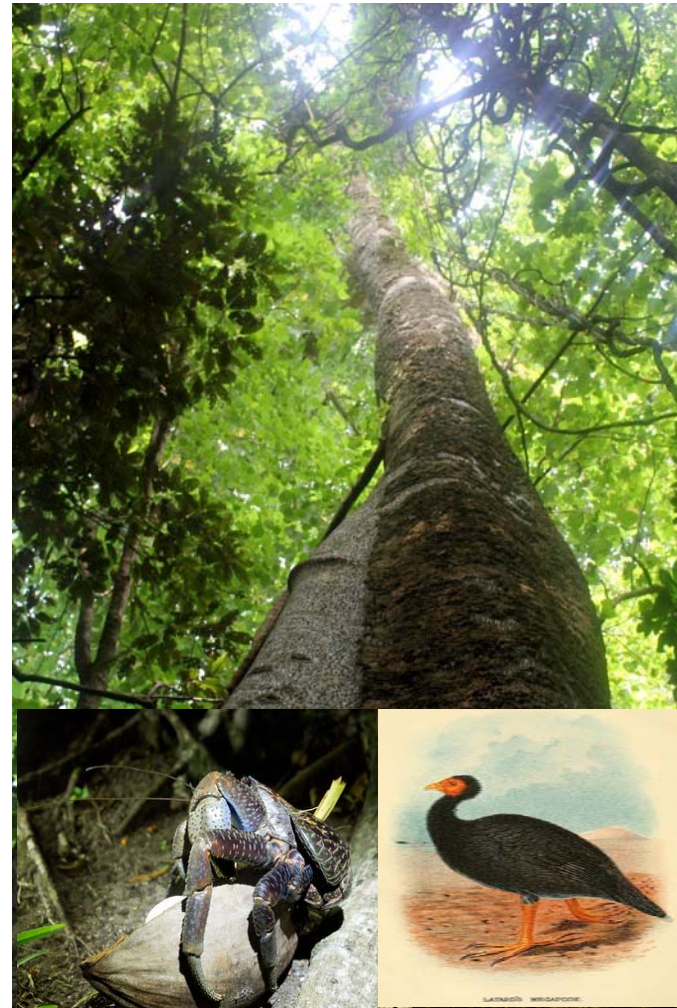


- Rural people *need* an income: this is the major driver of forest degradation
- Limited public funds available to sustain protected areas in the Pacific (and elsewhere)
- PES can help communities to build financial and social capital (e.g. governance and business skills)
- PES is a systematic way to achieve sustainable conservation results

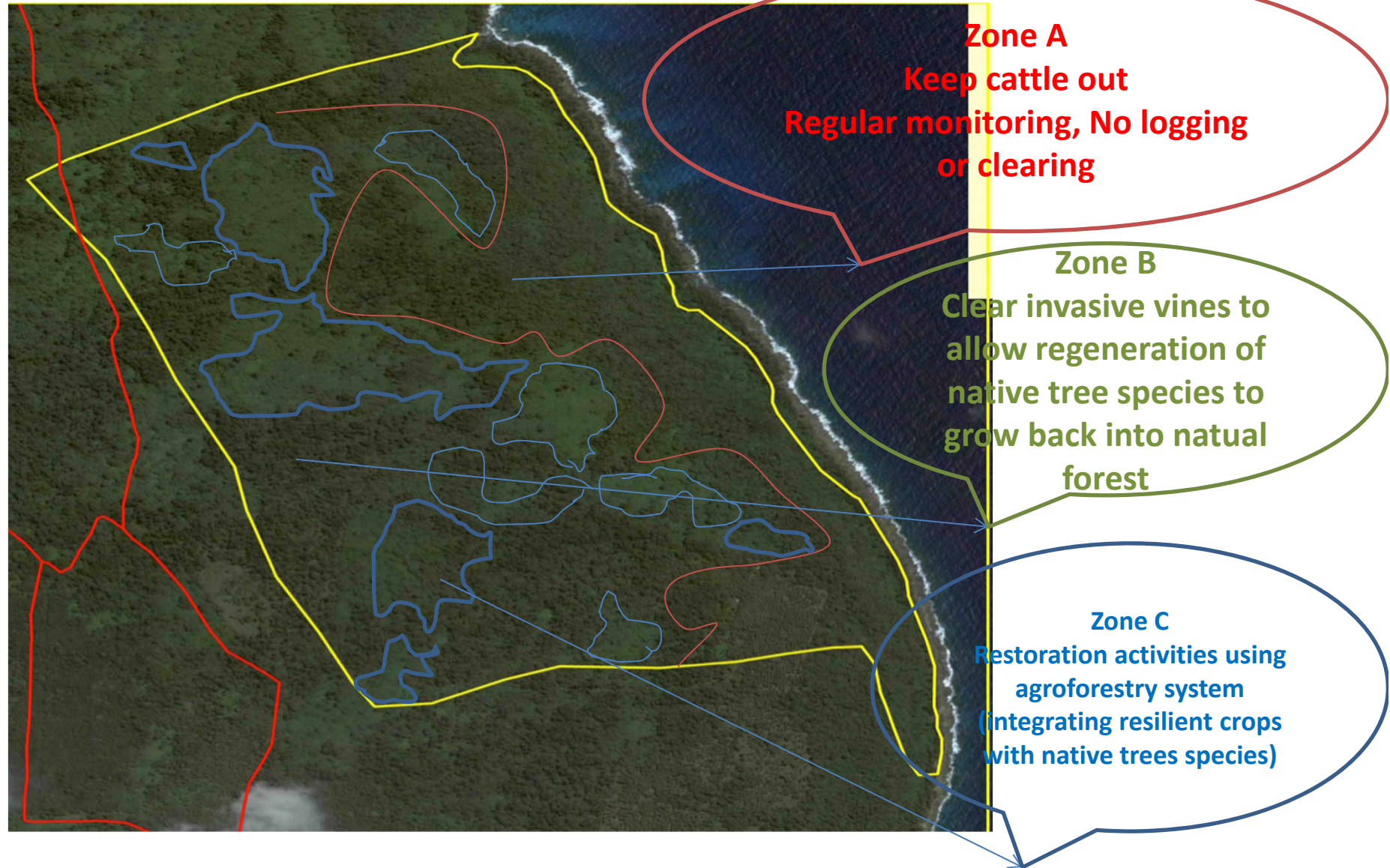
Loru Rainforest Conservation Project

"Our story..."

- 220 ha of tropical rainforest under customary and legal protection
- Habitat for the critically endangered Vanuatu Megapode bird and Coconut Crab
- This rainforest provides many resources for local indigenous people and provides protection from cyclones, floods and droughts

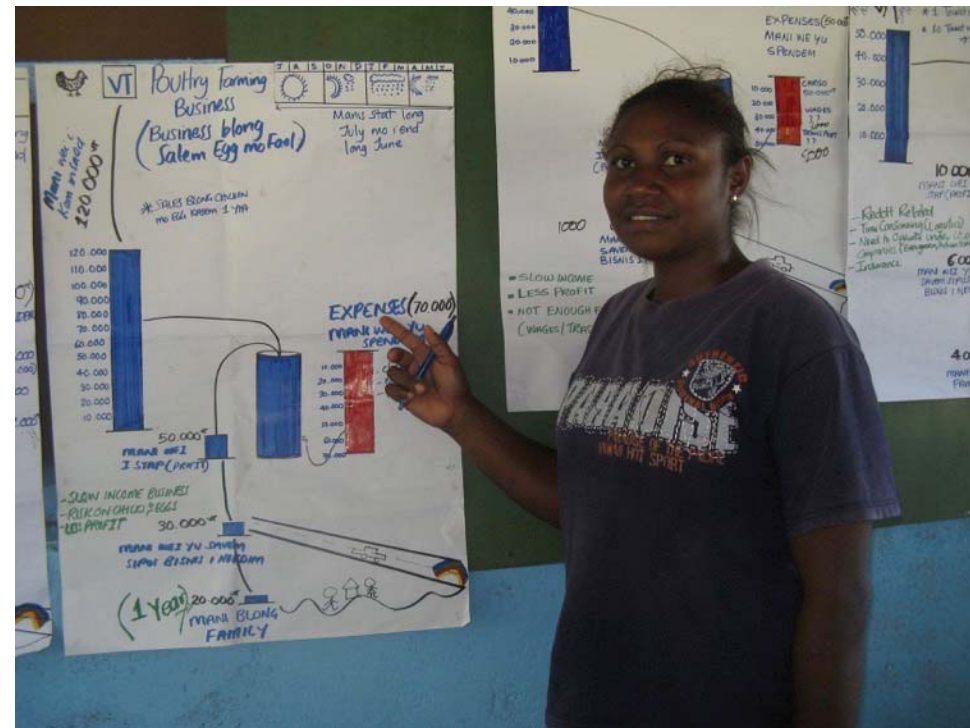


Management Activities



Benefit Sharing

- 'Money Story' system
- Governance support
- Support with other livelihood activities



“In the Serthiac Business PES income sustains the people and the project”

- 60% of sales income goes to the landowners (quarterly disbursements)
- The rest covers support directly to indigenous peoples needs, vision & goals



Measurement verification and report outcomes of the conservation work”

- Validated methodologies for running the project and measuring outcomes
- Forest carbon survey
(how much CO₂ does our forest keep out of the atmosphere?)
- Simple biodiversity survey
- After 3 years we reported to Plan Vivo
(The Standard)
- An independent auditor checked our reports and visited the project



“We passed our audits and our credits were issued!”

- It was verified that we saved 2,442 tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually
- We were issued with 7326 carbon credits (for 3 years of forest protection)



What have we learned?

- It is difficult but possible to make PES viable at relatively small scales. We've shown it can work
- 'No regrets approach' – activities are worthwhile even if PES didn't work out
- Diversified income streams (PES + beekeeping + nut farming + Eco-Tourism)

Contacts

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