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11 **Opportunities and constraints for implementing integrated land-sea management on**  
12 **islands**

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14 *STACY D. JUPITER*<sup>1,\*</sup>, *AMELIA WENGER*<sup>2,3</sup>, *CARISSA J. KLEIN*<sup>3</sup>, *SIMON ALBERT*<sup>4</sup>,  
15 *SANGEETA MANGUBHAI*<sup>5</sup>, *JOANNA NELSON*<sup>6,7</sup>, *LIDA TENEVA*<sup>8</sup>, *VIVITSKAIA J.*  
16 *TULLOCH*<sup>9</sup>, *ALAN T. WHITE*<sup>10</sup>, *JAMES E. M. WATSON*<sup>3,11</sup>

17  
18 <sup>1</sup>Wildlife Conservation Society, Melanesia Program, 11 Ma'afu St, Suva, FIJI

19 <sup>2</sup> Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, James Cook University,  
20 Townsville, Queensland 4811, AUSTRALIA

21 <sup>3</sup>Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science, School of Geography Planning and Environmental  
22 Management, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Queensland 4072 AUSTRALIA

23 <sup>4</sup>School of Civil Engineering, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Queensland, 4072 AUSTRALIA

24 <sup>5</sup>Wildlife Conservation Society, Fiji Country Program, 11 Ma'afu St, Suva, FIJI

25 <sup>6</sup>The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, VA 22203, USA

26 <sup>7</sup>The Natural Capital Project, Stanford University, Stanford CA 94305, USA

27 <sup>8</sup>Conservation International, 7192 Kalaniana'ole Hwy, Honolulu HI 96825, USA

28 <sup>9</sup>Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions, School of  
29 Biological Sciences, University of Queensland, St Lucia, Queensland 4072, AUSTRALIA

30 <sup>10</sup>The Nature Conservancy, 923 Nuuanu Ave, Honolulu, HI 96817, USA

31 <sup>11</sup>Wildlife Conservation Society, Global Conservation Program, 2300 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY  
32 10460, USA

33  
34 \*corresponding author

35 Stacy D. Jupiter

36 Wildlife Conservation Society

37 11 Ma'afu Street

38 Suva, Fiji

39 (e) [sjupiter@wcs.org](mailto:sjupiter@wcs.org)

40 (p) +679 331 5174

41 (f) +679 331 0178

42  
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47

48 **SUMMARY**

49

50 Despite a growing body of literature on integrated land-sea management (ILSM), very little  
51 critical assessment has been done to evaluate ILSM in practice on island systems. Here we  
52 develop indicators for assessing ten integrated island management principles and evaluate the  
53 performance of planning and implementation in four island ILSM projects from the tropical  
54 Pacific across different governance structures. We find that where customary governance is  
55 still strongly respected and enabled through national legislation, ILSM in practice can be very  
56 effective at restricting access and use according to fluctuations in resource availability.

57 However, decision-making under customary governance systems may be vulnerable to  
58 mismanagement. Government-led ILSM processes have the potential to design management  
59 actions that address the spatial scale of ecosystem processes and threats within the context of  
60 national policy and legislation, but may not fully capture broad stakeholder interests and  
61 implementation may be poorly coordinated across highly dispersed island archipelagos.

62 Private sector partnerships offer unique opportunities for resourcing island ILSM, though are  
63 almost always likely to be geared towards private sector interests that may change in the  
64 future and no longer align with community and/or national objectives. We identify consistent  
65 challenges that arise during island ILSM planning and implementation and offer  
66 recommendations for improvement.

67

68 **Keywords:** integrated coastal management, integrated island management, community-based  
69 management, management implementation, tropical Pacific

70

71 **INTRODUCTION**

72

73 Isolation of island systems from continental landmasses has promoted unique biological and  
74 cultural attributes, particularly on small, remote islands (MacArthur & Wilson 1967). There  
75 is also especially tight connectivity between land and sea on high islands given the generally  
76 smaller size of watersheds compared with those on continents (Ruddle *et al.* 1992; Jenkins *et*  
77 *al.* 2010). However, because these ecosystem connections operate across small geographies,  
78 the health and well-being of island peoples are highly vulnerable to large-scale disturbance  
79 (e.g., from tropical cyclones, flooding) that disrupts ecosystem processes and functions  
80 operating across multiple realms (Griffith & Ashe 1993; Aston 1999; Jenkins & Jupiter  
81 2015). For instance, in-stream water quality and biodiversity can be degraded following  
82 periods of high rainfall and flooding: in high island watersheds with high rates of  
83 deforestation on erosion prone soils, researchers have documented reduced abundance and  
84 diversity of freshwater resources and increased in-stream bacteria and incidence of  
85 waterborne bacterial disease (Jenkins & Jupiter 2011; Ragosta *et al.* 2011; Jenkins *et al.*  
86 2016). Given the small size of many islands and often complex tenure or private property  
87 arrangements, affected island people may have limited opportunities to replace loss and  
88 damage to natural resources on which they depend for ecosystem service provisioning, thus  
89 heightening the need for pro-active, integrated management across linked land and sea  
90 realms.

91

92 A number of environmental management approaches have been applied to safeguard island  
93 ecosystem functionality and maintain or increase the adaptive capacity of island social-  
94 ecological systems to respond to environmental change, which include: community-based  
95 adaptive management (CBAM); customary management (CM); ecosystem-based  
96 management (EBM); integrated coastal management (ICM); and integrated island

97 management (IIM; Table 1; Jupiter *et al.* 2014a). Integrated land-sea management (ILSM),  
98 which specifically targets cross-system threats and processes (Table 1), can be applied on  
99 islands within the context of any of the above environmental management approaches to  
100 maintain or restore sensitive biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being.

101 Important cross-system processes to maintain on islands include nutrient subsidies, which can  
102 influence the productivity and diversity of linked ecosystems (e.g., Polis & Hurd 1996;  
103 Anderson & Polis 1999), and species' movements across their life history stages (Polis *et al.*  
104 1997; Hazlitt *et al.* 2010; Jenkins *et al.* 2010). Cross-system threats requiring management  
105 stem both from land-based activities that affect marine realms (Stoms *et al.* 2005) and  
106 maritime activities that affect other realms (Gresh *et al.* 2000).

107

108 Yet despite a growing number of projects on islands funded under ILSM initiatives with  
109 differing environmental management approaches and governance structures, very few in  
110 practice are able to effectively manage these cross-system threats and processes to achieve  
111 biodiversity protection and livelihood outcomes (Álvarez-Romero *et al.* 2011; Adams *et al.*  
112 2014; Jupiter *et al.* 2014a). Recent reviews (e.g., Álvarez-Romero *et al.* 2011; Álvarez-  
113 Romero *et al.* 2015; Reuter *et al.* 2016) highlight several hurdles to achieving effective ILSM  
114 outcomes in both continental and island systems. Barriers to effective ILSM planning and  
115 implementation include: (1) lack of mechanisms to coordinate institutions with different  
116 mandates and area jurisdictions across levels of government and between public and private  
117 sector (Cicin-Sain & Belfiore 2005; Lane 2008); (2) conflict arising due to poor involvement  
118 of the full range of stakeholders with interests across the land and sea divide (Reuter *et al.*  
119 2016); (3) inability to address potentially conflicting objectives and mandates across agencies  
120 (e.g., conservation through sustainable use versus economic gain from commercial  
121 extraction; Álvarez-Romero *et al.* 2011); (4) lack of adequate data on ecosystem responses to

122 management measures to appropriately prioritize actions, particularly with regards to multi-  
123 objective project goals (Álvarez-Romero *et al.* 2015); (5) uncertainty about the effects of  
124 management actions across connected realms (Adams *et al.* 2014); and (6) labor, time and  
125 complexity of analyses required to develop and/or adapt models and decision-support  
126 systems that deal with the above issues (Álvarez-Romero *et al.* 2011). ILSM project  
127 implementation may be further hampered by the inability of responsible agencies and  
128 institutions to simultaneously schedule management actions in linked terrestrial and marine  
129 realms to comprehensively address threats at appropriate spatial and temporal scales  
130 (Álvarez-Romero *et al.* 2011).

131

132 Despite a large body of potential socioeconomic, governance and environmental indicators  
133 (e.g., Ehler 2003; Pollnac & Pomeroy 2005), little monitoring and evaluation has been done  
134 to assess ILSM planning and implementation (Christie 2005), although there are a few island  
135 examples showcased as successes (Jupiter *et al.* 2014a). Here we provide novel indicators for  
136 island ILSM, based on ten IIM principles (Jupiter *et al.* 2014a) built on Ostrom's (1990)  
137 framework for the sustainable governance of common-pool resources, that can be used to  
138 evaluate the potential effectiveness of island ILSM planning and implementation for  
139 managing cross-system processes and mitigating cross-system threats. We use our indicators  
140 to evaluate four island ILSM projects across community, government and private sector led  
141 approaches. We showcase how each project embodies some aspects of best practice for ILSM  
142 and highlight the challenges faced. We then provide some recommendations for how the  
143 challenges may be addressed to improve island ILSM outcomes.

144

## 145 **METHODS**

146

147 *Development of ILSM indicators*

148 An expert working group convened in April 2015 to propose a list of monitoring and  
149 evaluation indicators within the context of ten principles designed to guide best practice for  
150 integrated island management (IIM; Jupiter *et al.* 2014a). The principles are based on  
151 common-pool resources theory (e.g., Ostrom 1990; Cox *et al.* 2010) and consultations with  
152 regional practitioners (Jupiter *et al.* 2014a). The IIM principles, which can be grouped into  
153 planning and implementation categories, provide a clear framework under which island ILSM  
154 projects can be evaluated. Indicators were refined during a second workshop in January 2016,  
155 yielding a list of 32 (Table 2, Table S1). Of these, 22 (68.8%) specifically relate to ILSM,  
156 while the remaining indicators characterize aspects of best practice management relevant to  
157 any IIM project (Table 2). The principles and indicators are not necessarily unique to island  
158 settings, but given smaller geographies, there are faster and tighter feedbacks between social  
159 and ecological systems across island terrestrial and marine realms, heightening the need for  
160 integrated management. Community and government managers, particularly in remote island  
161 settings, may additionally benefit from more efficient resource allocation through integration  
162 and coordination of activities across sectors and realms to achieve mutual aims of  
163 maintaining ecosystem services and securing human health and well-being (Lane 2006;  
164 Jupiter *et al.* 2014a).

165

166 *Case selection and scoring*

167 We selected four island ILSM projects from locations in the tropical western Pacific where  
168 there was adequate information from the literature or place-based expert knowledge to assess  
169 the characteristics of ILSM planning and implementation against the indicators (Fig. 1).  
170 Although we recognize the limitations about generalizing from our small sample size, we  
171 found, similar to Jupiter *et al.* (2014a), that very few island ILSM projects exist with

172 adequate documentation on planning and implementation to enable critical evaluation. The  
173 selected projects cover a range of geographic scales, governance and management systems:  
174 (1) customary management of a single community of approximately 150 people, with little  
175 external input and resources (Zaira, Solomon Islands); (2) community-based management at  
176 the district level, covering 10 villages and approximately 1000 people, with financial and  
177 technical support from non-governmental organization (NGO) partners (Kubulau, Fiji); (3)  
178 provincial-level government decision-making and prioritization, operating within the context  
179 of indigenous tenure systems across entire island systems with approximately 450,000  
180 residents (New Britain, Papua New Guinea); and (4) top-down management from a private  
181 sector company that owns 98% of an island with about 3,100 local residents (Lānaʻi, Hawaiʻi;  
182 Table 3).

183

184 To evaluate the projects, designated co-authors most familiar with each entered supporting  
185 information into an Excel database from the literature and their own experience about project  
186 planning and implementation as it related to the measurement of each indicator. To maintain  
187 some objectivity, only co-authors who were uninvolved in project planning and  
188 implementation scored each project on performance against each indicator using uniform  
189 scoring criteria (Table S2). Results were averaged across all scorers and performance of each  
190 ILSM project against the indicators is described. Evaluation of these four projects is meant to  
191 highlight factors which contribute to successful planning and implementation, while raising  
192 challenges that may ultimately impact ILSM outcomes and thus provide learning to improve  
193 practice at other sites. We hypothesize that projects which score high across most indicators  
194 will be most successful at delivering on management objectives, which largely focus on  
195 protecting biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem functions, and provision of ecosystem  
196 services for human health, cultural practice and well-being (Table 3). For projects where

197 periodic monitoring data have been collected, additional indicators could also be used to  
198 measure ILSM outcomes for biodiversity and livelihoods (e.g., changes in coral health and  
199 fish catch as a response to watershed management), though this is beyond the scope of this  
200 assessment because two of the projects (New Britain and Lāna‘i) are still in planning phases.

201

## 202 **RESULTS**

203

### 204 *Zaira Village, Solomon Islands*

205

206 Positive attributes: The Zaira project scored consistently high on indicators related to:  
207 adopting a long-term integrated approach to management; using clearly defined management  
208 boundaries at the appropriate scale; accounting for connectivity between ecological realms  
209 and social networks; ensuring management systems reflect local values; monitoring and  
210 punishing offenders; and resolving conflicts (indicators associated with principles 1-3, 5, 7-8;  
211 Table 4). Through a commitment to longstanding cultural values, the three tribal groups that  
212 form Zaira have successfully managed their linked land and sea resources for millennia under  
213 a customary management system, which allows certain resources to be restricted at certain  
214 times and considers connectivity and feedbacks between the cultural interaction of people  
215 with land and sea systems (Table 4 *indicators 3a-c*; Hviding 1996). The customary practices  
216 are generally regarded as fair and equitable within the local social contexts (Table 4  
217 *indicators 5a-c*). Zaira community members are committed to achieving sustainable resource  
218 management because the customary practices are part of their identity; thus, ILSM benefits  
219 are as much about maintaining cultural practice as ensuring livelihoods and well-being  
220 derived from environmental services (Table 4 *indicator 5b*).

221



222 More recently in 2010, the Zaira tribes independently adapted their customary resource  
223 management mechanisms to more formalised planning and implementation under an ILSM  
224 plan, which integrates customary and scientific approaches, as per Aswani & Ruddle (2013).  
225 The plan: covers management rules for all linked ecosystems within the customary land and  
226 sea tenure boundaries of three cooperating tribes at the scale over which cross-system  
227 processes are occurring; has objectives focused on maintenance of culture and tenure, food  
228 security, iconic species and education; and is discussed during annual meetings, with a five  
229 year timeline for review (Table 3 and Table 4 *indicators 1a,b,f, 2a-c*). The evolution of  
230 Zaira's customary management system into more structured ILSM implementation has  
231 provided a platform of confidence for the local management committee to enforce their  
232 authority on outsiders interested in resource extraction: recently, one high profile case of a  
233 peaceful boarding of an international logging vessel illegally entering the management area  
234 was settled with significant financial compensation paid to Zaira community members (Table  
235 4 *indicators 7a-b*; S. Albert, pers. comm.). Meanwhile, internal conflicts and punishments for  
236 local offenders are dealt with through customary mechanisms (Table 4 *indicators 8a-b*).

237

238 Constraints: The governance and decision-making systems in Zaira are clear (Table 4  
239 *indicator 2d*), but do not allow for full participation of all segments of the population affected  
240 by management decisions (Table 4 *indicators 4a,c*), which may ultimately lead to system  
241 vulnerabilities should future conditions change. Though the community-centric approach in  
242 Zaira is viewed by outsiders as bottom-up governance, internally the governance is relatively  
243 top-down and is not nested within broader government management systems (Table 4  
244 *indicator 10c*). Lack of broad involvement is not currently an issue in Zaira, as resource users  
245 perceive that the chief represents their interests and values, but it may become a challenge in  
246 the future if respect for the customary governance system is eroded and top down imposition

247 of rules is perceived as less legitimate. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that the successor  
248 to the current chief will not be swayed by development interests (Table 4 *indicator 4d*). A  
249 further constraint is that although formal land and sea tenure rights are recognized by  
250 Solomon Islands legislation (Hviding & Baines 1994), the tenure and use rights boundaries  
251 are not legally demarcated (Table 4 *indicator 6b*), which can create conflict when outsiders  
252 interested in resource extraction or conservation are interested in distributing benefits to the  
253 resource owners (Hviding 1996). Moreover, the government has authority to award timber  
254 rights to a third party without landowner consent (Hviding & Bayliss Smith 2000), and has  
255 recently done so for forests of Zaira (S. Albert, pers. comm.), jeopardizing both land and  
256 linked sea ecosystems within the conservation area.

257

258 *Kubulau District, Fiji*

259

260 Positive attributes: The Kubulau project scored high on some but not all indicators related to:  
261 adopting a long-term integrated approach to management; ensuring management systems  
262 reflect local values; ensuring management authority and rules are recognized; resolving  
263 conflicts; implementing evidence-based adaptive management; and nesting ILSM within  
264 existing governance systems operating across land and sea sectors (indicators associated with  
265 principles 1, 5-6, 8-10; Table 4). As in Zaira, local communities in Kubulau traditionally  
266 regulated local land and sea resource use through customary management; however by the  
267 early 1990s they realized that customary measures alone were insufficient to prevent  
268 commercial overexploitation of marine resources by outside users (Clarke & Jupiter 2010b).  
269 The chiefs requested support from an international NGO specializing in natural resource  
270 management, who assisted the Kubulau leadership in 2009 to develop a district-level ILSM  
271 plan designed to regulate resource use and minimize downstream impacts of land activities

272 by facilitating dialogue across multiple stakeholders from the communities, government and  
273 private sector (Table 4 *indicator 4a*). The goals of the plan, which covers the entirety of the  
274 relatively intact Kubulau land and fisheries management area (Table 4 *indicator 1b*), reflect  
275 local values and are focused on ensuring ecosystem integrity for biodiversity conservation  
276 and to maintain important services (e.g., food and water provision) for livelihoods and well-  
277 being (Table 3; Table 4 *indicators 1f, 5a*).

278

279 The Kubulau ILSM plan outlines a governance structure, which includes a coordination body  
280 (the Kubulau Resource Management Committee) made up of representatives from coastal  
281 and inland villages that oversees management implementation (Table 4 *indicator 1c*). The  
282 Management Committee is nested within the traditional chiefly governance system, through  
283 which internal conflicts are resolved through customary mechanisms (Table 4 *indicators*  
284 *8a,b, 10a,c*). The plan was reviewed and adapted in 2012, based on monitoring data, local  
285 knowledge and community aspirations that consider future uncertainty (Table 4 *indicators*  
286 *9a,c*; Weeks & Jupiter 2013). There is a general perception from Kubulau community  
287 household survey data that management positively affects resource state (Table 4 *indicator*  
288 *5c*), with a majority of respondents specifying some level of involvement in and a high  
289 degree of satisfaction with the management process (Table 4 *indicator 5b*; Egli *et al.* 2010).

290

291 Constraints: The mismatch between the scale of threats and management implementation is  
292 an issue in Kubulau, where local actors are not capable of managing all threats to their  
293 ecosystems (Table 4 *indicator 2b*). In 1998, local communities attributed mass fish kills and  
294 coral die-offs downstream of the Yanawai River mouth to runoff from tailings released from  
295 an upstream gold mine (Jupiter *et al.* 2010). As the tailings ponds are located outside the  
296 boundaries of Kubulau District near the headwaters of the Yanawai, the community has no

297 influence in mining operations there, particularly as mining leases in Fiji may be granted over  
298 native land under the Mining Act without landowner consent (Clarke & Jupiter 2010b). A  
299 second major constraint is that community ILSM plans are not legally recognized by the  
300 government (Clarke & Jupiter 2010b), which particularly affects local ability to enforce no-  
301 take freshwater and marine protected areas (Table 4 *indicator 7b*). The Fiji Fisheries Act  
302 permits all fishers to fish for subsistence anywhere in Fiji's fresh and coastal waters with  
303 certain permitted gear types, compromising the effectiveness of ILSM as a large number of  
304 Fiji's fishes move between freshwater and marine realms during their life cycles (Jenkins *et*  
305 *al.* 2010). Presently, the only legal mechanism available for completely prohibiting all  
306 subsistence and commercial fishing is for the Minister for Fisheries and Forests to gazette an  
307 MPA as a restricted area, but Kubulau communities, like others in Fiji, have been reluctant to  
308 use this instrument as it would require ceding management control to the government (Clarke  
309 & Jupiter 2010b).

310

311 *New Britain, Papua New Guinea (PNG)*

312

313 Positive attributes: The New Britain project scored high on some but not all indicators related  
314 to: adopting a long-term integrated approach to management; ensuring broad sectoral  
315 participation in management planning across land and sea; ensuring management systems  
316 reflect local values; and adapting existing management (indicators associated with principles  
317 1, 4-5, 9; Table 4). Through its commitments to the United Nations Convention on Biological  
318 Diversity's Programme of Work on Protected Areas and the Coral Triangle Initiative on  
319 Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security, the PNG national government, with support of  
320 NGO and research partners, has developed national priorities for terrestrial and marine  
321 conservation. In recognition that these two prioritization processes were undertaken

322 separately without considering the connectivity between land and sea, PNG's national  
323 Conservation and Environmental Protection Authority, in partnership with the United Nations  
324 Development Programme (UNDP), funded an assessment of land-based threats to  
325 downstream coastal ecosystems from upstream land-use and land cover change, using  
326 methods developed by Tulloch *et al.* (2016) that consider uncertainty in future development  
327 scenarios (Table 4 *indicator 9c*). The outputs from this connectivity assessment are being  
328 integrated into ILSM planning decentralized to New Britain Island (covering 2 provinces),  
329 which include prioritization of locations for protected areas specifically to manage for cross-  
330 system threats from land-based activities that increase sedimentation and negatively impact  
331 biodiversity. There are aspirations that at least some of these priority areas will become  
332 legally protected under new protected area legislation in development in PNG, though the  
333 protected area type and agencies responsible for their management are not yet clear.

334

335 An international NGO and an Australian research organisation are facilitating the  
336 development of an ILSM plan for East New Britain as part of the Bismarck Sea Adaptive  
337 Governance project, which complements an ILSM plan already completed for West New  
338 Britain with UNDP support (V. Tulloch, pers. comm.). Contents of the two plans will be  
339 incorporated into five year sustainable development plans for provincial governments (Table  
340 4 *indicator 1a*) with the aim to enable community and government stakeholders to make  
341 informed and inclusive decisions to support sustainable resource management and economic  
342 development within an ILSM framework. All coastal ecosystems will be covered in the  
343 finalized plans (Table 4 *indicator 1b*) and a broad range of stakeholders have been included  
344 in consultations, including the National Fisheries Authority, Mineral Resources Authority,  
345 provincial government staff, oil palm and deep-sea mining companies and representatives  
346 from local communities (Table 4 *indicator 4b*). Local values surrounding how connected

347 terrestrial, freshwater and marine resources are used are being captured through participatory  
348 planning workshops with provincial, district and local level government stakeholders to  
349 collate ecosystem goods and services' values and define management rules (Table 1  
350 *indicator 5a*).

351

352 Constraints: Actual implementation of the individual ILSM plans and integrated sustainable  
353 development plan for New Britain is likely to be challenged by resourcing, buy-in and  
354 enforcement issues. Current ILSM plan development is based on a two year funded project:  
355 while there is hope that additional funding will become available for another five to ten years,  
356 the PNG national government has no immediate plans to mainstream the plans'  
357 implementation into government budgets and there is presently little buy-in from provincial  
358 governments (Table 4 *indicator 4d, 10a-c*). Furthermore, because of customary tenure  
359 systems in PNG, implementation ultimately depends on land and reef owner participation in  
360 management. Yet the majority of indigenous land- and reef-owners have not been consulted  
361 on plan design (Table 4 *indicator 4a*) and may have contrary objectives. They may choose to  
362 log rather than restore lands (Table 4 *indicator 5b*), thus potentially preventing  
363 implementation across scales necessary for threat mitigation (Table 4 *indicator 3a,b*).  
364 Offenses for existing mangement are generally not punished (Table 4 *indicator 7b*) and  
365 corruption is rife.

366

367 *Lāna‘i, Hawai‘i, USA*

368

369 Positive attributes: The Lāna‘i project scored high on indicators related to: adopting a long-  
370 term integrated approach to management; using clearly defined management boundaries at  
371 the appropriate scale; accounting for connectivity between ecological realms and social  
372 networks (Mills *et al.* 2014; Guerrero & Wilson 2016); ensuring management authority and  
373 rules are recognized; and establishing the framework to implement evidence-based adaptive  
374 management (indicators associated with principles 1-3, 6, 9; Table 4). Lāna‘i, the sixth largest  
375 (364 km<sup>2</sup>) of the main Hawaiian Islands, suffers from extensive soil erosion due to  
376 proliferation of invasive feral ungulates (e.g., deer and sheep), with significant capacity to  
377 devegetate large parts of the island. Over 3,000 people live on the island, though the majority  
378 of the land is privately owned by a single for-profit company, Pūlama Lāna‘i, who run resorts  
379 on the island. The company is developing an ILSM plan covering the 98% of the island that it  
380 owns, while the remaining 2% is owned by local people, the State of Hawai‘i and The Nature  
381 Conservancy. Jurisdictionally, the management plan is likely to be easily implemented  
382 because: the local community and state recognizes the management authority of the private  
383 land owner (Table 4 *indicators 6a-c*); land and sea ownership is clearly demarcated and  
384 recognized (Table 4, *indicators 2a-c*); and the management and monitoring of the company  
385 land is well-coordinated (Table 4 *indicator 10a*).

386

387 The goals of the plan are to reduce threats to downstream systems, restore connectivity across  
388 landscapes and across the land-sea interface, and maintain and restore ecosystem services  
389 (Table 3). Proposed activities for watershed restoration, terrestrial and marine invasive  
390 species management, and marine debris management will minimize sedimentation and  
391 maximize the potential for recovery of the nearshore reefs (Table 4 *indicators 3a,b*). The  
392 ILSM plan will account for cumulative impacts to the coastal zone (Table 4 *indicator 1e*),  
393 using outputs from quantitative models estimating soil erosion and dispersal to adjacent reefs,

394 which will be coupled with evaluation of human fishing effort and other marine uses (e.g.,  
395 recreation) to assess reef impact and recovery potential. Scenarios will be developed based on  
396 various strategies for managing feral ungulates to prioritize areas for management and  
397 restoration. Plans are under development to install an integrated land-sea monitoring system  
398 once the watersheds for restoration have been determined in order to monitor and evaluate  
399 management effectiveness (Table 1 *indicators 9a-c*).

400

401 Constraints: Although a broad range of partners have been involved in discussions about  
402 management plan development, including the Hawai‘i Division of Aquatic Resources, the  
403 Hawai‘i Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, local  
404 residents of Lāna‘i have not been consulted (Table 4, *indicators 4a-c*). Local residents have  
405 some contradictory values to the company and its management partners, with respect to their  
406 preference to maintain populations of feral ungulate for hunting. They are thus not convinced  
407 that the management benefits will outweigh the costs to them in terms of lost hunting  
408 opportunities and view the company with some distrust (Table 4, *indicators 5a-c*). The  
409 landowner is clear that the company will take local community concerns into account and  
410 will provide future opportunities for local engagement. However, there is little scope for local  
411 residents to question the company’s management authority should their future interests  
412 diverge (Table 4 *indicator 4d*).

413

## 414 **DISCUSSION**

415

416 Based on the constraints identified in the four island ILSM projects evaluated, we identify  
417 opportunities to improve the effectiveness of project planning and evaluation through  
418 increasing local participation in decision-making and mainstreaming ILSM into government,



419 private sector or public-private partnerships systems for durable and sustainable  
420 implementation. We additionally draw on the ILSM literature to identify best-practice  
421 examples from other regions that can serve as models for island ILSM projects, while  
422 recognizing that outcomes will additionally be influenced by number of resources users and  
423 uses and governance capacity.

424

425 *Improving local participation in decision-making*

426 The common-pool and community-based resource management literature is rich in theory  
427 and examples of how local participation promotes more effective and accountable resource  
428 management policies and outcomes because local resource users have higher stakes in  
429 maintaining the sustainability of resources and have good local knowledge about local  
430 processes and feedbacks (e.g., Ostrom 1990; Brechin *et al.* 2002; Cox *et al.* 2010).  
431 Furthermore, various evaluations of island projects have emphasized the importance of  
432 community-driven decisions for regulating resource use (World Bank 1999; Pollnac &  
433 Pomeroy 2005). For many Pacific Island systems, these local decision-making processes  
434 concerning access to and use of land and sea resources are embedded in customary  
435 governance structures operating across linked ridge-to-reef units (Ruddle *et al.* 1992; Hviding  
436 1996). In places like Zaira and Kubulau where customary governance is still strongly  
437 respected and largely supported by national legislation, participatory, community-based  
438 management systems can be extraordinarily effective at restricting access and use according  
439 to fluctuations in resource availability, particularly as systems of customary management  
440 blend with more contemporary concepts of ILSM (Johannes 2002; Aswani & Ruddle 2013).  
441 Thus, these customary systems should be supported and strengthened.

442

443 The ability to participate in management rule development during island ILSM planning will  
444 likely have strong impact on the long-term sustainability of implementation. Giving all  
445 stakeholders opportunity to voice opinions will improve buy-in (Kearney *et al.* 2007), though  
446 if these opinions are not valued it can create dissatisfaction in the planning and  
447 implementation process (e.g., Risvoll *et al.* 2014). In New Britain and Lāna‘i, where outside  
448 actors are spearheading ILSM initiatives, the success of plan implementation will therefore  
449 hinge on engaging local landowners to ensure that they recognize both the process and the  
450 rules as legitimate.

451

452 Level of participation can potentially be increased by ensuring that local governance is nested  
453 within broader supporting agencies and structures (Ostrom 1990) and by working with  
454 influential actors to engage people across their social networks, noting that participation will  
455 likely be more effective where there is cultural predilection towards social cooperation  
456 (Gurney *et al.* 2016). Expectations of all stakeholders must be clearly articulated from the  
457 outset or could ultimately result in project failure if and when local actors do not feel their  
458 objectives are being met and/or benefits are not distributed equitably (Christie 2005).

459 Adequate time and effort must be given for participatory consultations to define management  
460 objectives, systems and rules, which may require donor education to ensure that project  
461 budgets and timelines allow for enough facilitated discussion to build consensus. As an  
462 example, the participatory processes supporting the rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef  
463 Marine Park, which is often upheld as a model of ILSM, took six years and included over  
464 1000 meetings and consideration of 31,000 written submissions to the management authority  
465 (Hughes *et al.* 2007).

466

467 *Mainstreaming ILSM for long-term implementation*

468 Governments have capacity to create the legal enabling framework for ILSM and harmonize  
469 laws across multiple sectors (e.g., forests, fisheries, environment, health; Lane 2008) and  
470 multiple scales, from local rules to internationally agreed multi-lateral frameworks (e.g.,  
471 CBD). While this does not happen frequently, it may improve policy implementation when  
472 local rules are recognized at higher levels (Christie 2005). Government-led processes, such as  
473 from the New Britain project, also have the potential to design management that addresses  
474 the spatial scale of ecosystem processes and threats within the context of national policy and  
475 legislation. Decentralization and nesting of these broader government policies and plans  
476 should improve implementation when local actors have more ownership over decisions  
477 (Ostrom 1990). A prime example of this comes from island systems in the Philippines, where  
478 the Local Government Code of 1991 devolves most responsibility for coastal resource  
479 management, including management of cross-system processes and threats, to local  
480 government units (LGUs) to manage from their inland boundary to 15 km offshore (White *et*  
481 *al.* 2005).

482

483 Funding for many ILSM projects in developing countries has historically been donor-driven,  
484 resulting in cessation of implementation following project termination (Christie 2005; Pollnac  
485 & Pomeroy 2005). Thus, mainstreaming ILSM into government budgets and agency  
486 mandates should enable long-term support, particularly for monitoring and enforcement that  
487 local communities may be ill-equipped on their own to carry out (Christie & White 1997;  
488 Christie 2005). This is exemplified in the Philippines where a Coastal and Marine  
489 Management Office was created within the Department of Environment and Natural  
490 Resources, and coastal management issues, including ILSM, were resourced with funding  
491 from national budget allocations (Christie 2005; White *et al.* 2005). To achieve this, policy  
492 makers controlling national accounts will need to be convinced that effective ILSM can

493 achieve desirable high-level policy outcomes for food security, livelihoods, sustainable  
494 development and biodiversity conservation (Jupiter *et al.* 2014a). Secondly, in order for  
495 locally-driven projects to be able to access mainstreamed government resources, local  
496 management objectives need to be directly linked to broader policies and plans. For example,  
497 gazettal of the Zaira Resource Management Area under the Solomon Islands Protected Area  
498 Act 2010 would make it eligible in principle to receive support through legally mandated  
499 government financing mechanisms, though in practice Solomon Islands has yet to declare a  
500 single national protected area under the Act or mobilize funds for their management.

501

502 Across highly dispersed island archipelagos, central government will not always have  
503 resources to lead ILSM planning and implementation in more remote areas, thus  
504 decentralization and coordination are essential (Lane 2008). Decentralization will only be  
505 effective, however, where local rights to organize and make rules regarding access and use of  
506 resources are recognized by higher authorities (Ostrom 1990). Where these rights do not  
507 presently exist, granting them to cooperatives of resource users issued exclusive access for  
508 harvesting can be effective for incentivizing local actors to self-police and manage for long-  
509 term sustainability (e.g., Afflerbach *et al.* 2014). In areas like Kubulau (Fiji) where  
510 indigenous people's inherited resource use and access rights have been partially eroded as a  
511 consequence of colonial systems, devolving marine tenure rights from the State to traditional  
512 fishing owners is highly contentious (Vukikomoala *et al.* 2012). Thus, in the absence of the  
513 ability to give local people more direct control over ILSM implementation, projects should  
514 focus on improving resources for enforcement of existing rules and building relationships  
515 between local wardens and magistrates to enhance opportunities for successful prosecutions.  
516 Improved sub-national and national policies can encourage these relationships and improve  
517 cooperation among stakeholders that may not normally collaborate (White *et al.* 2006).

518

519 Where there are consistent roadblocks to accessing government funds for ILSM,  
520 opportunities can be investigated through private sector engagement, as in Lāna‘i. In some  
521 cases, large-scale private landowners are motivated by the direct economic incentives of  
522 improving ecosystem service provision. For example, following presentations of modelled  
523 scenarios for land-use planning incorporating ecosystem service values, Kamehameha  
524 Schools, a large landowner on the north shore of Oah‘u (Hawai‘i) is working to implement a  
525 land-use plan prioritizing small-scale agriculture and forestry while also mitigating negative  
526 impacts of runoff (Goldstein *et al.* 2012). Other landowners may be swayed to action through  
527 corporate social responsibility policies (MacDonald 2010). Small-scale private landholders  
528 can be incentivized towards better watershed management practices through payment for  
529 ecosystem services initiatives that collectively may act to reduce pollution affecting  
530 downstream biodiversity (e.g., Brodie *et al.* 2012). In Kubulau, management costs for  
531 implementing the district ILSM plan are offset by tourist user fees for entering the  
532 community-managed Namena Marine Reserve (Clarke & Jupiter 2010b), though such  
533 schemes are unlikely to be practical or effective in very remote areas (Jupiter *et al.* 2014b).  
534 Other opportunities may exist to harness developers’ fees paid into trust funds that could be  
535 leveraged towards strategic ILSM implementation, though risks of funds being absorbed into  
536 consolidated revenue or mismanaged are high, particularly in developing countries (Maron *et*  
537 *al.* 2016).

538

539 In summary, we have identified variability in how island ILSM projects are planned and  
540 implemented across geographic scales and with different actors driving the process. All  
541 projects would benefit from more inclusive participation of all stakeholder groups affected by  
542 management decisions across the land-sea divide. Local scale projects could gain from being

543 nested within government policy frameworks in terms of long-term resourcing and external  
544 support. In general, outcomes will only be achieved where adequate government legal and  
545 institutional policies encourage, rather than disincentivize, ILSM. Application of our  
546 framework for island ILSM project evaluation periodically throughout the lifetime of projects  
547 should ultimately lead to better achievement of project goals for biodiversity conservation,  
548 sustainable livelihoods and human well-being, though the practicality of its use will  
549 ultimately depend on ensuring that ILSM projects are well-documented and the information  
550 is readily obtainable.

551

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560

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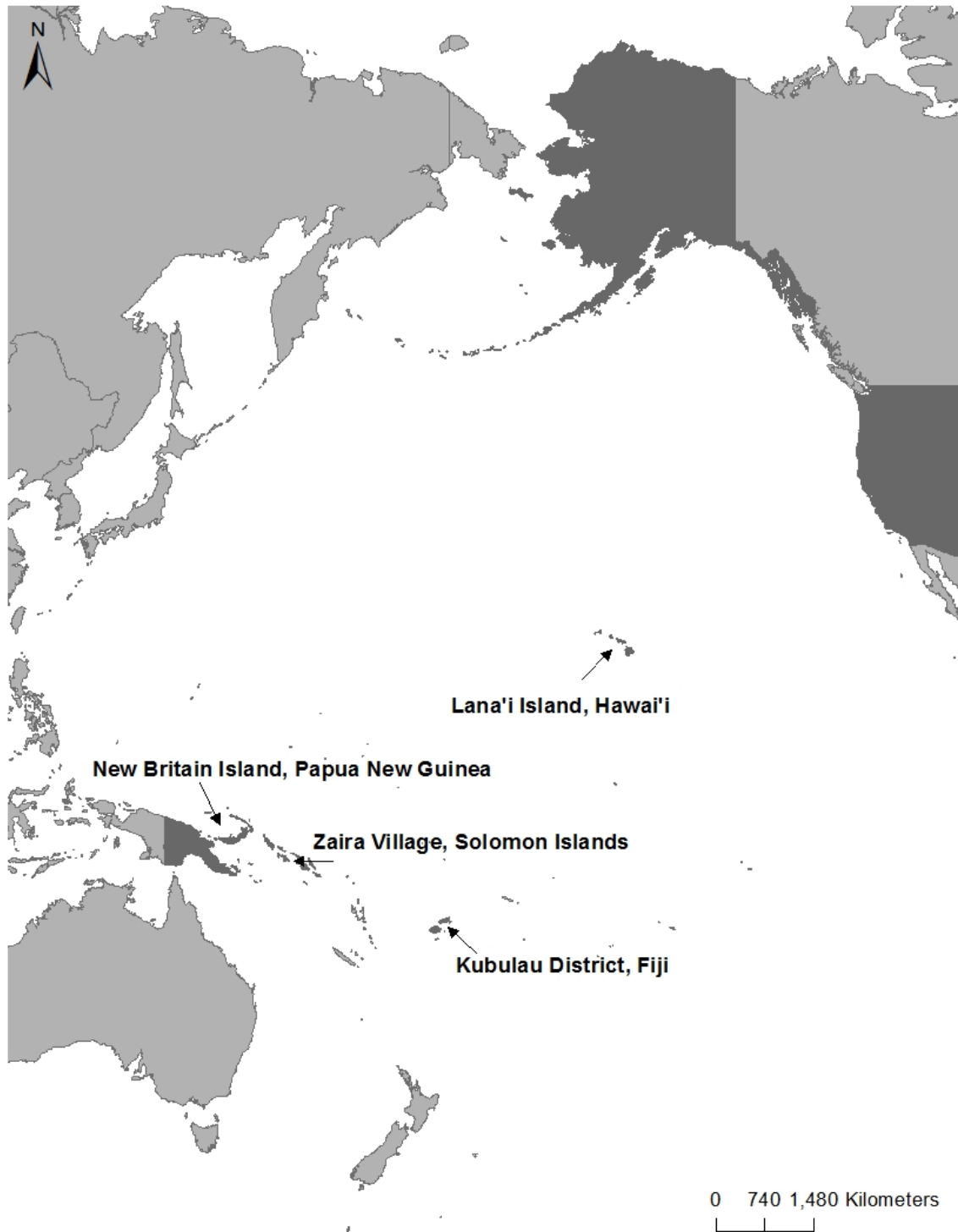
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736

737 **Figure caption**

738 Figure 1. Location of four island ILSM projects in the tropical Pacific.



739

740

741 Table 1. Definitions of environmental management approaches applied to safeguard linked land and sea resources, with special reference to  
 742 implementation in island systems, adapted from Jupiter *et al.* (2014a).  
 743

<b>Approach</b>	<b>Definition and relevance to islands</b>	<b>Supporting reference</b>
Community-based adaptive management (CBAM)	Integration of design, management and monitoring in order to learn and to improve responses to management efforts, carried out by, or with a major role played by, local communities. In island systems, communities often have the ability to influence management over linked terrestrial and marine ecosystems at the scale in which ecosystem processes and threats are occurring.	Govan <i>et al.</i> (2008)
Customary management (CM)	Management of natural resources and systems as part of customary practice and institutions. For example, many Pacific Island peoples retain customary tenure over land and sea ecosystems and resources and can self-define rules for their access and use.	Ruddle <i>et al.</i> (1992)
Ecosystem-based management (EBM)	Management of cumulative impact of human activities to maintain ecosystems in a healthy, productive and resilient condition for delivery of ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity. Application of ILSM on island systems is a specific form of EBM that targets maintenance of ecosystem services and biodiversity that rely on connections between land and sea.	Clarke & Jupiter (2010a)
Integrated coastal (zone) management (ICM or ICZM)	A conscious management process that acknowledges the interrelationships among the multiple objectives for use of coastal areas and the environments affected by those uses. Islands are bound by coastlines and thus ICM should form an integral part of any natural resource management scheme.	Cicin-Sain & Knecht (1998)
Integrated island management (IIM)	Sustainable and adaptive management of island natural resources through coordinated networks of institutions and communities that bridge habitats and stakeholders, at the scale of socio-ecological processes and threats, with the common goals and maintaining ecosystem services and securing human well-being.	Jupiter <i>et al.</i> (2014a)

Integrated land-sea  
management (ILSM)

Management that specifically targets cross-system threats and processes between linked terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems to maintain or restore biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being. Because of the geographic proximity between water catchments and coastal marine areas in island systems, cross-realm processes and ecosystem functions are more easily disrupted by large-scale disturbance and thus require heightened consideration for integrated management.

Álvarez-Romero *et al.*  
(2011)

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744  
745  
746



747 Table 2. Indicators designed to evaluate island ILSM projects, associated with ten integrated island management (IIM) principles from Jupiter *et*  
 748 *al.* (2014a). (P) – principle related to planning; (I) – principle related to implementation. \* - denotes indicator specific to ILSM projects.  
 749

Principle	Indicator
1. Adopt a long-term, integrated approach to ecosystem management (P)	a. Explicit time frame of implementation stated (including overall timescale and review frequency)
	b. Proportion of linked ecosystems incorporated in plan*
	c. Presence of coordination body or mechanism to integrate sectors (e.g., public versus private; land versus sea mandates)*
	d. Accounting for cumulative impact of multiple threats to the coastal zone*
	e. Accounting for lag time for impacts to be realized and benefits from management to accrue across realms*
	f. Objectives integrate ecological, social, economic and cultural issues and feedbacks that account for connectivity between land and sea realms*
2. Use clearly defined boundaries for ecological and governance systems (P)	a. Degree to which spatial boundaries of the management zone matches boundaries of watersheds and linked coastal areas*
	b. Management boundaries represent scale of ecological processes and threats for priority features relevant to ILSM*
	c. Resource users are aware of management boundaries
	d. Decision-makers and decision-making processes clearly identified
3. Maintain and restore connectivity between complex social and ecological systems (P)	a. Appropriate strategies proposed and management actions identified to minimize land-based threats to downstream systems relative to number of issues*
	b. Appropriate strategies proposed and management actions identified to restore connectivity processes relative to number of issues*
	c. Strength of social networks that connect people using land and sea resources*
4. Incorporate stakeholders through participatory governance with collective choice arrangements that consider gender and social equity outcomes (P)	a. Proportion of population who access and use land and sea resources in the management area able to participate in management planning and implementation*
	b. Proportion of different sectors and stakeholder groups across land and sea realms participating relative to presence in area*
	c. Opportunities for input from marginalized sectors of communities in affected areas
	d. Consistency of mandate through changes in political leadership
5. Ensure that management rules reflect/incorporate local values and conditions (P)	a. Management objectives reflect local concerns and issues related to cross-system threats and processes*
	b. Local perception that benefits of management outweigh costs
	c. Equity in distribution of management costs and benefits across land and sea resource users*
	a. Level (formal or informal) of recognition of management authority

6. Ensure recognition of rights to organize and develop management rules (I)	b. Clearly defined and demarcated ownership of both land and sea and use rights of land and sea resources*
7. Develop appropriate sanctions for users who violate rules (I)	a. Frequency and effectiveness of monitoring, control and surveillance integrated across land and sea realms*
	b. Proportion of offenses that are adequately punished across both land and sea*
8. Identify appropriate, efficient and cost-effective conflict resolution mechanisms (I)	a. Existence of forum or means to settle disputes
	b. Perception that conflict resolution is handled fairly and in culturally appropriate way
9. Implement adaptive management where regular monitoring, evaluation and review in the face of uncertainty lead to evidence-based decision-making (I)	a. Monitoring information relevant to the spatial scale of impacts of human activities on linked ecosystems and responses of linked ecosystems to management interventions is communicated to decision-makers*
	b. Decision-makers use relevant information to adapt management measures*
	c. Adaptions to rules consider present and future uncertainty regarding cross-realm threats and processes*
10. Nest management layers across sectors, social systems and habitats (P,I)	a. Management actions/monitoring is carried out by individuals across land and sea realms who report to coordinating body*
	b. Frequency and consistency of communication between lower to higher scales of nested systems (upward and downward communication)
	c. Consistency in goals and motivations between nested levels in achieving ILSM outcomes*

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753 Table 3. Summary information on ILSM project management objectives, resident population within and/or affected by management area rules,  
 754 size of management area, nature of governance systems, and entities driving the ILSM process.  
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Case	Country	Management Objective(s)	Resident population size	Management Area	Governance	Entity Driving Management
Zaira Resource Management Area	Solomon Islands	(1) Maintain traditional resource management regime and local leadership that recognizes cultural values and protecting historical heritages; (2) Sustainable use of natural resources to meet the basic present and future livelihood and development needs of the dependent local community; (3) Protect iconic species; (4) Support cultural and environmental education of current and future generations	~150	Terrestrial: 25 km <sup>2</sup> ; Marine: 15 km <sup>2</sup>	Tribal chief	Community
Kubulau District	Fiji	(1) Maintain or restore marine resources; (2) Maintain ecosystem connectivity and function; (3) Protected and provide good habitats for endemic forest species; (4) Ensure sustainable land management; (5) Protect water catchments; (6) Provide economic opportunities for the people of Kubulau (WCS 2012)	~1000	Terrestrial: 98.5 km <sup>2</sup> ; Marine: 260.1 km <sup>2</sup>	Tribal chiefs	NGO
New Britain East and West Province	Papua New Guinea	(1) Build capacity at the local, provincial and national level to improve decision making around marine resource management in the Bismarck Seascape; (2) Develop a comprehensive spatial information dataset to support decision making, which is accessible to a range of stakeholders (through comprehensive maps and a supporting Ridges to Reefs (R2R) plan); (3) R2R planning and management capable of informing decisions across jurisdictions as well as being institutionalised within provincial government, district and tribal governance structures	~450,000	Terrestrial: 37,000 km <sup>2</sup> ; Marine: 11,170 km <sup>2</sup>	Tribal chiefs	Provincial government
Lana'i, Hawai'i	USA	Reducing threats to downstream systems, restoring connectivity across landscapes and across the land-sea interface, and maintaining and restoring ecosystem services, particularly: (1) plant cover which helps aquifer recharge; (2) hunting opportunities for local community; and (3) productive, healthy coastal environments for recreational and provisioning purposes.	~3,100	Terrestrial: 364 km <sup>2</sup>	Private landowner	Private sector / NGO

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Table 4. Evaluation of island ILSM projects. Mean scores for Zaira (Z), Kubulau (K), New Britain (NB) and Lāna‘i (L) projects. Cells shaded white show mean scores  $\geq 1.5$ , indicating strong project performance against indicator. Cells shaded grey show mean scores  $>0.5$  and  $<1.5$ . Cells shaded black show mean scores  $\leq 0.5$ , indicating poor performance against indicator.

Indicator	Z	K	NB	L
1a. Explicit time frame of implementation stated (including overall timescale and review frequency)	2	2	2	1.6
1b. Proportion of linked ecosystems incorporated in plan	2	2	1.5	1
1c. Presence of coordination body or mechanism to integrate sectors (e.g., public versus private; land versus sea mandates)	1.2	2	1.7	1.8
1d. Accounting for cumulative impact of multiple threats to the coastal zone	2	2	0.8	0.6
1e. Accounting for lag time for impacts to be realized and benefits from management to accrue across realms	0	1	0	0.8
1f. Objectives integrate ecological, social, economic and cultural issues and feedbacks that account for connectivity between land and sea realms	2	2	2	2
2a. Degree to which spatial boundaries of the management zone matches boundaries of watersheds and linked coastal areas	2	1	0	2
2b. Management boundaries represent scale of ecological processes and threats for priority features relevant to ILSM	1.8	1	1	2
2c. Resource users are aware of management boundaries	2	1.4	1	2
2d. Decision-makers and decision-making processes clearly identified	2	1.4	1	1
3a. Appropriate strategies proposed and management actions identified to minimize land-based threats to downstream systems relative to number of issues	2	1.8	1.3	1.2
3b. Appropriate strategies proposed and management actions identified to restore connectivity processes relative to number of issues	2	1	1.5	1.2
3c. Strength of social networks that connect people using land and sea resources	2	2	2	2
4a. Proportion of population who access and use land and sea resources in the management area able to participate in management planning and implementation	1	1.2	0.8	0.2
4b. Proportion of different sectors and stakeholder groups across land and sea realms participating relative to presence in area	1.8	0.8	1.8	0.5
4c. Opportunities for input from marginalized sectors of communities in affected areas	0.4	1.2	1.3	0.2
4d. Consistency of mandate through changes in political leadership	1.6	2	1.2	0.4
5a. Management objectives reflect local concerns and issues related to cross-system threats and processes	2	2	1.5	0.8
5b. Local perception that benefits of management outweigh costs	2	2	0.3	0
5c. Equity in distribution of management costs and benefits across land and sea resource users	2	2	0	0
6a. Level (formal or informal) of recognition of management authority	1.2	1.6	0.6	1.8
6b. Clearly defined and demarcated ownership of both land and sea and use rights of land and sea resources	0	2	0.3	2
7a. Frequency and effectiveness of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) integrated across land and sea realms	1.8	1	0.5	0.8
7b. Proportion of offenses that are adequately punished across both land and sea	1.2	0.6	0	0
8a. Existence of forum or means to settle disputes	2	2	0.7	2
8b. Perception that conflict resolution is handled fairly and in culturally appropriate way	1.8	1.8	0	0
9a. Monitoring information relevant to the spatial scale of impacts of human activities on linked ecosystems and responses of linked ecosystems to management interventions is communicated to decision-makers	0.2	1.2	1.3	1.8
9b. Decision-makers use relevant information to adapt management measures	0	0	0	2
9c. Adaptions to rules consider present and future uncertainty regarding cross-system threats and processes	0.8	2	2	2

10a. Management actions/monitoring is carried out by individuals across land and sea realms who report to coordinating body	0	2	0	1.8
10b. Frequency and consistency of communication between lower to higher scales of nested systems (upward and downward communication)	1	1	1	0.4
10c. Consistency in goals and motivations between nested levels in achieving ILSM outcomes	0	1.8	0	0

Table S1. Rationale for selection of indicators for each of the ten integrated island management principles (Jupiter *et al.* 2014), based on the coastal zone management and common-pool resources theory literature but focused on relevance for island systems. (P) – principle related to planning; (I) – principle related to implementation. \* - denotes indicator specific to ILSM projects.

Principle	Indicator	Rationale for indicator selection
1. Adopt a long-term, integrated approach to ecosystem management (P)	a. Explicit time frame of implementation stated (including overall timescale and review frequency)	Plans should set long-term objectives with short-term benchmarks (Tear <i>et al.</i> 2005) to allow for sufficient time to detect management responses above natural variability, while accounting time lags in responses of social-ecological systems to management actions (e.g., Meals <i>et al.</i> 2010).
	b. Proportion of linked ecosystems incorporated in plan*	
	c. Presence of coordination body or mechanism to integrate sectors (e.g., public versus private; land versus sea mandates)*	Management should integrate and coordinate decision-making for multiple objectives across land and sea sectors contributing to cumulative impacts, those affected by impacts and actors who have the mandate and capacity to reduce impact (Álvarez-Romero <i>et al.</i> 2011). ILSM will not be effective under highly fragmented legal and policy systems in the absence of coordination mechanisms (Christie 2005).
	d. Accounting for cumulative impact of multiple threats to the coastal zone*	
	e. Accounting for lag time for impacts to be realized and benefits from management to accrue across realms*	
	f. Objectives integrate ecological, social, economic and cultural issues and feedbacks that account for connectivity between land and sea realms*	
2. Use clearly defined boundaries for ecological and governance systems (P)	a. Degree to which spatial boundaries of the management zone matches boundaries of watersheds and linked coastal areas*	Management effectiveness relies on the ability of decision-makers to have clearly defined and recognized authority to make rules at appropriate scales that are communicated and understood by resource users (Ehler 2003).
	b. Management boundaries represent scale of ecological processes and threats for priority features relevant to ILSM*	

c. Resource users are aware of management boundaries

d. Decision-makers and decision-making processes clearly identified

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3. Maintain and restore connectivity between complex social and ecological systems (P)

a. Appropriate strategies proposed and management actions identified to minimize land-based threats to downstream systems relative to number of issues\*

b. Appropriate strategies proposed and management actions identified to restore connectivity processes relative to number of issues\*

c. Strength of social networks that connect people using land and sea resources\*

The well-being of island people is intimately tied to strong connections between natural systems to provide critical ecosystem services (e.g., water and food provisioning, natural hazard reduction, disease regulation) and social systems that exchange knowledge and resources (Ruddle *et al.* 1992).

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4. Incorporate stakeholders through participatory governance with collective choice arrangements that consider gender and social equity outcomes (P)

a. Proportion of population who access and use land and sea resources in the management area able to participate in management planning and implementation\*

b. Proportion of different sectors and stakeholder groups across land and sea realms participating relative to presence in area\*

c. Opportunities for input from marginalized sectors of communities in affected areas

Broad stakeholder involvement in management increases ownership of and compliance with decisions (Kearney *et al.* 2007). Top down imposition of rules without local stakeholder input may be perceived as less legitimate (McCay & Jentoft 1996).

Frequent changes in leadership and mandate of decision-making authority are likely to result in changes to management priorities, impacting achievement of long-term goals (Ehler 2003; Christie 2005).

	d. Consistency of mandate through changes in political leadership	
5. Ensure that management rules reflect/incorporate local values and conditions (P)	<p>a. Management objectives reflect local concerns and issues related to cross-system threats and processes*</p> <p>b. Local perception that benefits of management outweigh costs</p> <p>c. Equity in distribution of management costs and benefits across land and sea resource users*</p>	Management buy-in hinges on whether local actors feel that they receive benefits that match their objectives and how fairly benefits are distributed within the context of existing social structures (Christie 2005; Pollnac & Pomeroy 2005).
6. Ensure recognition of rights to organize and develop management rules (I)	<p>a. Level (formal or informal) of recognition of management authority</p> <p>b. Clearly defined and demarcated ownership of both land and sea and use rights of land and sea resources*</p>	Although community-based management is the foundation for many ILSM programs, rules and rights must be recognized and supported by external institutions to ensure sustainability of implementation (Ostrom 1990; Christie & White 1997).
7. Develop appropriate sanctions for users who violate rules (I)	<p>a. Frequency and effectiveness of monitoring, control and surveillance integrated across land and sea realms*</p> <p>b. Proportion of offenses that are adequately punished across both land and sea*</p>	The nature of sanctions must fit the scale of the offense, be perceived as legitimate by the offenders, and serve as a deterrent (Ostrom 1990).
8. Identify appropriate, efficient and cost-effective	a. Existence of forum or means to settle disputes	As the objective of most ILSM projects is to simultaneously achieve multiple objectives for resource use across the land-sea interface, coordination and mediation mechanisms are essential to balance multiple,



conflict resolution mechanisms (I)

b. Perception that conflict resolution is handled fairly and in culturally appropriate way

often conflicting stakeholder interests (Christie 2005). Conflict resolution mechanisms and processes need to be efficient, cost-effective and perceived as legitimate and fair within the local social contexts (Cox *et al.* 2010).

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9. Implement adaptive management where regular monitoring, evaluation and review in the face of uncertainty lead to evidence-based decision-making (I)

a. Monitoring information relevant to the spatial scale of impacts of human activities on linked ecosystems and responses of linked ecosystems to management interventions is communicated to decision-makers\*  
b. Decision-makers use relevant information to adapt management measures\*  
c. Adaptions to rules consider present and future uncertainty regarding cross-realm threats and processes\*

ILSM should be an iterative process of fine-tuning rules and regulations based on monitoring and review (Olsen *et al.* 1998), and should consider how the tight feedbacks in island systems respond to present and future changes.

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10. Nest management layers across sectors, social systems and habitats (P,I)

a. Management actions/monitoring is carried out by individuals across land and sea realms who report to coordinating body\*  
b. Frequency and consistency of communication between lower to higher scales of nested systems (upward and downward communication)  
c. Consistency in goals and motivations between nested levels in achieving ILSM outcomes\*

Smaller groups with strong mutual trust may be able to better organize collectively to design and implement locally-appropriate rules (Ostrom 1990), but need to be coordinated to manage across the spatial scale of threats and resource use on island systems to achieve higher order objectives, particularly across highly dispersed island archipelagos.

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Table S2. Criteria to evaluate island ILSM projects against indicators.

Indicator	Scoring criteria
1a. Explicit time frame of implementation stated (including overall timescale and review frequency)	Timeframe of plan implementation stated: 2 Timeframe of plan implementation not stated: 0
1b. Proportion of linked ecosystems incorporated in plan	All linked ecosystems explicitly included in plan: 2 Management actions for some but not all linked ecosystems: 1 Management actions only for one ecosystem and no consideration of linkages: 0
1c. Presence of coordination body or mechanism to integrate sectors (e.g., public versus private; land versus sea mandates)	Coordination body exists: 2 Coordination body does not exist: 0
1d. Accounting for cumulative impact of multiple threats to the coastal zone	Management measures exist for multiple threats: 2 Management measures exist for one threat: 0
1e. Accounting for lag time for impacts to be realized and benefits from management to accrue across realms	Lag times considered and planned for: 2 Lag times not considered and planned for: 0
1f. Objectives integrate ecological, social, economic and cultural issues and feedbacks that account for connectivity between land and sea realms	Yes: 2 No: 0
2a. Degree to which spatial boundaries of the management zone matches boundaries of watersheds and linked coastal areas	High degree of overlap: 2 Moderate degree of overlap: 1 Very mismatched boundaries: 0
2b. Management boundaries represent scale of ecological processes and threats for priority features relevant to ILSM	Boundaries cover full scale of ecological processes and threats: 2 Boundaries do not cover full scale of ecological processes and threats, but areas covered are likely to have most impact/relevance: 1 Boundaries do not cover full scale of ecological processes and threats, and do not cover areas likely to have most impact/relevance: 0
2c. Resource users are aware of management boundaries	All resource users aware: 2 Most resource users aware: 1 Most resource users not aware: 0
2d. Decision-makers and decision-making processes clearly identified	Everyone aware of who are decision-makers and decision-making process is transparent: 2 Everyone aware of who are decision-makers and decision-making process is a bit unclear: 1 It is not clear who makes decisions and how decisions are made: 0

3a. Appropriate strategies proposed and management actions identified to minimize land-based threats to downstream systems relative to number of issues	Proposed strategies and actions will be fully effective at minimizing downstream impact from existing threats: 2 Proposed strategies and actions will be somewhat effective at minimizing downstream impact from existing threats: 1 Proposed strategies and actions will be not be effective at minimizing downstream impact from existing threats: 0
3b. Appropriate strategies proposed and management actions identified to restore connectivity processes relative to number of issues	Proposed strategies and actions will be fully effective at restoring connectivity processes: 2 Proposed strategies and actions will be somewhat effective at restoring connectivity processes: 1 Proposed strategies and actions will be not be effective at restoring connectivity processes: 0
3c. Strength of social networks that connect people using land and sea resources	People who use land and sea realms are strongly connected through social networks via sharing of information and resources: 2 People who use land and sea realms are somewhat connected through social networks via sharing of information and resources: 1 People who use land and sea realms are poorly connected through social networks via sharing of information and resources: 0
4a. Proportion of population who access and use land and sea resources in the management area able to participate in management planning and implementation	All resource users have opportunity to directly (e.g., attend planning meetings) or indirectly (e.g., submit comments) contribute to management planning and implementation: 2 Only some resource users can directly contribute and there are no processes for others to indirectly contribute: 1 Decisions are made by people from outside the management area without input from resource users: 0
4b. Proportion of different sectors and stakeholder groups across land and sea realms participating relative to presence in area	All relevant sectors and stakeholders are involved in planning: 2 Most relevant sectors and stakeholders are involved in planning: 1 Key relevant sectors and stakeholders are missing: 0
4c. Opportunities for input from marginalized sectors of communities in affected areas	There are processes for gaining input from marginalized sectors and these are followed: 2 There are process for gaining input from marginalized sectors, but these are not followed through: 1 There are no processes for marginalized sectors to give input: 0
4d. Consistency of mandate through changes in political leadership	Mandate for ILSM remains/will remain through leadership change: 2 Mandate for ILSM changes/may change through leadership change: 0
5a. Management objectives reflect local concerns and issues related to cross-system threats and processes	Management objectives clearly incorporate local concerns and issues: 2 Management objectives incorporate some local concerns and issues, but also include objectives from outside actors: 1 Management objectives are fully imposed by outside actors: 0

5b. Local perception that benefits of management outweigh costs	The majority of people affected by management rules feel that they are benefitting: 2 Some people feel that they are benefitting: 1 A majority of people feel that the costs outweigh the benefits: 0
5c. Equity in distribution of management costs and benefits across land and sea resource users	Resource users perceive equitable distribution of costs and benefits across land and sea realms and users: 2 Resource users perceive inequitable distribution of costs and benefits across land and sea realms and users: 0
6a. Level (formal or informal) of recognition of management authority	Management authority is legally recognized and locally perceived as legitimate: 2 Management authority has no legal recognition but is locally perceived as legitimate: 1 Management authority is not legally recognized or locally perceived as legitimate: 0
6b. Clearly defined and demarcated ownership of both land and sea and use rights of land and sea resources	Ownership and resource use rights for the land and sea are legally defined: 2 Ownership and resource use rights are not legally defined and/or there is a contradiction between customary and national law: 0
7a. Frequency and effectiveness of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) integrated across land and sea realms	MCS is performed regularly across both land and sea realms: 2 MCS is performed irregularly or regularly in one but not multiple realms: 1 MCS is performed irregularly and only in one realm: 0
7b. Proportion of offenses that are adequately punished across both land and sea	Large proportion of offenses are punished across both realms: 2 Offenses inconsistently are punished across realms: 1 Most offenses go unpunished: 0
8a. Existence of forum or means to settle disputes	Forum for conflict resolution exists: 2 Forum for conflict resolution does not exist: 0
8b. Perception that conflict resolution is handled fairly and in culturally appropriate way	People within management area feel that conflict resolution is handled fairly and appropriately: 2 People within management area feel that conflict resolution is not handled fairly or appropriately: 0
9a. Monitoring information relevant to the spatial scale of impacts of human activities on linked ecosystems and responses of linked ecosystems to management interventions is communicated to decision-makers	Monitoring information relevant to the spatial scale of impacts, processes and responses is regularly collected and communicated: 2 Monitoring information is collected and only sometimes communicated: 1 Monitoring information is not collected or communicated: 0
9b. Decision-makers use relevant information to adapt management measures	Management measures are adapted based on monitoring information about land-sea impacts, processes and responses: 2 Management measures are not adapted when monitoring information indicate a need to change rules: 0
9c. Adaptions to rules consider present and future uncertainty regarding cross-system threats and processes	Present and future uncertainty regarding cross-realm threats and processes considered: 2 Present and future uncertainty regarding cross-realm threats and processes not considered: 0

10a. Management actions/monitoring is carried out by individuals across land and sea realms who report to coordinating body	Individual actors or groups implementing management are reporting to coordinating body: 2 Individual actors or groups implementing management do not report to coordinating body: 0
10b. Frequency and consistency of communication between lower to higher scales of nested systems (upward and downward communication)	There is regular communication between vertical governance scales: 2 There is patchy communication between vertical governance scales: 1 There is no communication between vertical governance scales: 0
10c. Consistency in goals and motivations between nested levels in achieving ILSM outcomes	Goals and motivations are consistent across nested levels: 2 Goals and motivations are not consistent across nested levels: 0