



# Virgin Islands Marine Protected Area Network

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# VI Marine Protected Area Network

- **Need – History**
- **Member MPAs**
- **Vision, Mission**
- **Shared Priorities**
- **Challenges**
- **Activities to date**
- **Lessons learned**



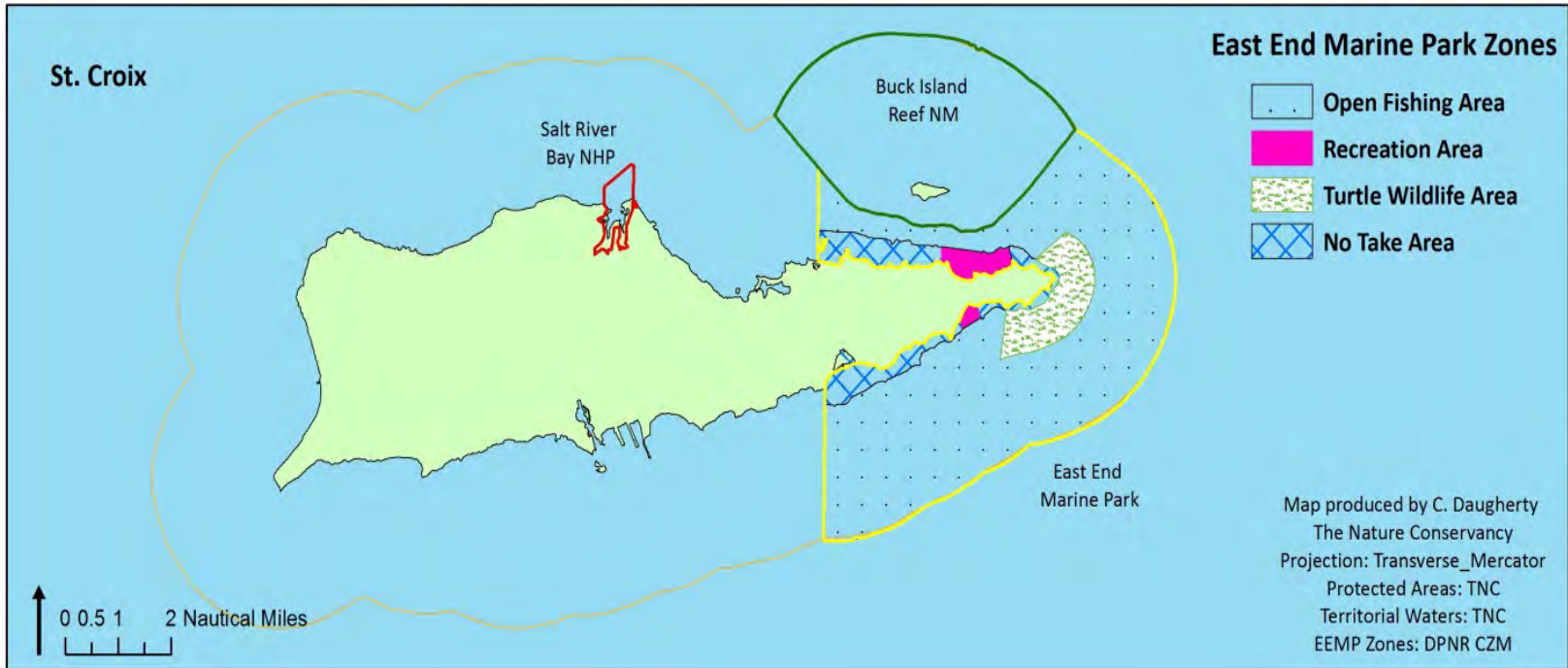
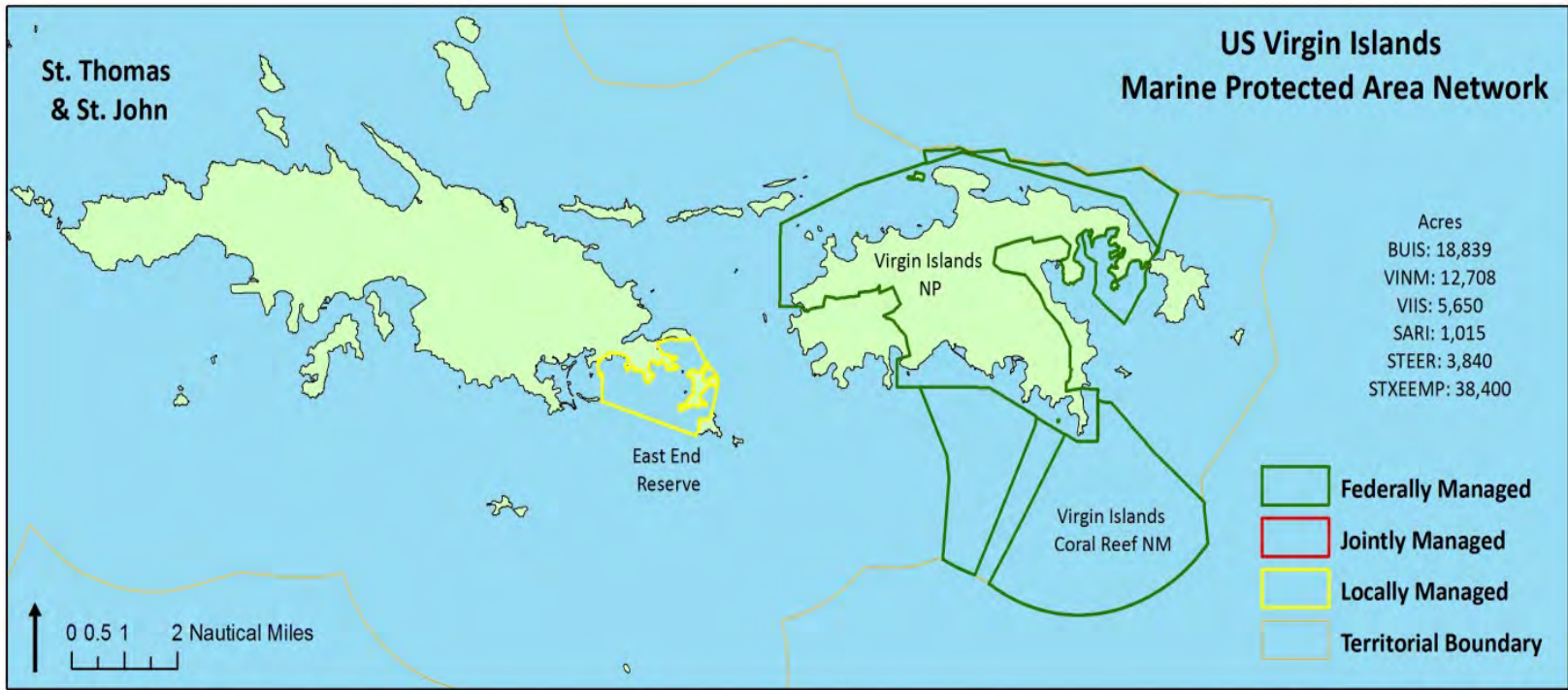
# Why a VI Network?

- Increase communication, coordination, collaboration and support among MPAs
- Maximize efficiency and effectiveness
- Address targeted issues of mutual concern to the MPAs and wider community in a coordinated, cohesive manner
- Reduce confusion surrounding MPAs and marine mgmt
- Need an easier way for local managers to work together
- NFWF MPA Fund grant through TNC to facilitate process

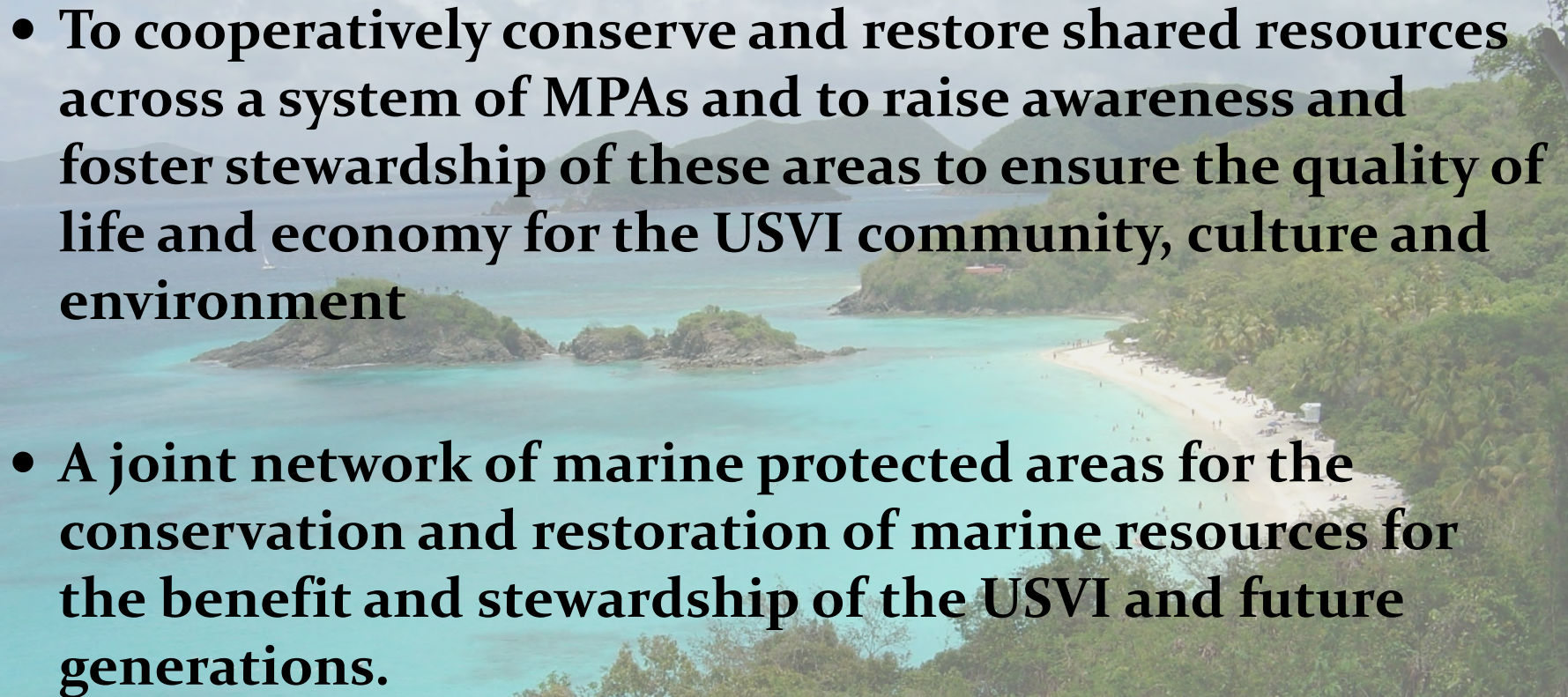
# Who is VIMPAN?

- **Federal (NPS)**
  - Buck Island Reef NM
  - VI National Park
  - VI Coral Reef NM
  - Salt River NHP (co-mgmt)
- **Territorial**
  - St. Croix East End Marine Park
  - St. Thomas East End Reserve





# Vision *(draft)*

- **To cooperatively conserve and restore shared resources across a system of MPAs and to raise awareness and foster stewardship of these areas to ensure the quality of life and economy for the USVI community, culture and environment**
  - **A joint network of marine protected areas for the conservation and restoration of marine resources for the benefit and stewardship of the USVI and future generations.**
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# Mission *(draft)*

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- **To establish interagency relationships and create opportunities for cohesive marine protected area management, collective environmental planning and response that will address common challenges, inspire action and build community support.**
  - **To improve coordination, cooperation, communication, and collaboration among USVI marine protected areas by creating opportunities for collective environmental planning and response; information sharing; leveraging resources; and conveying a common message.**

# Shared Priorities

- **Communication, education & outreach**
- **Enforcement**
- **Policy, planning & fundraising**
- **Biophysical and social monitoring, other research needs**





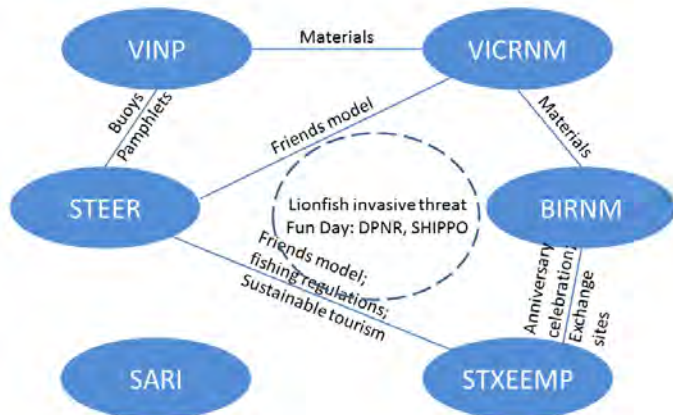
# Challenges to Implementation

- **Managers and staff limited, full workloads**
  - **Knowing, advocating each other**
- **Regional and international connections, needs, caveats**
- **Watershed impacts & management issues**
- **Insufficient enforcement capacity**
- **Political and economic climate**
- **Dive reciprocity**

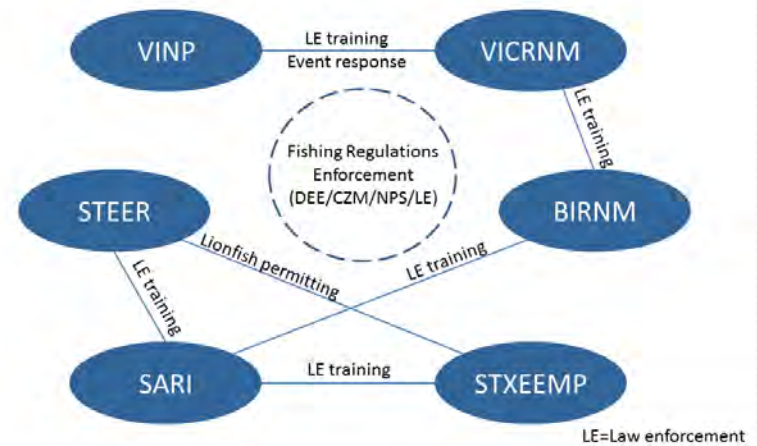


# Current Linkages between MPAs

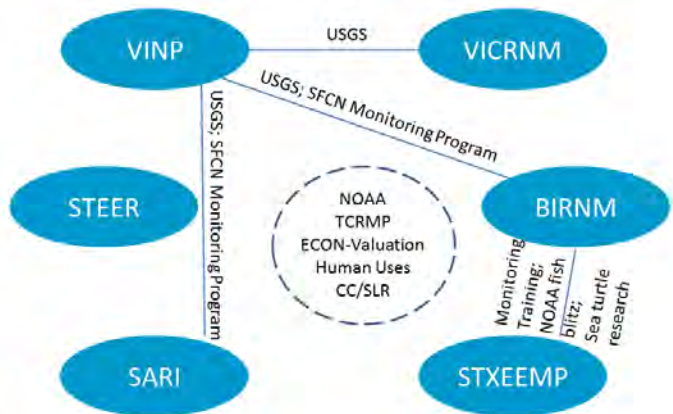
## Education & Outreach



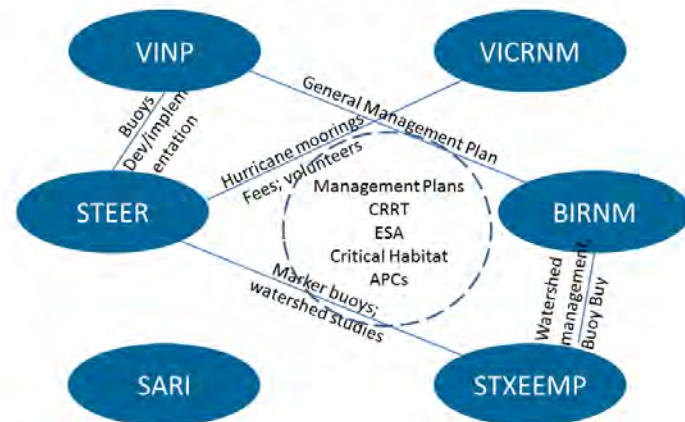
## Enforcement



## Monitoring & Research

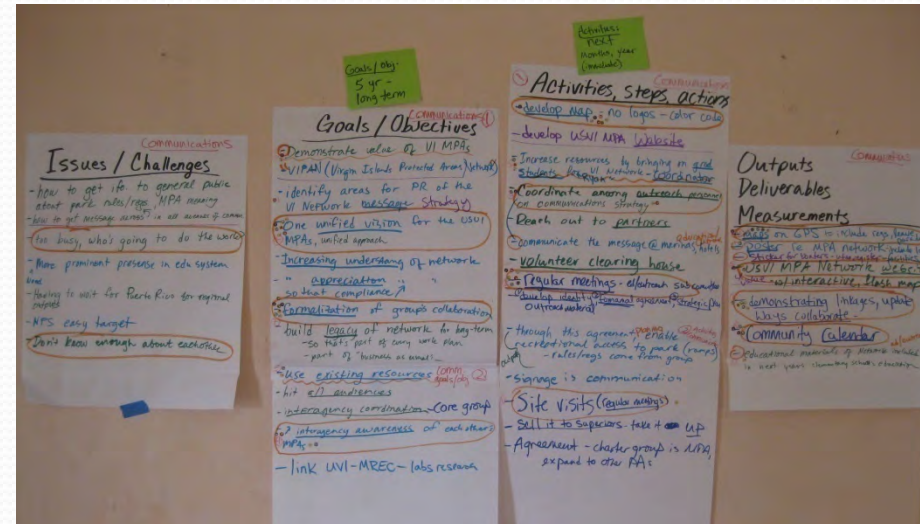


## Policy & Planning



# What have we done?

- One on one interviews
  - Planning workshops
  - VIMPAN meetings
  - Formal mechanism to facilitate inter-agency collaboration
- Draft Memorandum of Agreement (NPS and DPNR)
  - Draft supervisor letter
  - Draft/evolving VIMPAN coordination framework



# Immediate Next Steps

- Finalize MOA – signatures
- Finalize Coordination Framework
- Implementation plans for shared priorities
- Create VIMPAN identity
- VIMPAN website
- VIMPAN calendar
- Regular meetings



# Lessons Learned

- Even with dedicated, focused & committed participants it can be challenging to move forward
  - need for coordination (the Ryan model)
    - Where, who, how?
- Need to institutionalize collaborations and maximize partnerships so as to withstand political terms and staff turnover



# Thank You

