Fran Castro, CNMI

Overview

- What is the Micronesia Challenge
- Why the Challenge is important
- CNMI's Progress and Challenges
- How Can USCRTF Help

The Micronesia Challenge

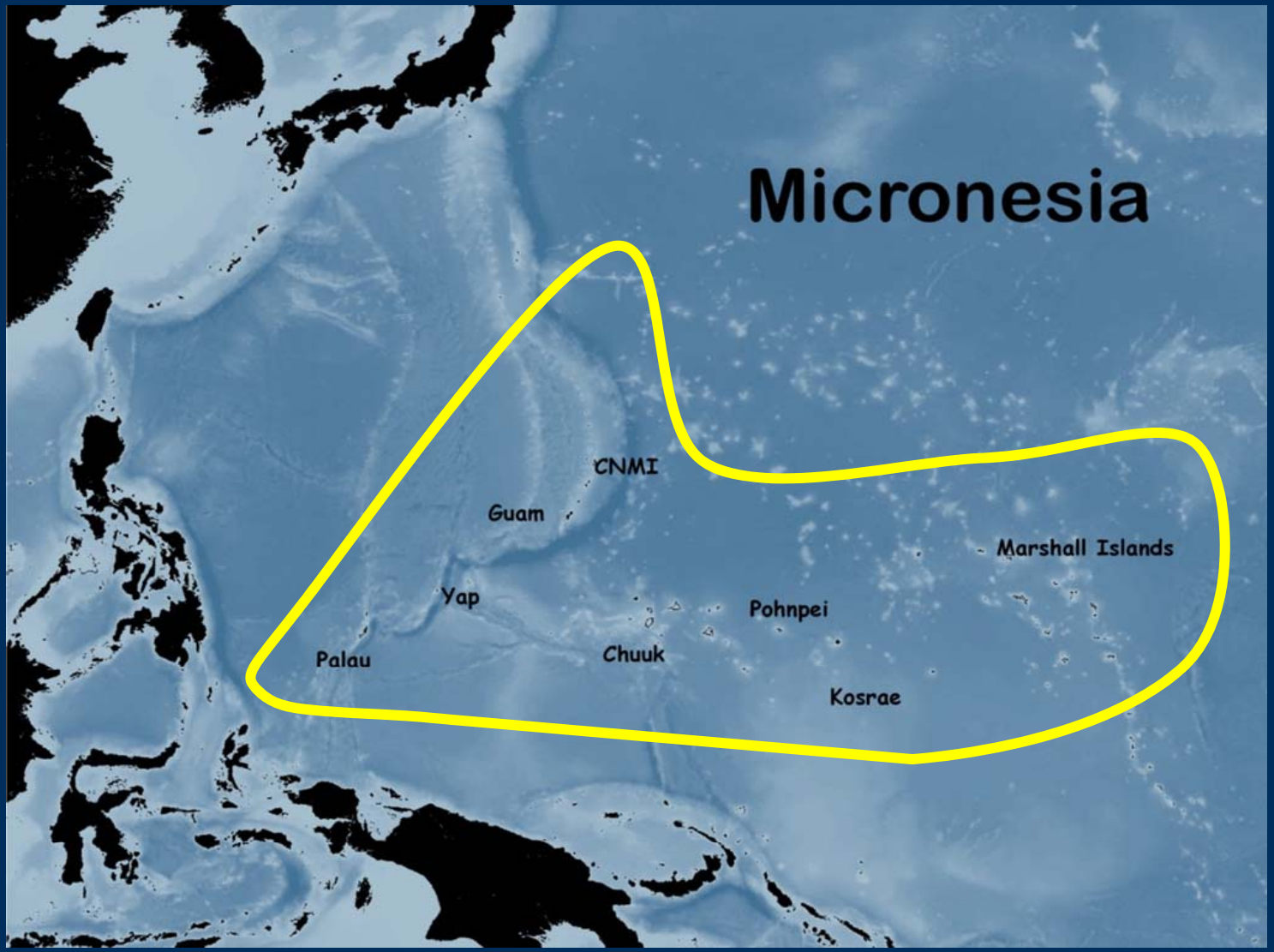


Photo by Jez O'Hare

A conservation challenge:

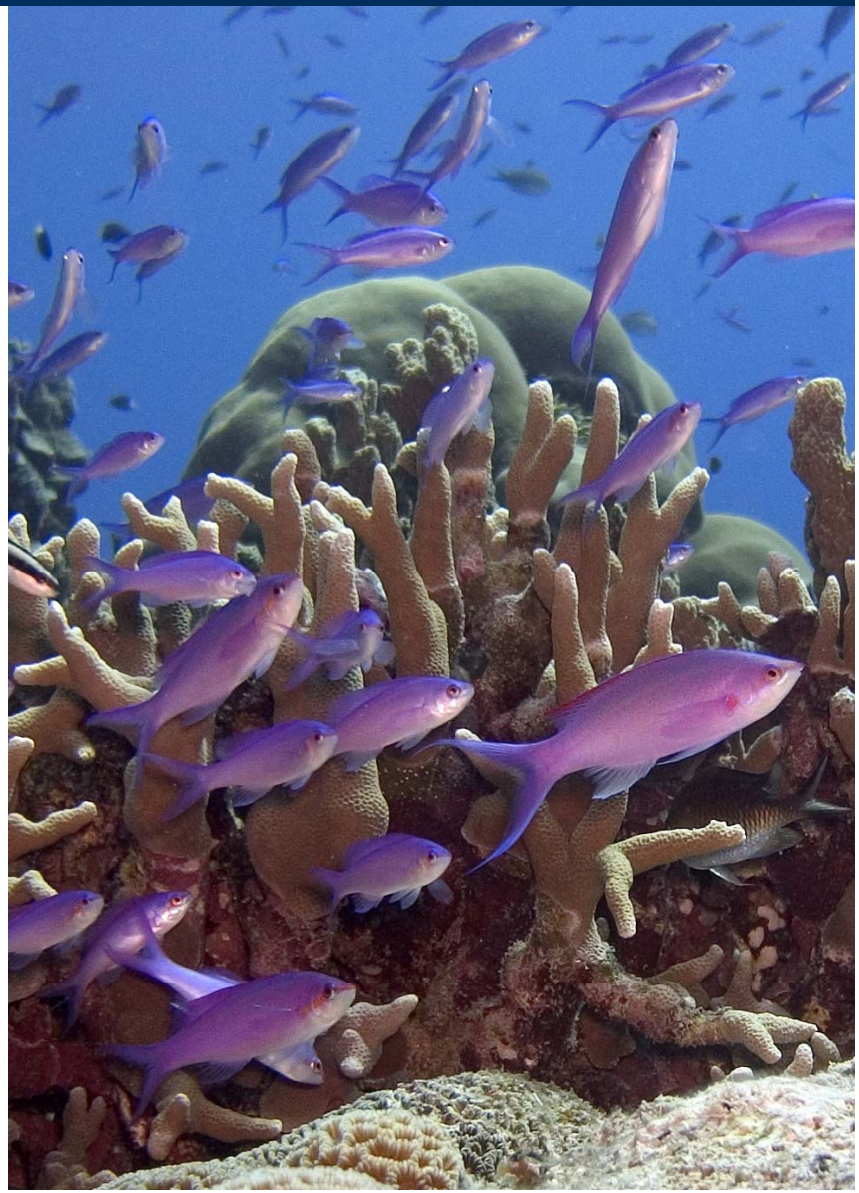
"effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine and 20% of the forest resources across Micronesia by 2020."

…and a funding challenge:

TNC and CI commit $3 million each to leverage $12 million from Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands

Why this Challenge Matters

- Builds on on-going work in all jurisdictions
- Increases **access** to critically needed resources
- High level **leadership support** for the environment
- Increases regional cooperation and coordination
- **Commitment** to our local people and cultures
- Puts our **Islands on the global stage**



Effective Partnerships

MICRONESIA CHIEF EXECUTIVES

MC SUPPORT TEAM

TNC

CI

MCT

NOAA

DOI

SPREP

SPC

USFWS

USFS

CCN

LLMA

RARE

MC STEERING COMMITTEE

FIVE (5) FOCAL POINTS

MICRONESIA CONSERVATION TRUST

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Technical Advice

MEASURES WORKING GROUP

COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

MC Champions

CNMI's Progress and Challenges

- Fisheries
  - -Management, not area-based
- Benthic
  - -Area-based, ridge-to-reef systems
    - -Laolao, Saipan
    - -Garapan, Saipan

Effective Conservation – Fisheries

Slide provided by: CNMI DFW

- **Effective Conservation = Managing fisheries resources to assure sustainability for present and future generations**
- **Includes understanding the role of ALL management actions used towards the sustainability of marine resources**
- **Development of a framework model that incorporates data pertaining to size of the coral reef ecosystem, biomass of fisheries resources, and determination of the effectiveness of management measures towards the Micronesian Challenge goal of 30%**
- **Model re-estimates effective conservation as circumstances change or data are updated**

Focus of the Challenge - Benthic

- **30% effective conservation of socially, economical, and biologically valuable reef systems that are currently threatened by pollution:**

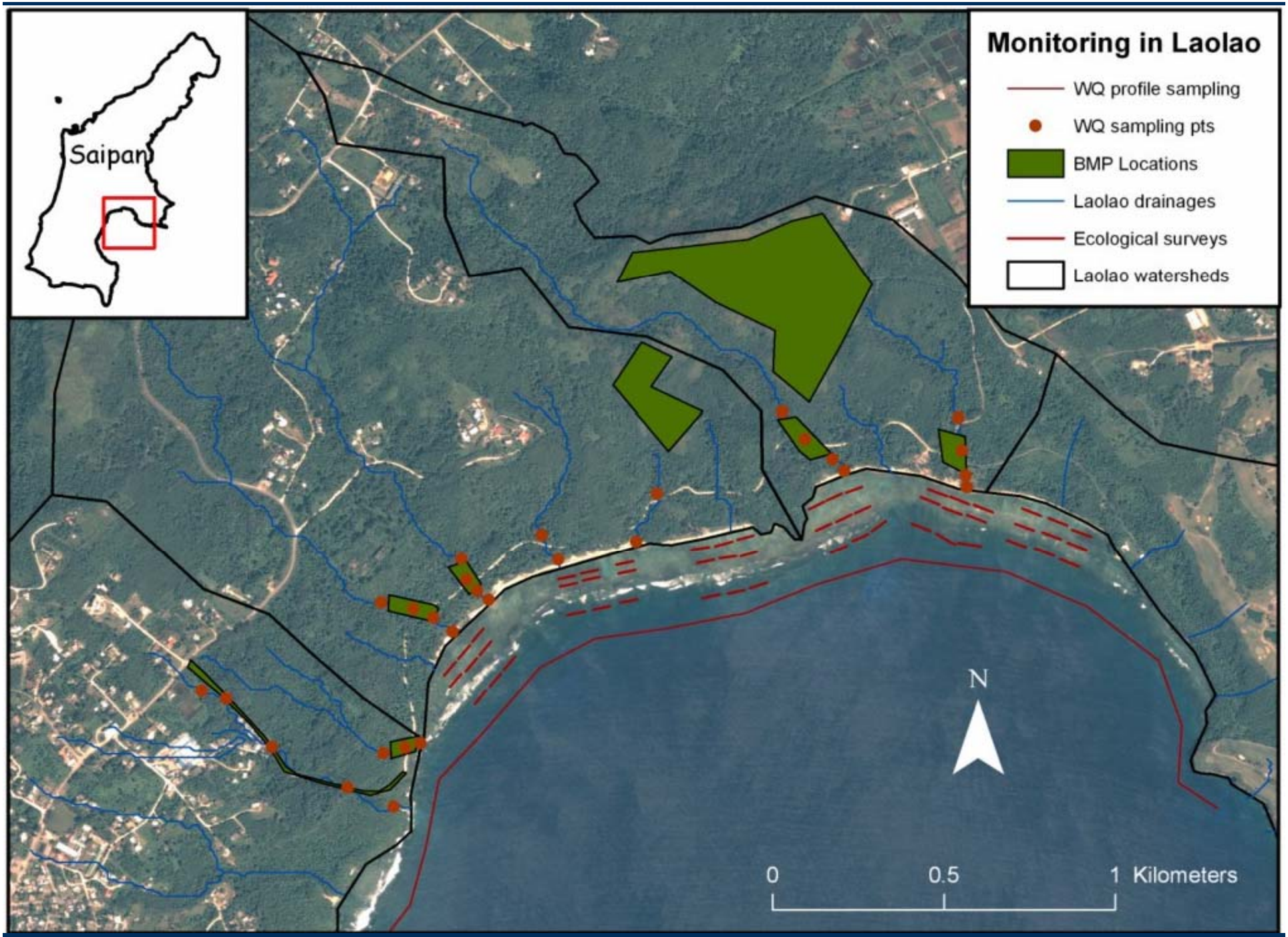
1. **Southern island reefs**
2. **Saipan lagoon**

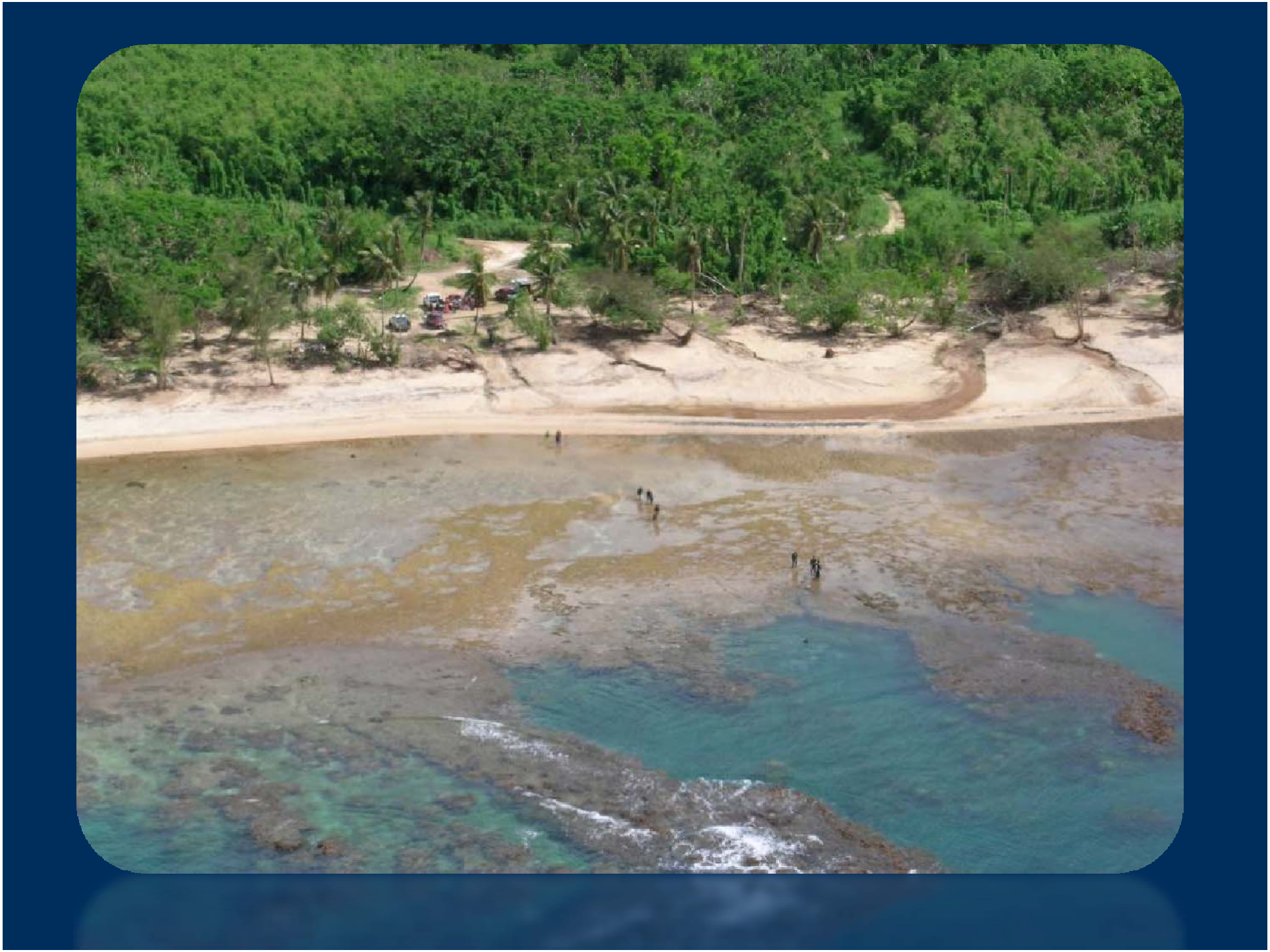
Benthic Environment
(marine monitoring team data)

- **Site locations based upon long-term monitoring trends, highlighting undesirable ecology-pollution linkages**
  - **1) Saipan (18%)**
    - **Laolao Bay (present)**
    - **Garapan lagoon to Tanapag (2011 start)**
  - **2) Tinian (15%)**
    - **San Jose watershed (2012)**
    - **Northeast-coast watershed (2014)**

Laolao Bay, Saipan

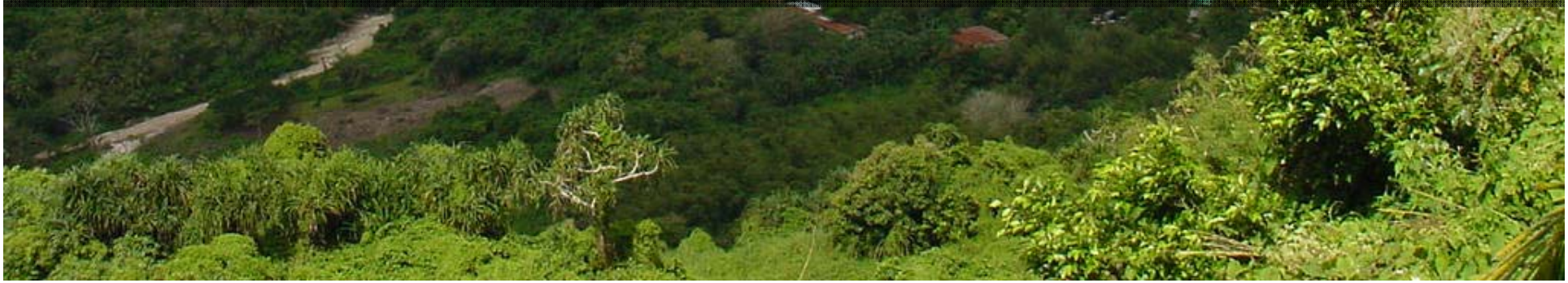
- Identified as a priority watershed in 1997
- Tourism – important dive site (>100 divers/day)
- Recreation & fishing
- Turtle nesting habitat


Saipan
Monitoring in Laolao
WQ profile sampling
WQ sampling pts
BMP Locations
Laolao drainages
Ecological surveys
Laolao watersheds
N
0
0.5
1 Kilometers

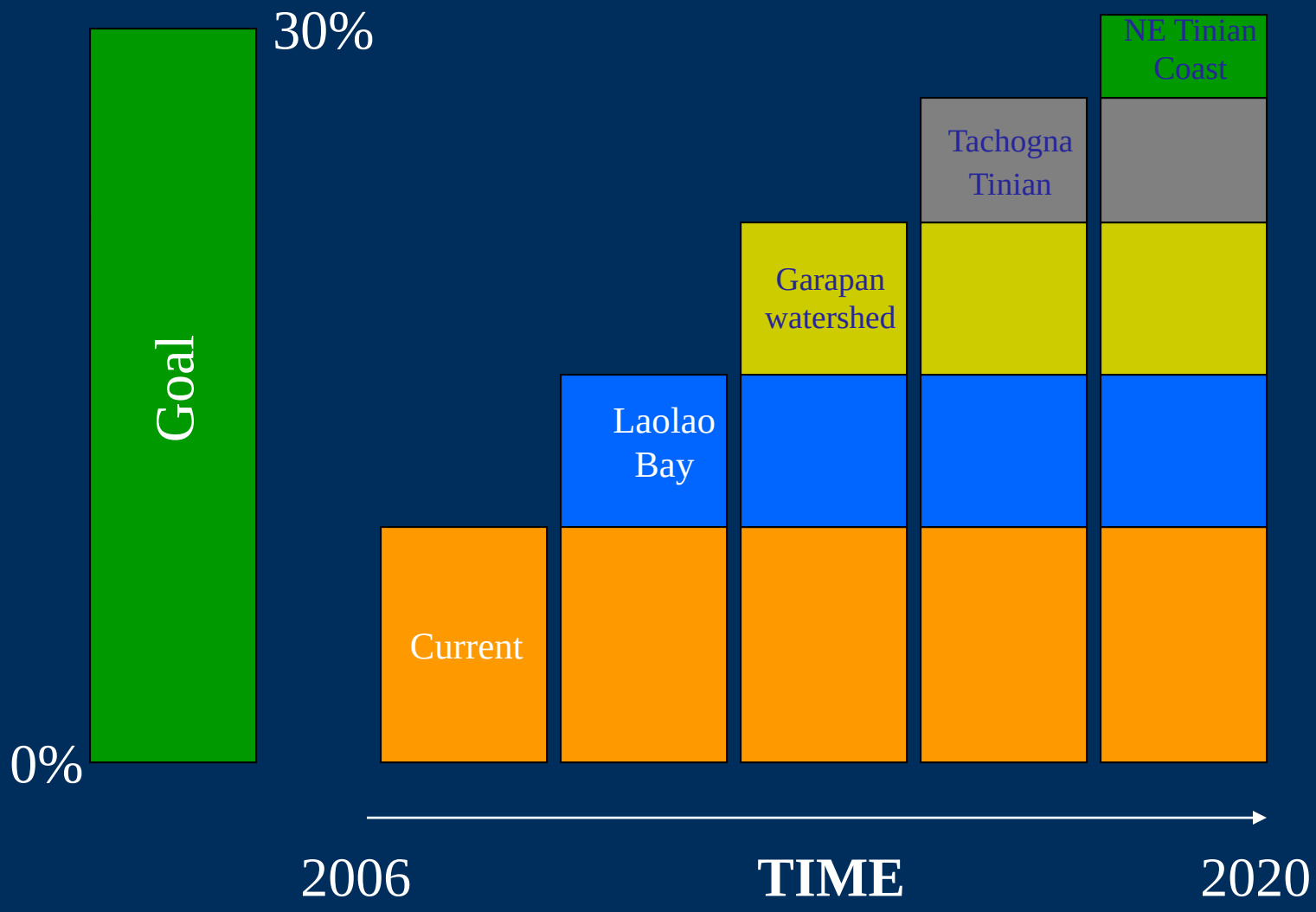


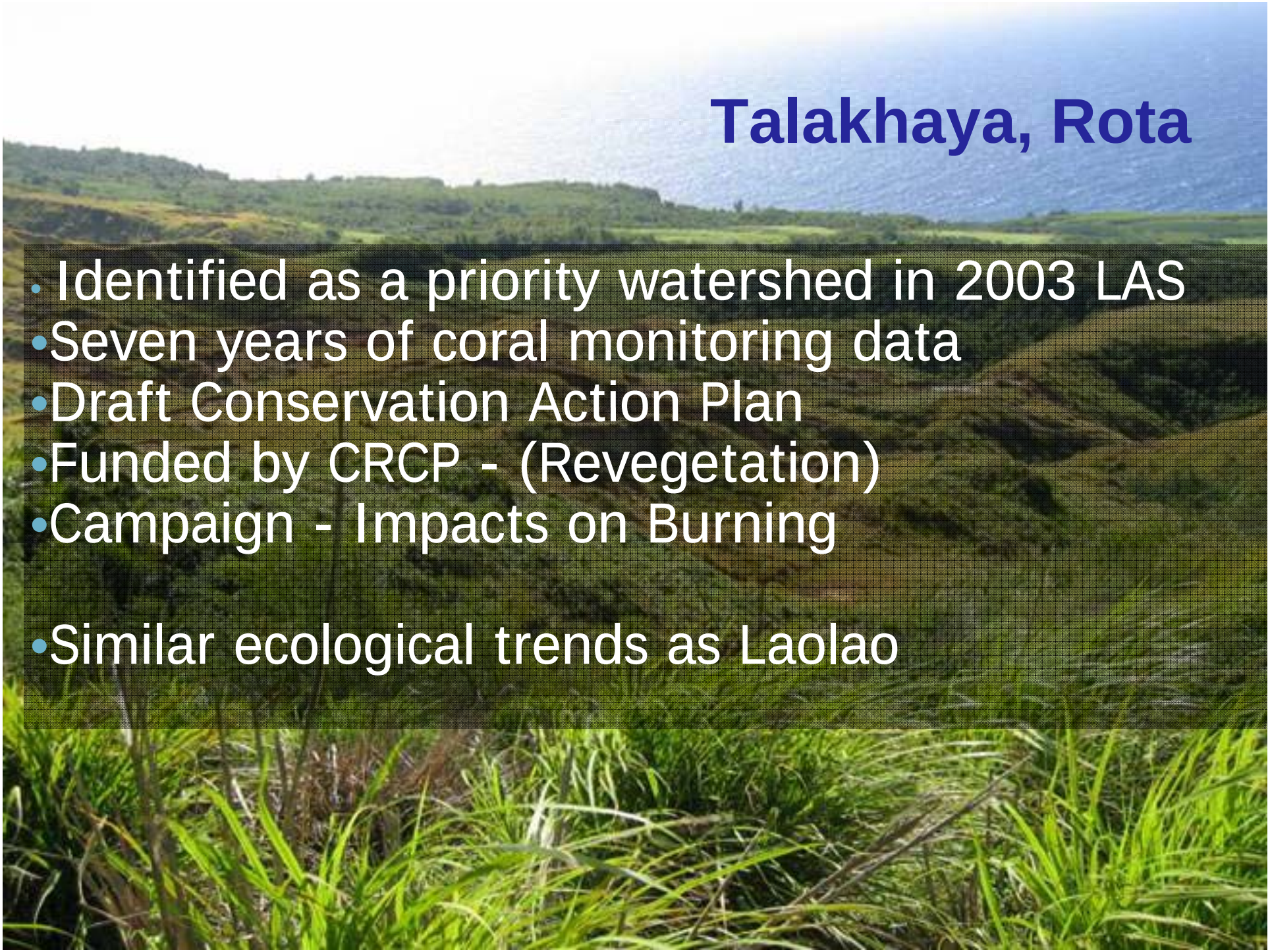
Garapan

- Identified as a priority watershed in 2003 LAS
- 9+ years of coral and seagrass monitoring data
- Conservation Action Plan scheduled for 2011
- Numerous project plans and ideas need to be implemented



CNMI's Watershed Approach





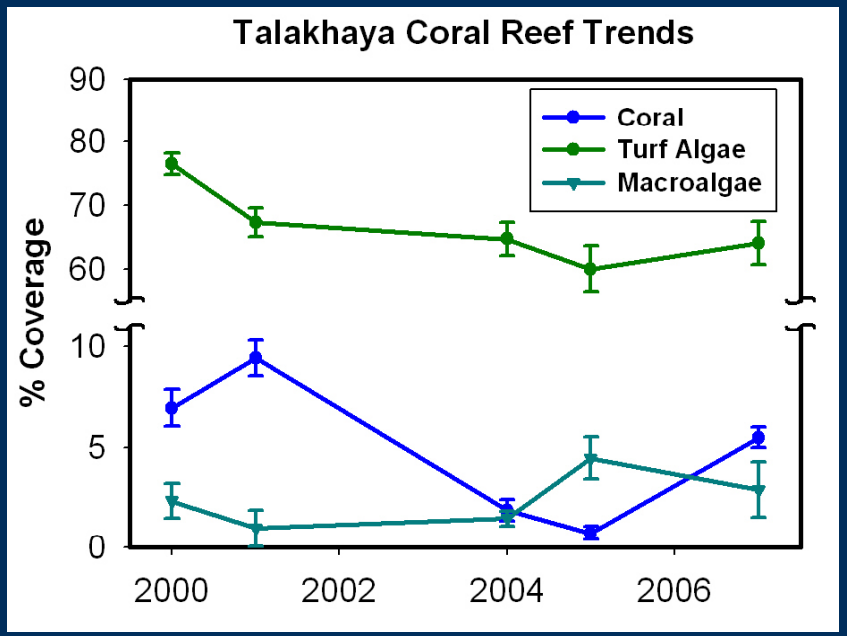
Talakhaya, Rota

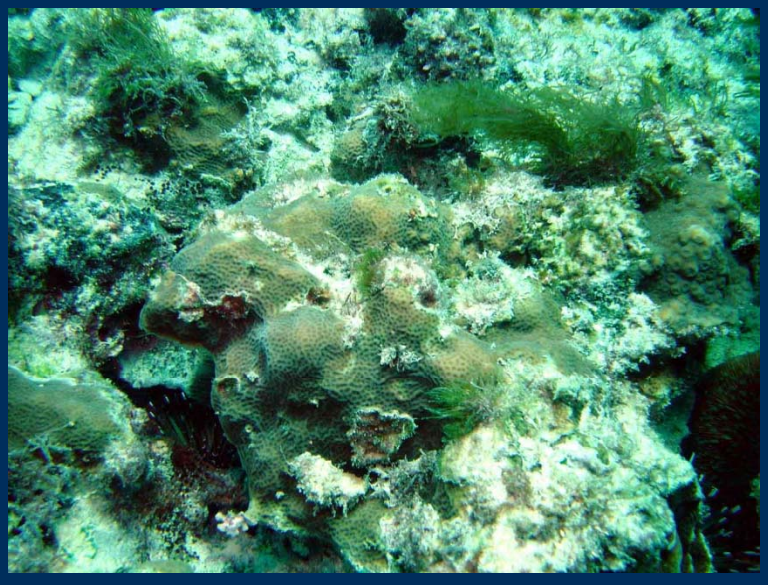
- Identified as a priority watershed in 2003 LAS
- Seven years of coral monitoring data
- Draft Conservation Action Plan
- Funded by CRCP - (Revegetation)
- Campaign - Impacts on Burning

- Similar ecological trends as Laolao

Talakhaya

- **Burning of steep sloping lands in watershed – delivery to reef**





Conclusion

- Laolao and Garapan continues to be a priority
- Request for continued support to reach our goals

Thank You and Si Yu’us Maase