

PRESENTATION

# Designing and operationalising a Conservation Trust Fund for the Solomon Islands



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# From concept to operational pathway



## Purpose

Designing a long-term **Coastal Resilience and Management Fund**



## Scope

- Arnavon Community Marine Park (ACMP)
- Ability to scale up
- Provide blended finance



## Requirements

- Legally feasible
- Cost-effective
- Standards for Conservation Trust Funds based on internationally recognised norms and donor expectations
- Aligned with Solomon Islands' conservation priorities and the needs of its stakeholders

# Successful Conservation Trust Funds



## ★ Standards

- Providing predictable long-term funding
- Governed transparently and professionally
- Meeting international fiduciary standards
- Legitimate in the eyes of government and communities
- Capable of attracting diversified capital sources

# Approach

## Design principles: pragmatic, adaptive, scale-conscious

- Needs-based sizing: ACMP operational needs are **~USD 100,000/y**
- Integration of existing TNC endowment support for ACMP **~USD 40,000/y**
- Inclusion of coral reef management, monitoring, reef brigades restoration costs, reef and communities positive businesses (cultivation of giant clams)
- Recognition of minimum viable scale **~USD 5 million endowment** with an annual net return of 2.5%, could provide grants of around **~USD 125,000/y**.

# Legal Structure



## Challenges

- Constitutional & Public Finance constraints
- Regulatory complexity
- Time pressure (climate finance momentum)



## Our Response

- Keep all structural options open
- Update analysis as consultations progressed
- Adapt to evolving government position
- Avoid “ideal but impractical” solutions

# Stakeholder Engagement



## Lessons learned

- Time is essential to explain complex financial concepts simply
- Trust in the people presenting the options is critical
- Trust in the host institution is equally important
- Consensus must be re-validated
- Transparency about constraints builds confidence
- Local ownership must be visible in governance
- Technical design succeeds only with social legitimacy



# Emerging consensus – a stepping stone

	Option	Conclusions	Next steps
1	<b>New Independent Fund</b> in Solomon Islands' law	Less flexible and subject to oversight by the Permanent Secretary and audit requirements. Not aligned with the requirements of this Fund.	Not applicable. Additional pathway for long-term financing for protected areas.
2	<b>Expand TNC's Arnavon Endowment Fund</b>	Highly beneficial for the ACMP, providing 40% of annual budget as stable donations for ACMP conservation activities.	Maintain as a diversified financial mix and advocate raising more capital.
3	<b>Fund hosted by a regional Trust Fund</b> 	Both a practical solution by building on existing infrastructure and partnerships. A potential stepping stone toward full national ownership in the future.	<b>Option endorsed by the ACMP Board in November 2025 and validated in final SI workshop Dec 2025</b>



# Questions?

