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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	New Independent Fund 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	Expand TNC's Arnavon Endowment Fund	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	Fund hosted by a regional Trust Fund 	Both a practical solution by building on existing infrastructure and partnerships. A potential stepping stone toward full national ownership in the future.	Option endorsed by the ACMP Board in November 2025 and validated in final SI workshop Dec 2025



Questions?

