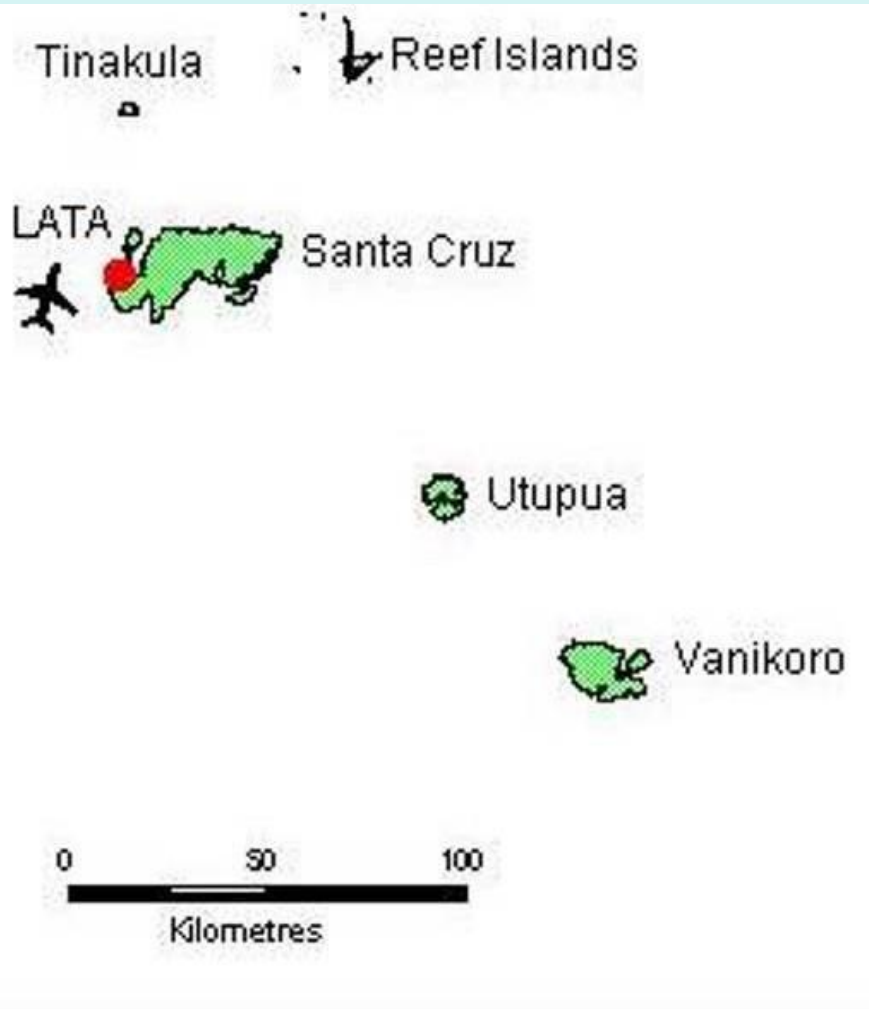


VAKAVAKATIA OR SANTA CRUZ GROUND-DOVE (EN)
AND INVASIVE SPECIES – SOME FEASIBILITY STUDIES



Key objectives of work on Vakavakatia (SCGD)

– determine distribution, threats and conservation measures



- With O/W and locals in 2014, surveyed likely sites within SCGD historic Temotu range
- Also surveyed another EN phantom - Upulalir (SC Shrikebill); and fruit bats
- Now assessing threats – rats, cats, invasive ants, habitat loss, etc. and how to manage these issues
- Most data are appended to reports and/or made available to stakeholders

KEY FINDINGS TO DATE FOR VAKAVAKATIA (SCGD)

1. Tinakula Island offers best opportunity for saving SCGD; major eruption and associated fires here in 1971, now no permanent habitation



2. Tinakula's forest is simple and regenerating, but most importantly, it is **RAT-FREE AND CAT-FREE!**



3. c.500+/- SCGD on Tinakula, sex ratio OK, and maybe age structure too



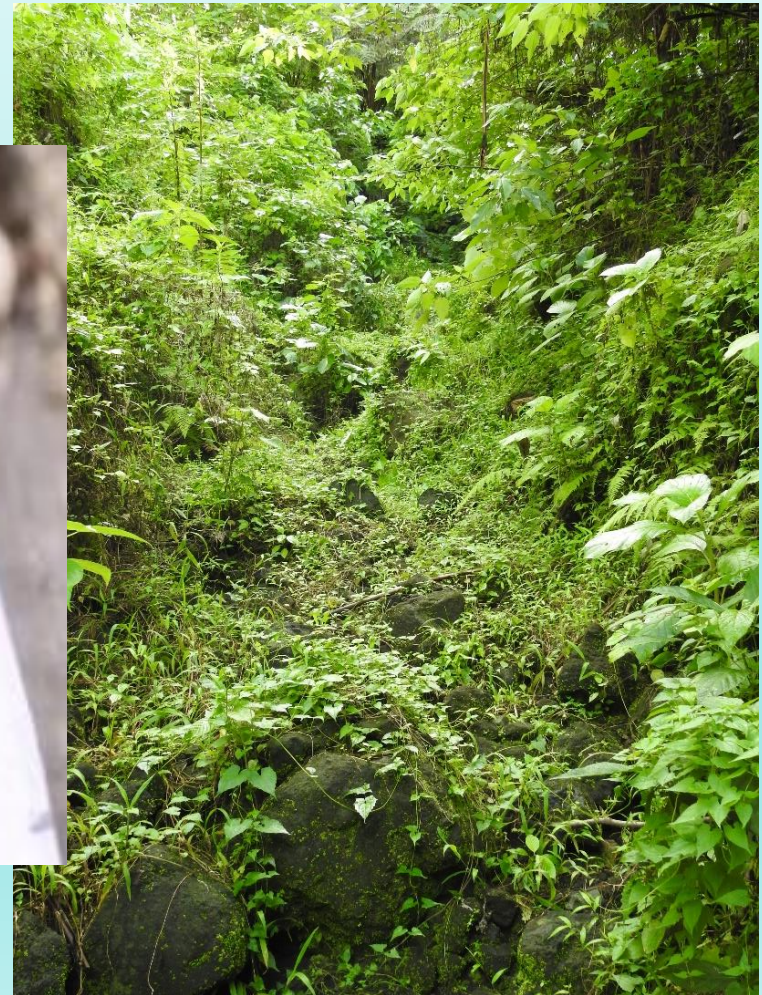
MAIN THREATS TO TINAKULA AND SCGD

1. High risk of *Rattus* spp. and avian disease arriving during human visits, hunting etc



Main Threats to Tinakula and SCGD

2. YCA and *Wasmannia* (LFA) and *Mikania* present, all with likely direct or indirect impacts on SCGD



CURRENT STUDIES AT TINAKULA

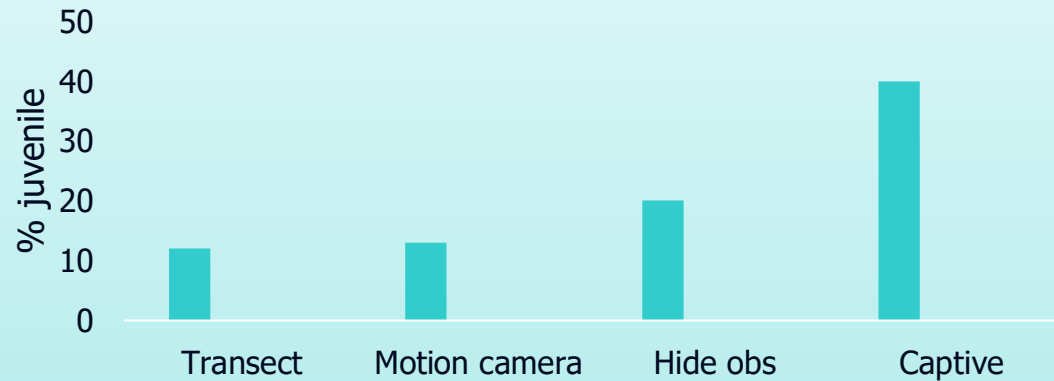
1. Biosecurity Risk Assessment With Community

IAS	Source	Risk	Notes	Actions needed
<i>Rattus rattus</i>	Malo, Nendo	Extreme	30+ visits annually	Inspect boats at source; education
Snakes	Malo, Nendo	Extreme	1 failed introduction attempt	Education
Bird disease	Malo, Nendo	Extreme	30+ visits annually	No chicken/eggs, clean gear
Invasive ants	Anywhere	High+	Already YCA and LFA invaded	Inspections at source
Weeds	Anywhere	High	<i>Mikania p</i> <i>Wedelia e</i>	
Cats	Etc	Moderate		
Pigs	Etc	Moderate		



2. Invasive ants. Next step is to find how widespread the Wasmannia (LFA) are and whether SCGD can recruit young in the LFA zone; if not, need to manage LFA

% juveniles observed in 2016



3. Finding or preparing another refuge is also a useful next step? Prudent to have 2+ sites. How do we evaluate other potential sites locally? In Vanuatu?



Finally some generic needs:

- Species Recovery/Action Plans (NBAP process?)
- Need Reserve status and Management plan for Tinakula
- Support for SI domestic biosecurity - biosecurity action plans needed, resourcing and training (part of NISSAP?)
- Research on *Wasmannia* impacts on SI birds etc generally and how to manage *Wasmannia*

(Note: plenty of foreign technical partnerships in offering for collaborative approaches to address the above needs)

Thanks to supporters to date including:

