Sustainable management of Turks and Caicos Islands

Harnessing new technologies and local skills

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“Beautiful by Nature”

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- TCI very rapid growth
- Economy heavily based on high end tourism
- Nature is a key selling point (and now have tourism coming under environment)
- The challenge is how to balance growth with the environment

Photos Turks and Caicos Tourism

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The opportunity

- Considerable international interest in using data to drive sustainable development
- Increasingly data and tools are freely available
- These international developments need local data, skills and relationships to apply

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This meeting

- The issues are not unique to TCI
- Territories have different challenges and goals but lot of similarity in the issues
- The meeting is pulling together their experience and specialists from the UK
- Working together to do things better!

Lot of data exists

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National Oceanography Centre
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

Water quality

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Poor terrestrial environment leads to more water running off the land than percolating through the limestone

Nutrient and sediments carried into the sea

Algal blooms

Smothers and kills the coral

Beach loss

- Poor tourist experience
- Risk of hotels flooding on storm events
- Reduction in country income

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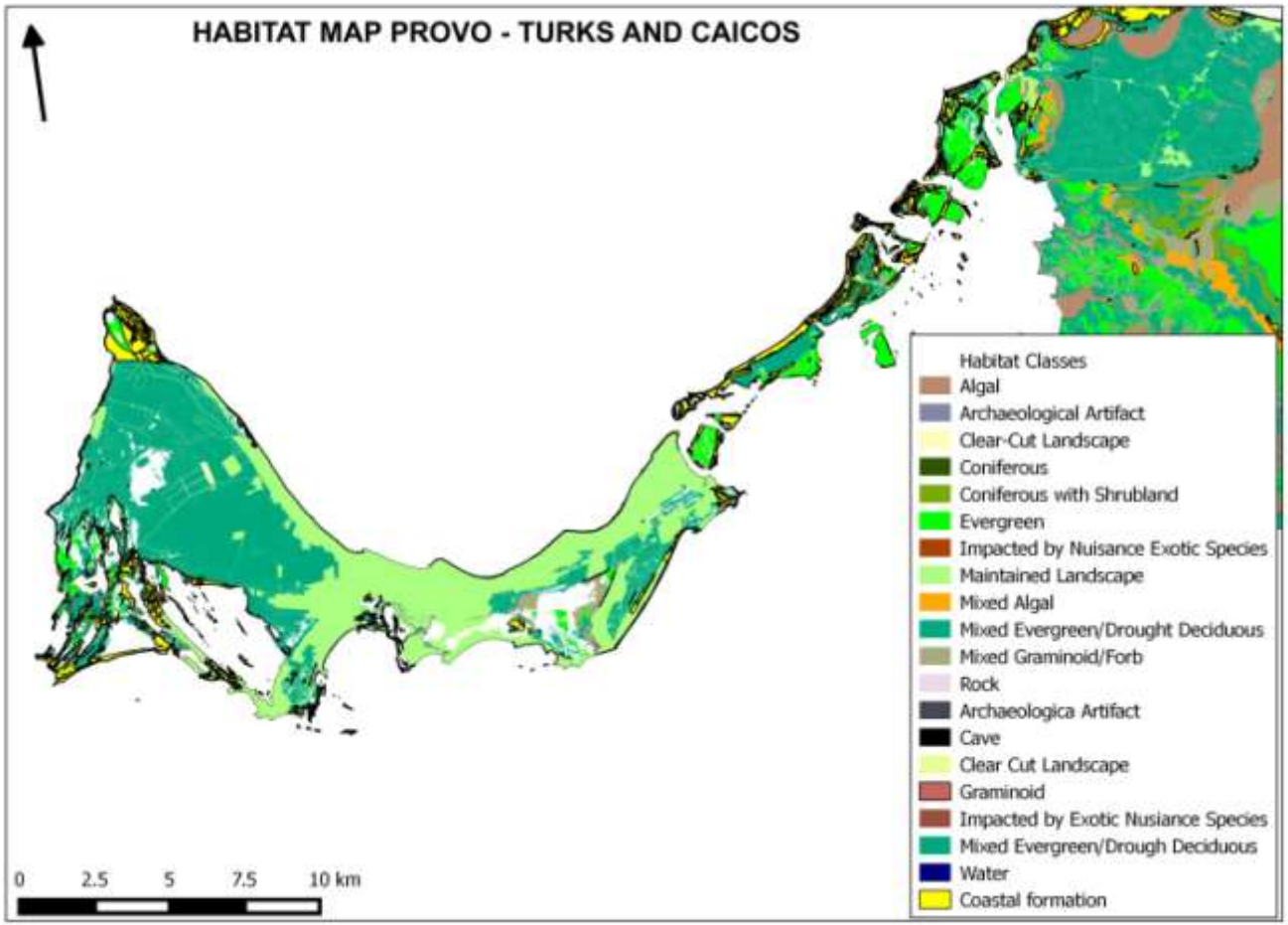
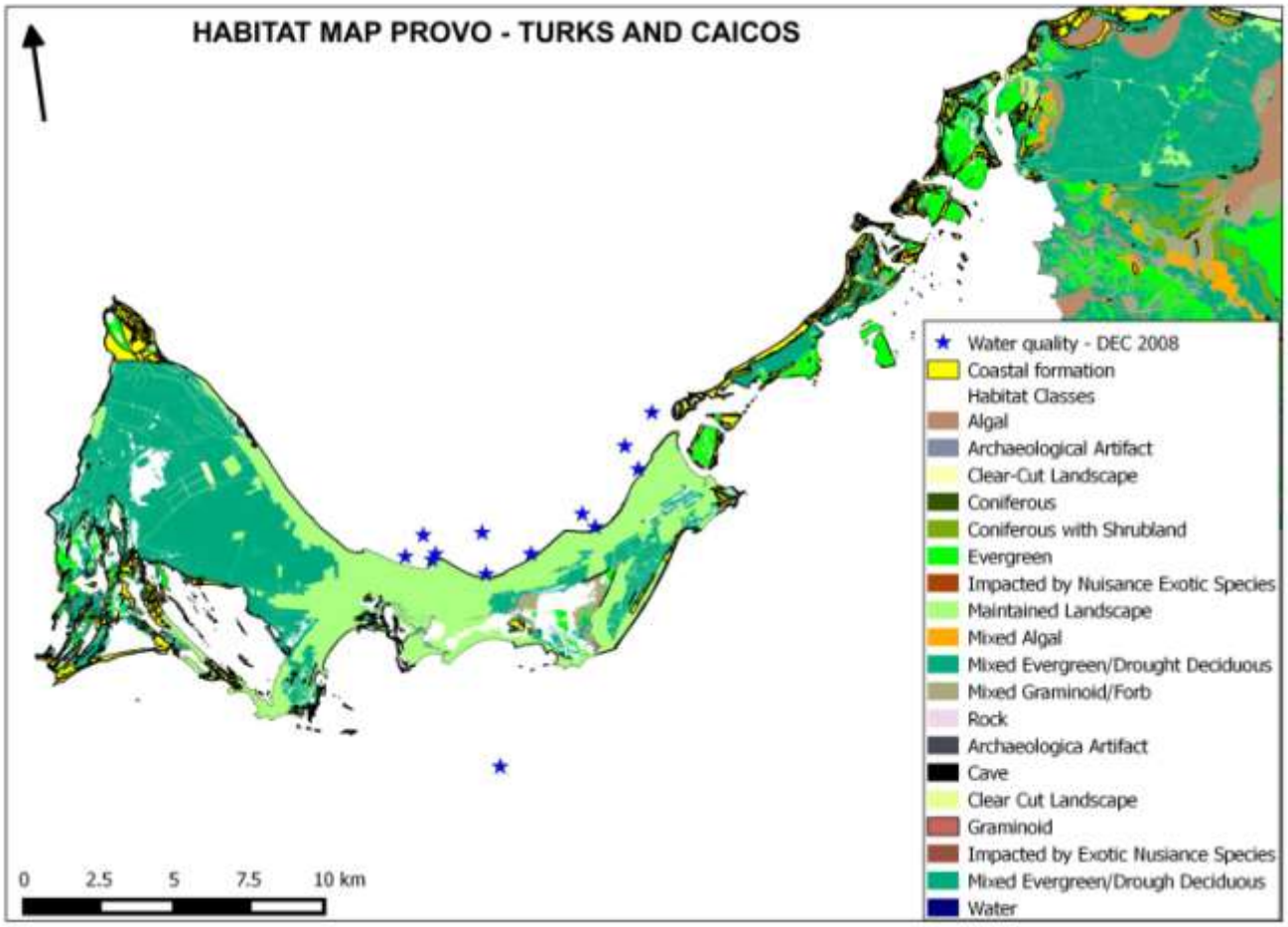
Drivers of change - local

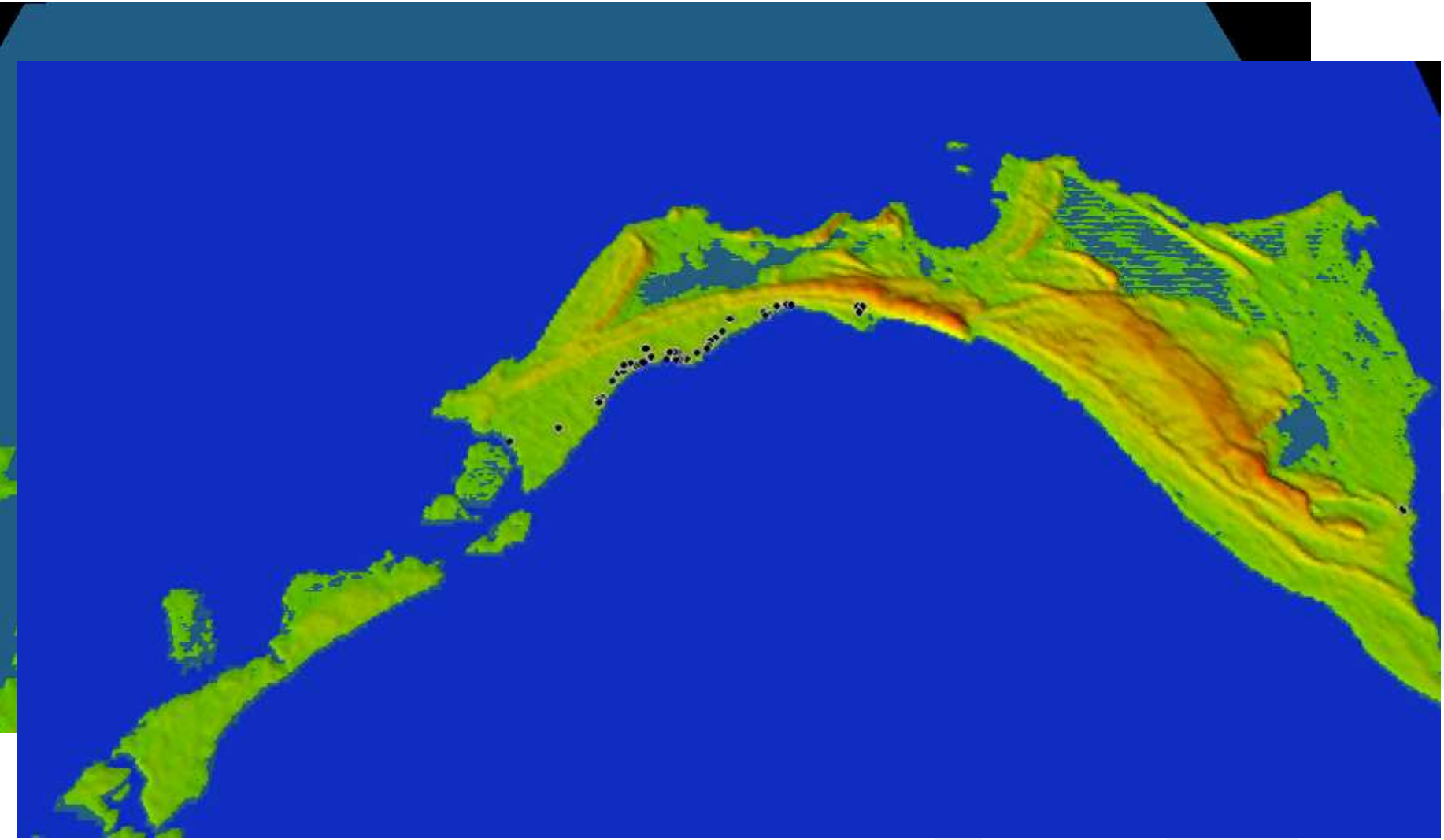
Local data – land use



Local survey - testing



Storm serge (3m)



3m storm surge / flood

But....

- Lots of potential – skilled local staff; international expertise
- Resources too tight - needs investment
- Not enough high level understanding, support and join up
- Stakes are high and no second chance....

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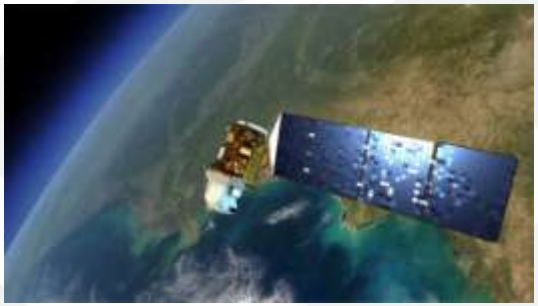
Summary

- Sustainable development with environment is critical for TCI (and other territories)
- Lot can be gained from international developments and interactions
- Supported by skilled and enthusiastic local teams
- But needs political level support, resources and join up