

# INTEGRATING LOCAL KNOWLEDGE IN ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE HAZARDS

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## METHODOLOGY

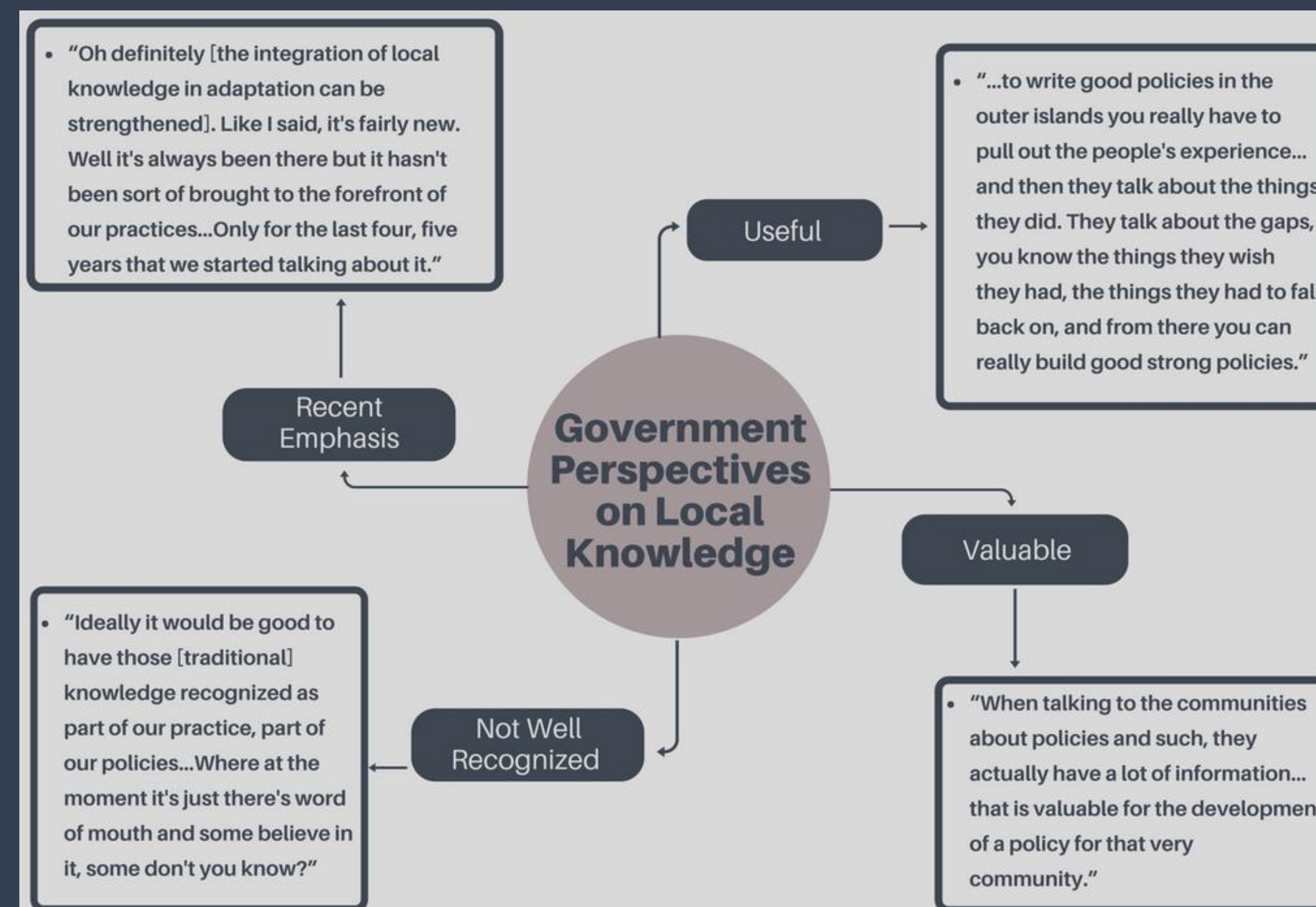
### 1. SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS

- ✓ Government officials in CCA or DRR related positions & community
- ✓ 20 in Rarotonga, 16 in Mitiaro
- ✓ General themes but flexible and open to personal stories and opinions

### 2. CONTENT ANALYSIS

- ✓ Government documents and policies relating to CCA and DRR

## PRELIMINARY FINDINGS



## PERCEIVED VARIABILITY IN KNOWLEDGE

GOVERNMENT PERCEPTIONS	
RAROTONGA	MITIARO
Less traditional knowledge	More traditional knowledge
A result of Westernization	Closer connection to environment
Less awareness on climate change impacts	Greater awareness on climate change impacts
Less worry and considered less vulnerable	Impacted in daily lives and considered more vulnerable

## PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

### Potential Challenges to Incorporating Local Knowledge



## PRATICAL IMPLICATIONS

### VARIABILITY IN KNOWLEDGE

- Increased climate change education on Rarotonga?
- Identification of this variability in knowledge in future funding applications?

### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Much of the value of local knowledge may be in underlying principles and connection with environment and less so with specific adaptation or coping mechanisms
- Local knowledge should be used to not only identify changes but determine appropriate adaptation solutions
- Adaptive management of resources may be ideal in the face of climate change

## REFERENCES

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## CONTACT

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## BACKGROUND

### PACIFIC ISLAND VULNERABILITY

#### ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

- Changes in precipitation patterns, rising temperatures, increased intensity of tropical cyclones, changes in biodiversity & marine resources, and sea level rise<sup>1,2,3</sup>

#### UNCERTAINTY

- High levels of uncertainty
- Most understanding of climate change at the global or regional level with lack of sufficient local scale data<sup>4</sup>

#### UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

- Small size, insularity, remoteness, small economies, large coastal zones, limited infrastructure, land use issues & weakness in governance<sup>5</sup>

- Some argue Pacific Islands have **become** sites of vulnerability → loss of traditional resilience<sup>6</sup>
- Role of local and traditional knowledge in adaptation is important to understand

## PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

### INVESTIGATE THE ROLE OF LOCAL KNOWLEDGE IN ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE RELATED HAZARDS IN THE COOK ISLANDS

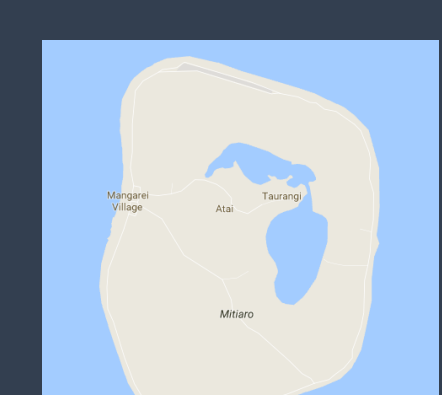
1. Investigate local and traditional adaptation strategies to climate related hazards
2. Understand the extent to which communities and government officials feel local and traditional knowledge is being appropriately integrated into adaptation policies
3. Determine some of the challenges to incorporating local knowledge in adaptation policy
4. Assess the variability in knowledge between a core and periphery island

## STUDY SITE

### Core Island: Rarotonga



### Periphery Island: Mitiaro



Images: Google Maps, 2017; Roberts, 2013; Viator, 2017;