

# Community Voice Method

*Using documentary film to engage Caribbean communities in marine management*

*Amdeep Sanghera*

*UK Overseas Territories  
Conservation Manager*





Eduardo

GT 012

GT 0031



MARINE  
CONSERVATION  
SOCIETY

**We are the Marine Conservation Society, a UK charity fighting for a cleaner, better-protected, healthier ocean: one we can all enjoy!**

IIM  
25



Isle of Man



Peter Richardson

## Caribbean UK Overseas Territories



Source: Google Maps

# COMMUNITY VOICE METHOD (CVM)



# Why Community Voice Method?

Perceptions of conventional consultation methods:

- Lack transparency
- Do not facilitate or encourage wider, inclusive participation
- Do not promote reflective, inspiring and respectful dialogue
- Do not inspire positive perceptions of the consultation process
- Do not attempt to build agency capacity to engage with stakeholders

*Cummings et al. (2021) Putting stakeholder engagement in its place: how situating public participation in community improves natural resource management outcomes. GeoJournal 87(3)*

# Community Voice Method takes a values based approach...

Values are not just monetary.

Values are enduring.

Consideration of values invites reflection and dialogue.

Values are positive.

Value can be plural and shared.

A man with dark skin and short hair is holding a large sea turtle. He is wearing a light green t-shirt with several small circular logos. The background is a bright blue sky with some clouds and a body of water. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent blue box on the right side of the image.

# Transdisciplinary projects using CVM

## Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)

*TCI Turtle Project (2008-ongoing)*

*East Caicos Wilderness Project (2022-2025)*

*Making Marine Parks Matter in the TCI (2025-2028)*

## British Virgin Islands (BVI)

*STEEL Turtle Project (2020-2024)*

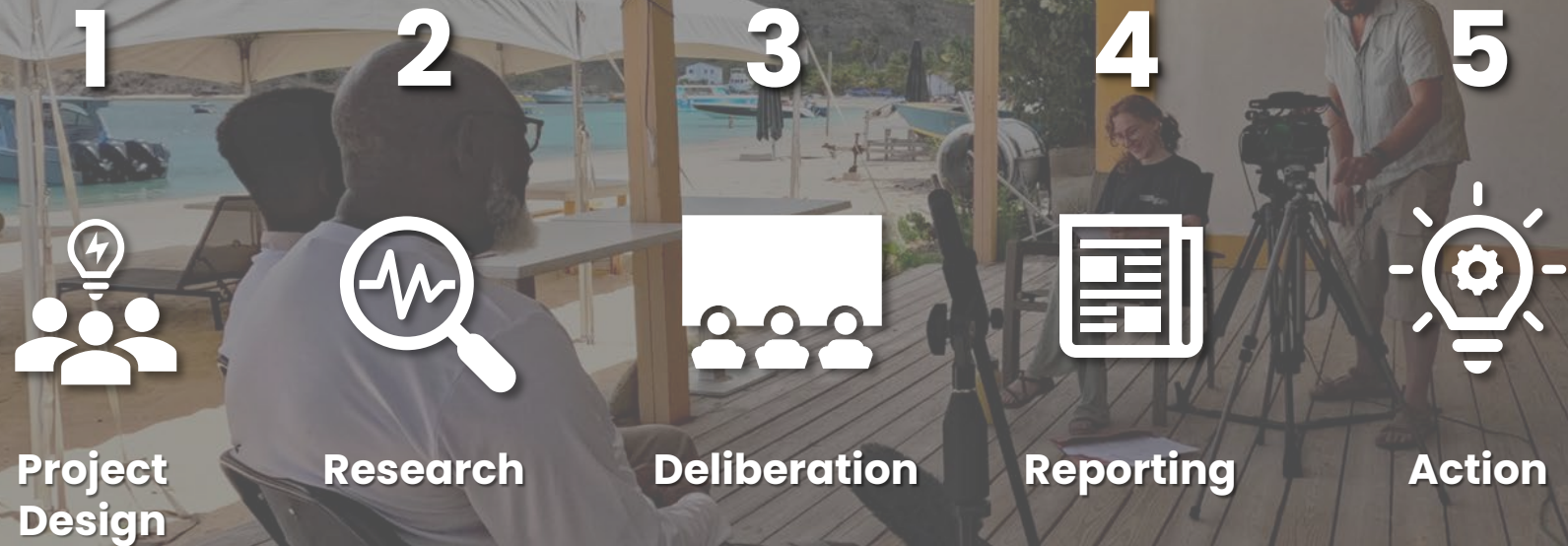
## Montserrat

*Marine Turtle Action Plan Project (2020-2023)*

## Anguilla

*Anguilla Shark Conservation Project (2021-2025)*

# COMMUNITY VOICE METHOD RESEARCH PROCESS



# 1 Project Design



EAST CAICOS COMMUNITY VOICE METHOD QUESTIONNAIRE GUIDE  
DRAFT 00

## What about the Wilderness? Youth Perceptions of the East Caicos Wilderness Area

### Semi-structured Interview Guide

We are interested in the views and values of young people [14-25] in the Turks & Caicos Islands about the future, and particularly the future of those parts of the islands that have not yet been developed.

#### 1 Background/History/Heritage in The Turks And Caicos Islands

- Could you tell us a little about yourself and your family?
- Have you always lived in TCI? (If yes - Do you know how long your family have lived here? If no - what is your home country? How long have you been here? What brought your family here?)

#### 3 Community

- How would you describe your community where you live? Who are the people that you would say are part of your community?
- How do you think the community doing at the moment?

#### 2 Life in TCI right now

- What is your favourite thing about living in TCI? (How would you describe your life here? What is there to do here? Main/exciting events? What is a typical day like for you?)
- Do you have a favourite place where you like to spend time?
- Is there anything you would change that would make life in TCI better right now?
- Are you planning to stay in the TCI? Why/why not?

#### 3 Important issues or challenges in TCI right now

- What do you think are the most important issues concerning people in the TCI right now? Are there things that you hear others talking about?
- Are there any important issues relating to nature, the environment or weather/climate?
- Have any of the issues you have described affected you/your community?

#### 4 Change

- Do you notice any changes happening in TCI? Are the islands changing?
- What are the things that cause this change? Why do think this change is happening?
- What do you think about these changes? Are there things you would like to see change? Are there things you wish would stay the same?

#### 5 Core perceptions of 'nature', 'wildness', 'wilderness'.

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EAST CAICOS COMMUNITY VOICE METHOD QUESTIONNAIRE GUIDE  
DRAFT 00

- When I say words like 'wildness' or 'wilderness', what does that make you think of?
- Thinking about where you live, how would you describe the wild or natural places nearby? What do you think of these places?
- Is this island different to the other Turks and Caicos Islands? How?
- Thinking about the whole of TCI, where do you think the wildest or most natural parts of the islands are?
- How would you describe the relationship between nature and people in TCI?

#### 6 East Caicos - The Past

##### Human connection / culture

- What do you know about East Caicos? Have you ever been there? (If yes, what was it like? If no, what do you think it's like there?)
- Do you or your family have any current or historical connection with East Caicos? Describe.
- Do you know whether other people visit East Caicos? What do you think they do there?

We have already spoken to some older people who know and spend time in East Caicos. I'd like to quote you one or two things they said:

##### "Up to 3 brief story quotes from the mapping workshops"

- What did those stories make you think of? Were you surprised to hear about how people use/d East Caicos?
- Was there anything you found particularly interesting?

##### Natural History

- Thinking about the habitats, plants and animals that may be found in East Caicos. What do you know about them? What plant and animal life do you think you'd find there?

As I said, we have talked to some people who have visited or done research in East Caicos and these are some descriptions / images of what they have found:

Images and/or up to 3 brief descriptions of plant and animal life in East Caicos from mapping workshops or from researchers

- What did those stories make you think of? Were you surprised to hear about the plant and animal life on East Caicos?
- Was there anything you found particularly interesting?

#### 7 East Caicos - The future

Having thought about what East Caicos is like at the moment and how people use and have used the island in the past, what do you think should happen there in the future?

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# 2 Research



# Interview structure

## Question themes

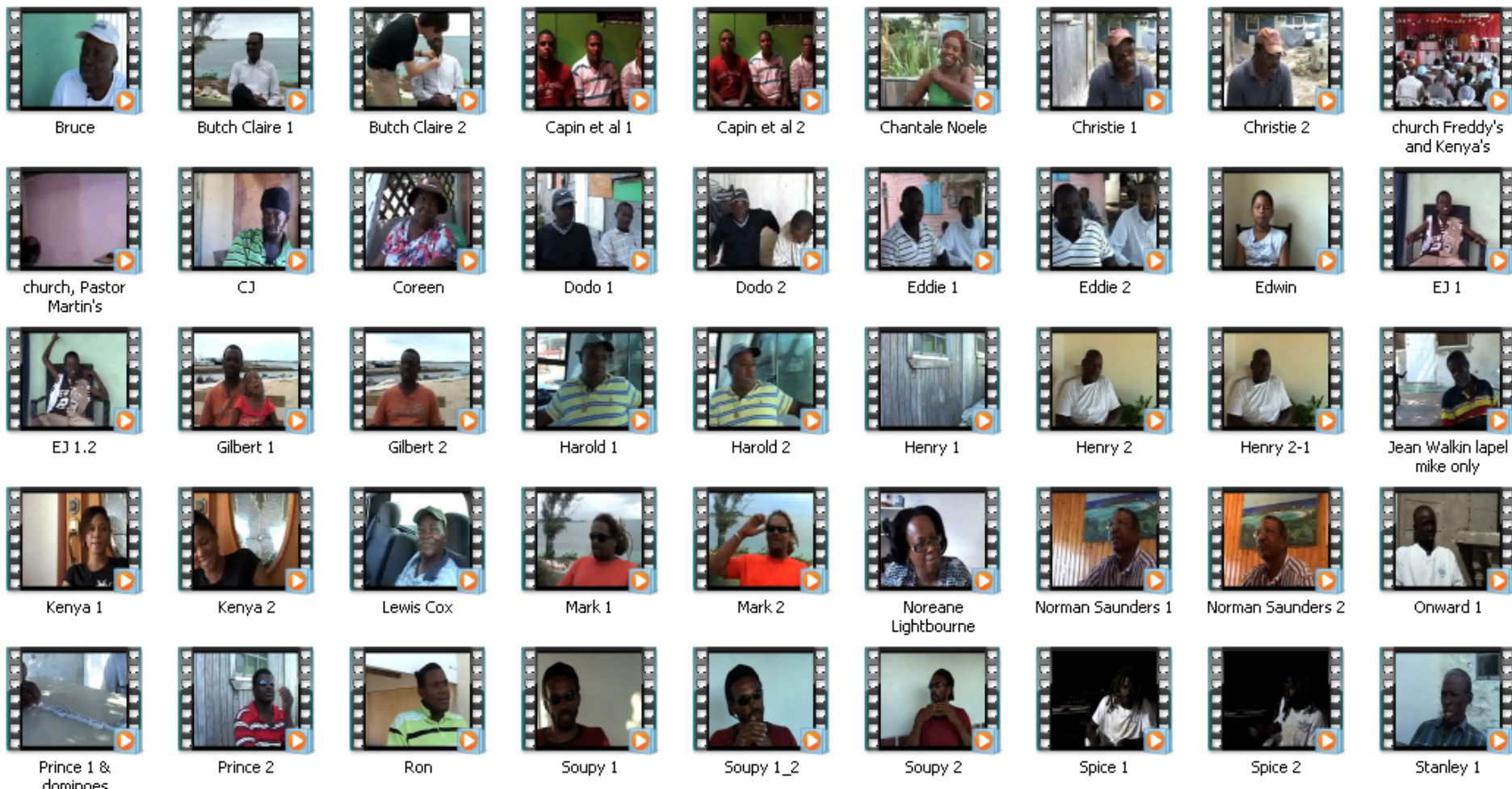
1. Background information
2. Background/**history/heritage** in the Virgin Islands
3. Connection to the Virgin Islands
4. The **Community** in the Virgin Islands
5. **Burning issues** in the Virgin Islands
6. **Changes in fishing** in the Virgin Islands
7. Personal connection with **fishing**
8. Connection with **turtles** and **turtle fishing**
9. Views on **turtle fishery management**
10. **Alternative Values/Uses Of Turtles** In The Virgin Islands
11. Turtle **Habitat Management** And Protection
12. Visions For The **Future**
10. Opinion of project

**Focus**

Interviewee comments themed and analysed using NVIVO software.

Most often expressed views (and most eloquent expression of those views) are edited into a 30-minute documentary.

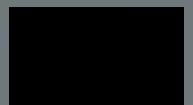
Comments from every interviewee included in final edit!



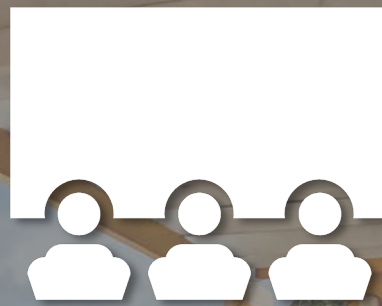
The image shows the flag of Montserrat, which is a dark blue field with a white saltire (St. Andrew's cross) in the upper left corner. In the center is a shield depicting a yellow figure of a woman carrying a cross on her back, standing on a yellow base. The background of the entire image is a clear, pale blue sky. A thin black wire runs horizontally across the lower third of the frame.

# **TURTLES IN MONTSERRAT**

**LISTENING TO  
LOCAL VOICES**



# 3 Deliberation



Peter Richardson



IEM  
25




Isle of Man



Amdeep Sanghera




# 4 Reporting



**MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY**  
DARWIN

Mark Parrish & Kim Mortimer



**East Caicos Wilderness Area:  
Protecting the Caribbean's largest uninhabited island**

Community Voice Method Workshop Report

July 2025

Amdeep Sanghera  
UKOT Conservation Manager

## SHARKS AND RAYS IN ANGUILLA: LISTENING TO COMMUNITY VOICES

### WORKSHOP RESULTS

#### WHAT DO PEOPLE VALUE ABOUT THE COAST AND SEA IN ANGUILLA?

- The sea is beautiful
- The sea is a place of recreation
- The sea is therapeutic and relaxing
- The sea is a place where Anguillians can learn
- The sea feels open and free with no barriers
- The sea is a source of food and medicine
- Many Anguillians rely on the sea for their jobs in fishing and tourism
- The sea is good for physical health
- The sea belongs to the people of Anguilla
- The coast and sea are important places for socialising
- Anguillians are connected with the sea
- The sea is something we can pass down to future generations

#### WAS THERE SOMETHING IN THE FILM YOU AGREED WITH?

**MANAGEMENT IS NEEDED**  
While there was very little appetite for a ban on catching sharks and rays, participants feel some management is needed (for fishing in general and for sharks and rays). There is a need for data, and data driven decisions.

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO LISTEN TO EVERYONE'S OPINION**  
Participants liked that the film gave people with different perspectives the chance to share their views. It was interesting to listen to a variety of views, and where participants disagreed with opinions, they understood people's perspectives.

**ANGUILLA NEEDS A PLAN FOR SHARK AND RAY FISHING IN THE FUTURE**  
It was felt that we need a plan for the fishing of sharks and rays in the future. We need a way forward that works for all stakeholders.

#### DID YOU HEAR A NEW POINT OF VIEW?

**SHARKS AND RAYS ARE IMPORTANT FOR OUR OCEANS**  
Some participants learned about the importance of sharks and rays for the ocean, others say they already knew but the workshop reinforced this. A lot of people on the island do not know the importance of sharks and rays.

**SHARKS ARE NOT AS SCARY AS I THOUGHT**  
Seeing people diving with sharks in the film helped viewers feel they weren't as dangerous, although it is still important to be aware of sharks when in the sea.

**FISHING IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF ANGUILLIAN CULTURE**  
Fishing is an important tradition in Anguilla that is passed down through generations.

UKOT Conservation Manager  
MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY  
University of Exeter  
ANGUILLA



# 5 Action



Ministry of Environment and Home Affairs  
Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs  
Lower Bight Road, Providenciales  
Turks and Caicos Island Government



20 June 2014

Press Release – New Turtle and Conch Regulations take Effect 1 July 2014

The Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs (DEMA) would like to inform the public that as of 1 July 2014, new regulations for turtle and conch under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance will take effect. The regulations include the following restrictions on the taking of turtles:

1. A closed season for Hawksbill turtles from 1 August to 31 March (inclusive). During the closed season it will be unlawful to take, purchase or possess hawksbill turtles or hawksbill turtle products.
2. A legal size limit of 18 inches (minimum) and 24 inches (maximum) for green and hawksbill turtles. It will be unlawful to possess green or hawksbill turtles larger than 24 inches or smaller than 18 inches.
3. A permanent closure on the taking of Kemp's ridley, leatherback, loggerhead and olive ridley turtles. As of 1 July 2014 it will be unlawful to take or fish for any of these species.
4. A ban on the export of all turtles and turtle products, except for scientific purposes. No turtle products shall be exported from TCI.
5. A ban on the keeping of turtles in captivity. As of 1 July it will be unlawful to keep any turtles in captivity, unless such captivity is necessary to rescue, rehabilitate or preserve the life of the turtle.
6. A prohibition against processing turtles at sea. All turtles will need to be landed live and in whole condition after being taken and only processed where it is to be sold, processed or used for personal consumption.

In addition to the above turtle regulations, as of July 1, 2014, it will become lawful to export conch shells, conch jewellery, conch pearls or craft products made of conch shells during the closed season for conch. This regulation will allow such products to be exported for non-commercial or personal use only.

## A Marine Turtle Action Plan for Montserrat

2023 - 2028



University of Exeter



# Challenges with CVM



# Labour-intensive method





# **Social science training and understanding in practitioners**



# Time commitment from participants

# Benefits of CVM





Films are ENJOYED by communities, and are seen as trustworthy, representative, relevant and productive

# Enables cross-section of society in developing conservation solutions



# Supports accessible research dissemination



A group of people are gathered around a long table in a room with teal walls. A woman in a pink polo shirt is standing and gesturing while speaking to a group of men. Two men in red polo shirts are standing on the left, looking towards the woman. A man in a dark blue shirt is leaning over the table on the right, pointing at a document. Another man in a dark shirt is sitting at the table, looking at the documents. The table is covered with a white cloth and has several documents, including maps and charts, along with water bottles. In the background, there are more tables, chairs, and a television mounted on the wall.

**Local partners taking lead roles**

# Advocacy tool



**Zhavargo Jolly**

April 1 at 6:30 PM · 🌐

East Caicos isn't just untouched—it's unlimited in potential.

Yesterday, I met with the leadership team of the Turks and Caicos National Trust for a powerful conversation about the future of East Caicos. They shared plans for a new Stakeholder Council that will guide the island's development—ensuring our people, especially those from South Caicos, have a real seat at the table.

But our conversation went beyond protection. We spoke about empowerment.

The Trust plays a criti... [See more](#)  
— at **East Caicos**.

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5 ➦



Comment as Amdeep Sanghera



# Transferable/Replicable – UKOT departments requesting capacity building in CVM method





## Improved compliance and enforcement

*"Before the new turtle laws came in, fishermen would catch large turtles."*

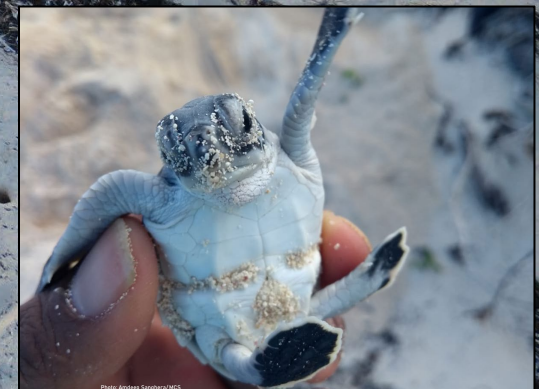
*But with the new regulations, that doesn't happen no more. People understand you have to protect the breeders."*

*Tommy Phillips, TCI Fisheries Enforcement Officer*



Amdeep Sanghera

# Potential recovery of TCI's nesting turtle populations



Ocean emergency > People and the sea >

# Community Voice Method

⌚ 3 minute read



[www.mcsuk.org/ocean-emergency/people-and-the-sea/community-voice-method/](http://www.mcsuk.org/ocean-emergency/people-and-the-sea/community-voice-method/)

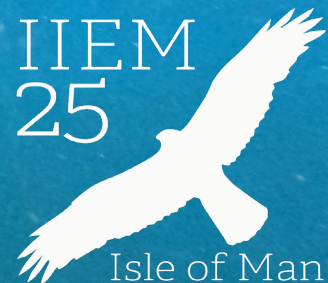


# Gura mie ayd!

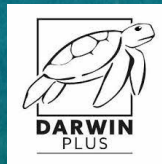
[amdeep.sanghera@mcsuk.org](mailto:amdeep.sanghera@mcsuk.org)

[www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)

IEM  
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Isle of Man



John  
Ellerman  
Foundation

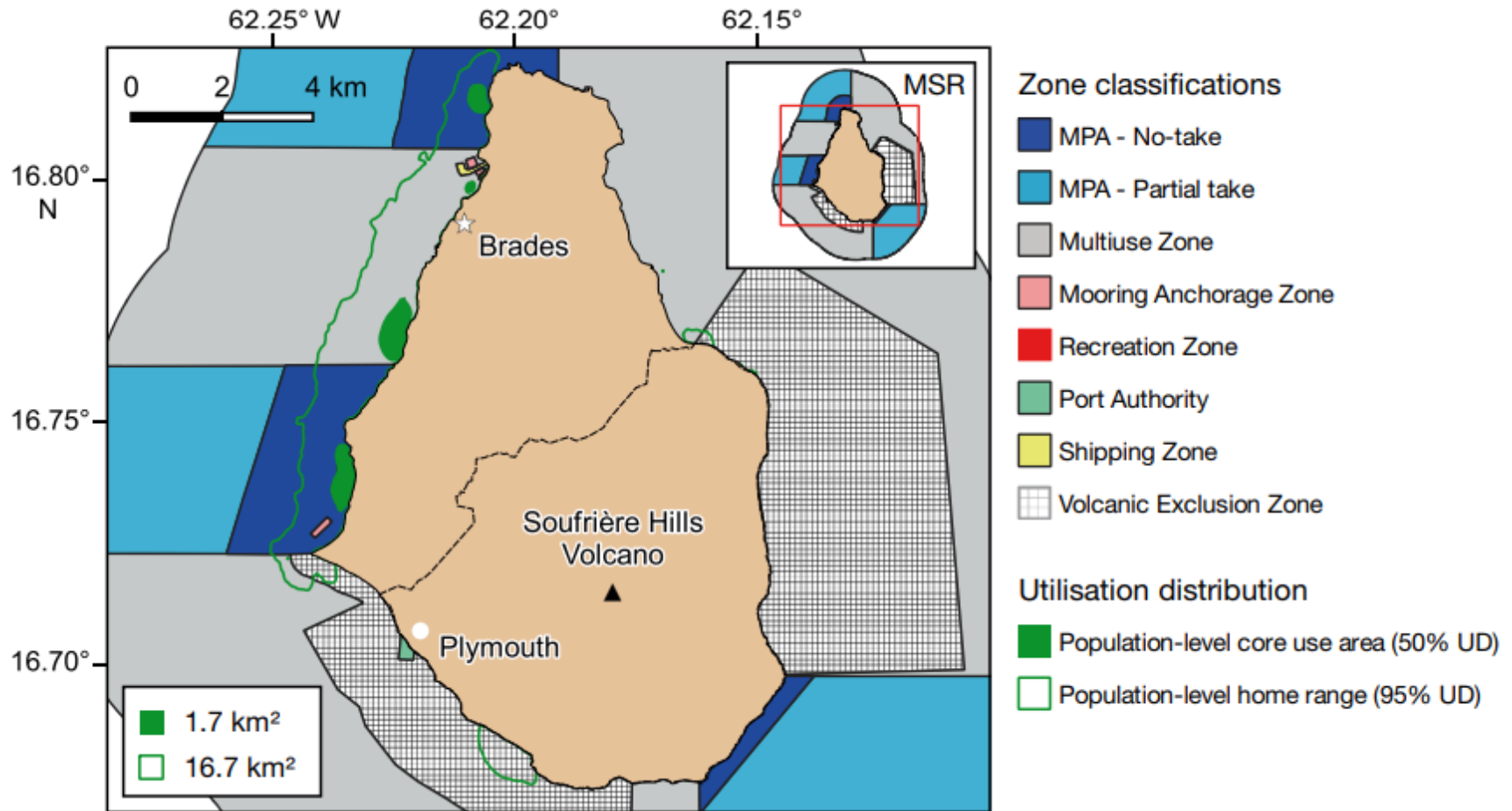
MARINE  
CONSERVATION  
SOCIETY



Peter Richardson



# Integrating biological and social science data



Wiggings et al. (2024) Satellite tracking reveals critical habitats and migratory pathways for green and hawksbill turtles nesting in Montserrat, Eastern Caribbean. *Endangered Species Research* 55: 295–314.