

Linking Climate Services to Complement Traditional Knowledge

A Ngari

Director

Cook Islands Meteorological Service



Ancestral Observations

- Porcupine fish on the reef is a sign that a hurricane will affect the island in the upcoming cyclone season
- Abundance of mangoes is a sign of an active cyclone season
- Coiling of banana top leaf is a sign similar to the above
- Having more than 3 fruits on a bundle of breadfruit

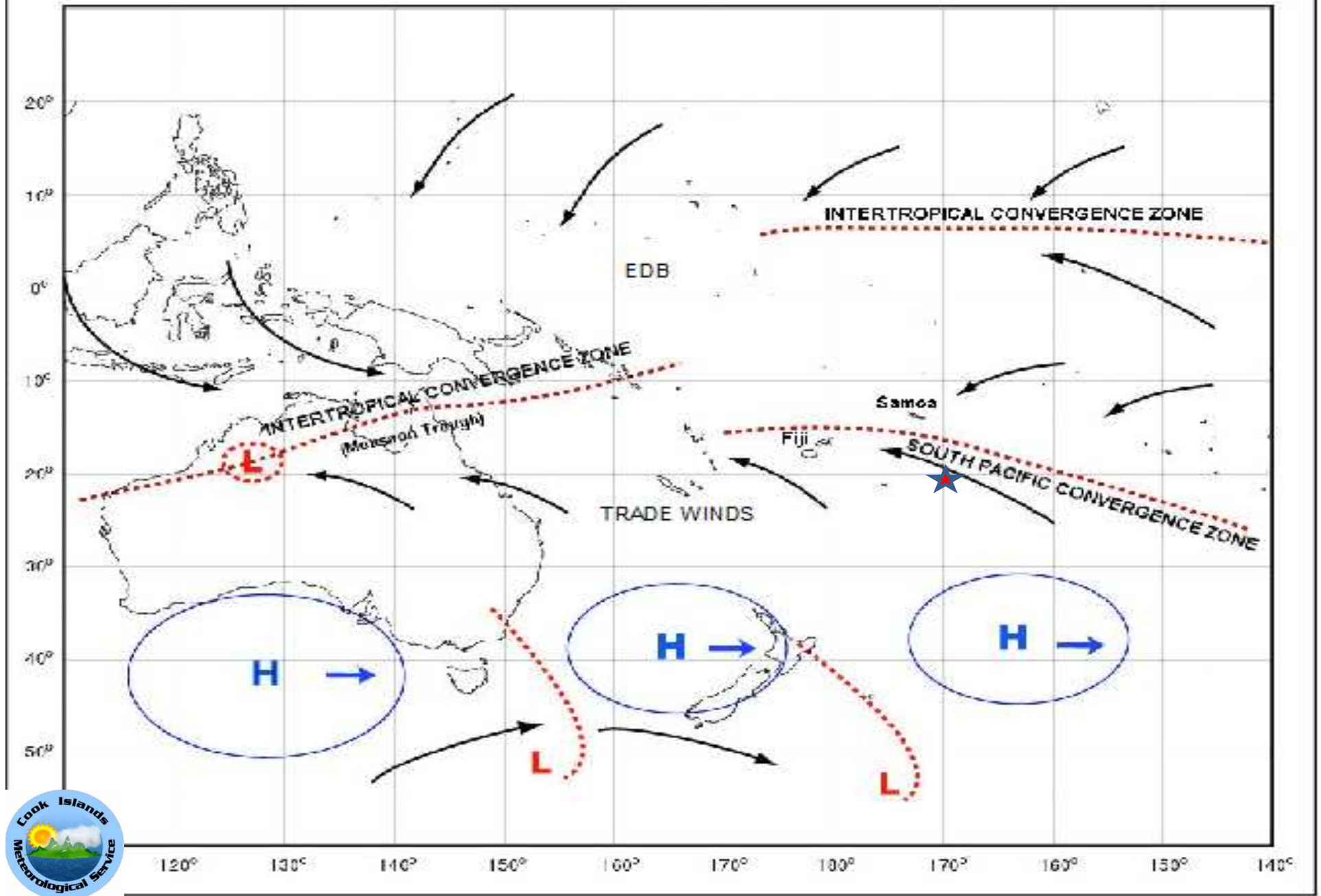


Coral Bleaching

- Promotes concern for the marine life in the lagoon
- Attack of crown of thorns
- Fish poisoning
- Disruption to diet
- Promoting herbal medicine to cure ciguatera



Typical summer circulation features in the South-West Pacific (After Steiner, 1980)





Five cyclones affecting the Cook Islands in 5 weeks in 2005. Four were of Category 4-5



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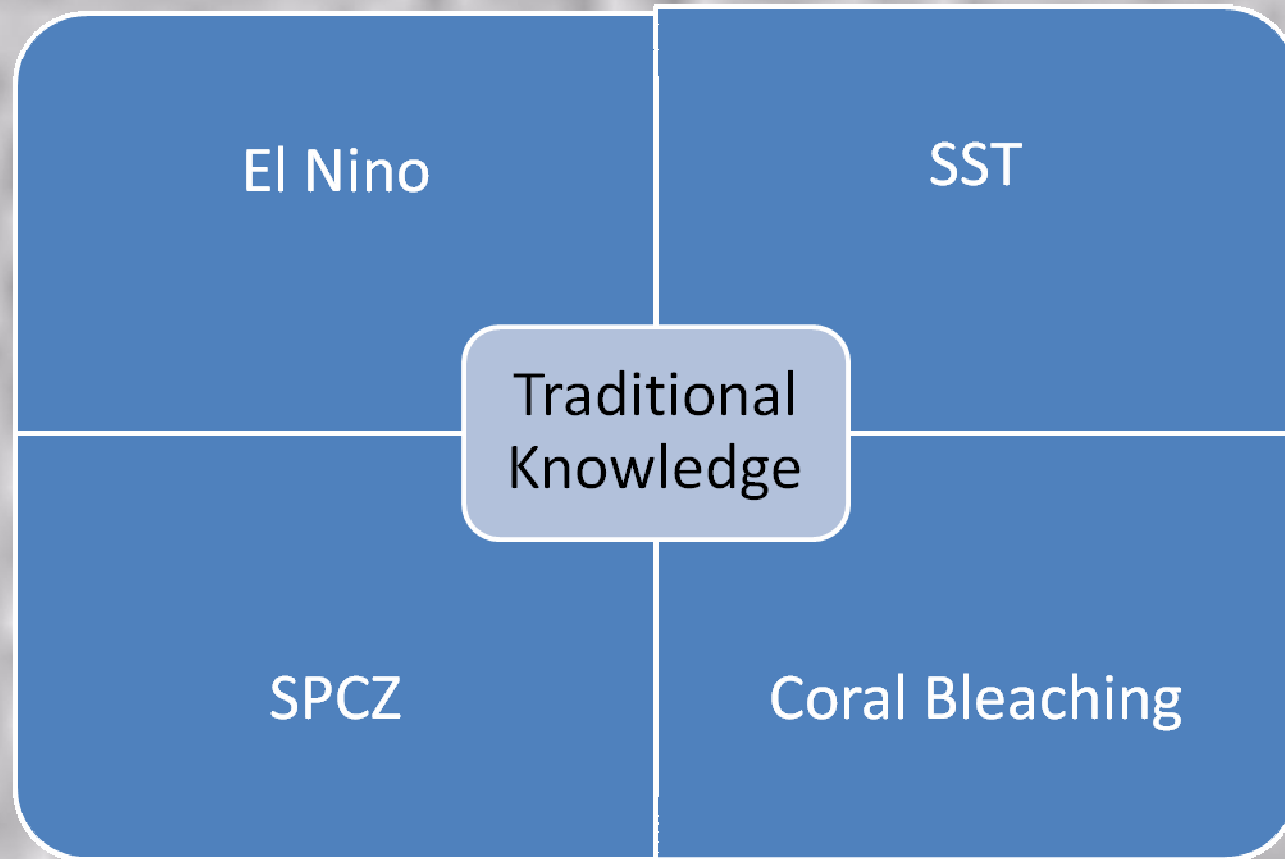


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Linkages or Drivers?



Recommendations

- Document traditional knowledge
- Identify the drivers that initiate the onset
- Pilot this in a specific region
- Compare with other documented literature
- Capture these from our elders



TAI'S WEATHER ROCK
IF ROCK IS DRY - FINE
IF ROCK IS WET - RAINING
IF ROCK IS SWAYING - WINDY
IF ROCK IS WILTY - SMOKING
IF ROCK IS TIPPING - TORNADO
CAN'T SEE ROCK - TON
ROCK IS BOBBY - HURRICANE

