

Coralita, we're gonna beat ya!



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PhD Students at Utrecht University

Today's meeting

Where does Coralita grow?

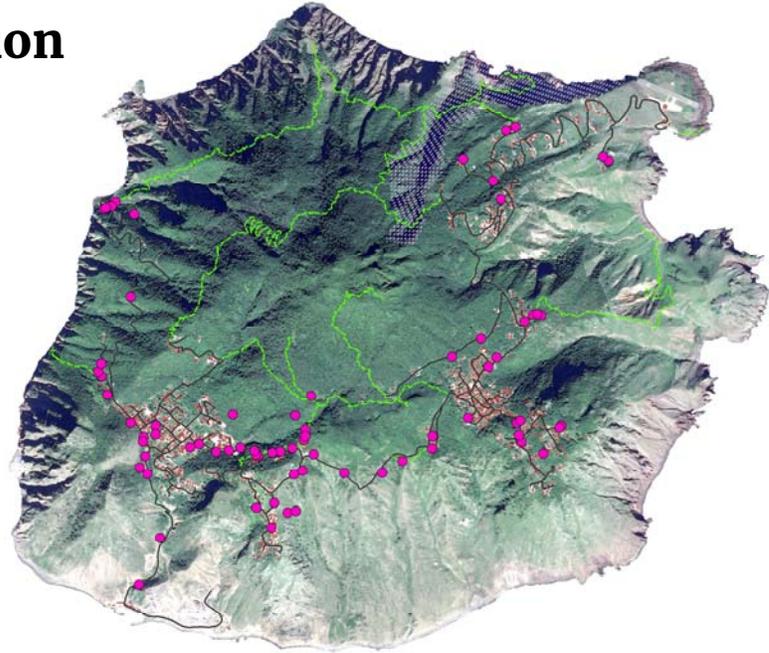
Where is it unwanted?

What do we recommend?



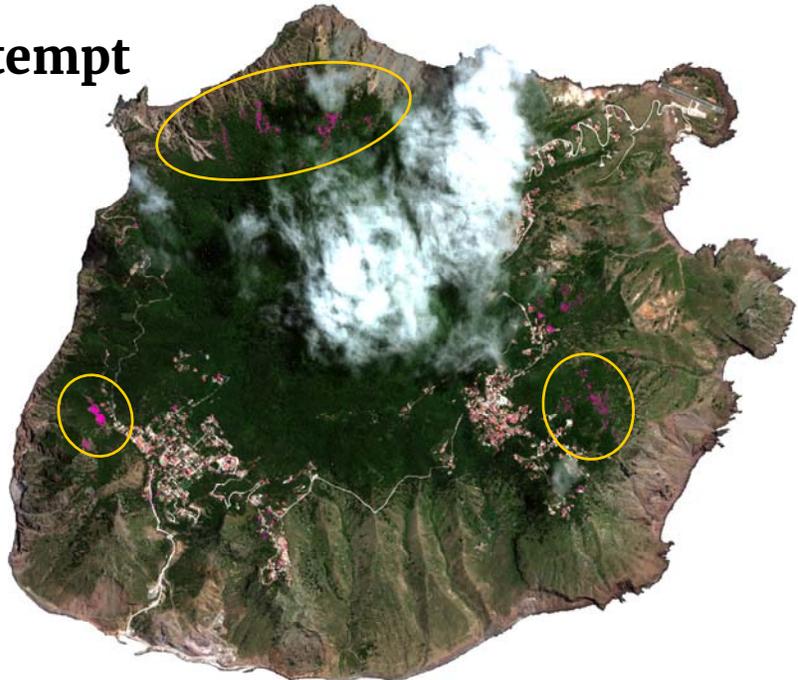
Current Distribution

- GPS points from:
 - October 2015
 - October 2016
 - October 2018
- Limitation: Only places where we have walked



Classification attempt

- WorldView3 satellite image purchased
 - 16 August 2017
- Too many errors:
 - Clouds covering Mt. Scenery
 - Topography causes difficulty in processing image
 - Prominent errors



Where to act?

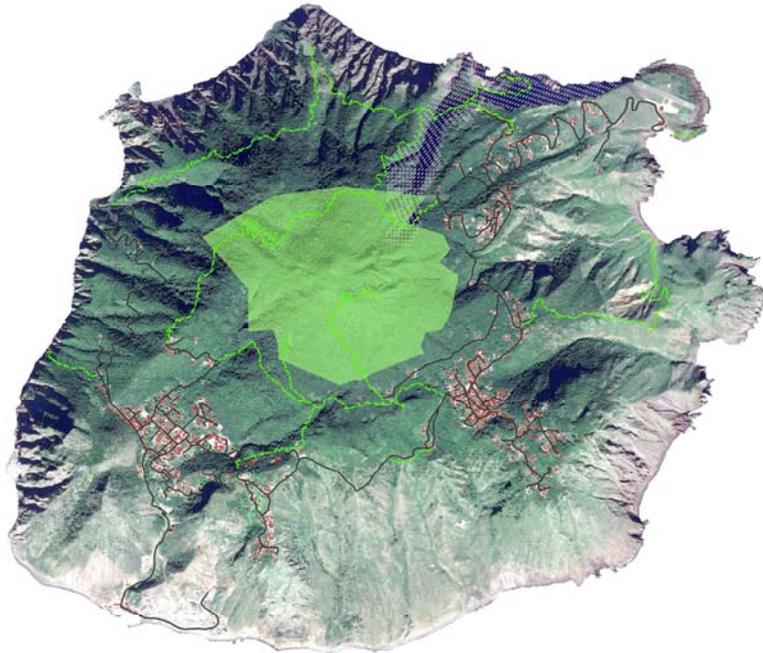


Ecological focus *according to Sabans*

The colored area is what Sabans find the most important nature area. To protect this area, make sure to monitor and keep the trails Coralita-free.

Priority areas:

- Reed Barnes' sheep pen
- Upper Crispeen trail
- Mountain road



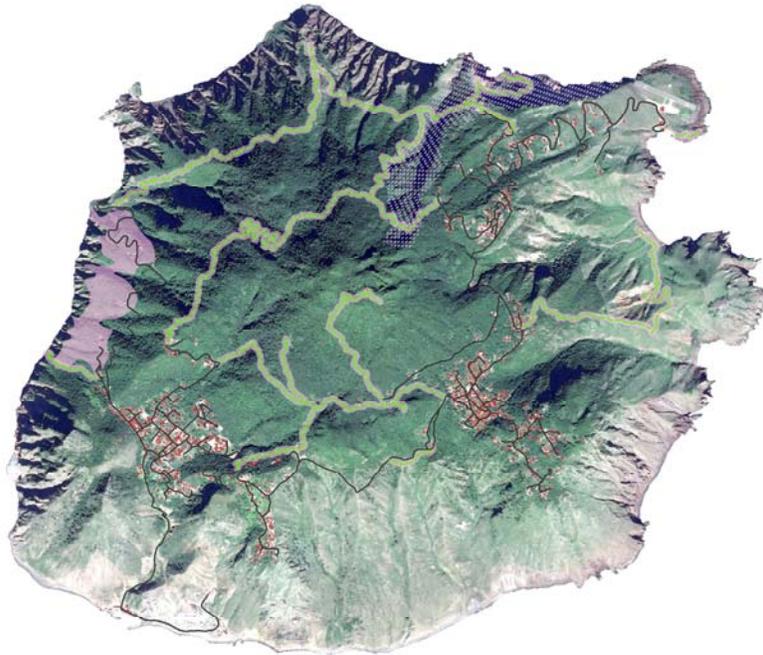
Ecological focus

according to us

We agree with Sabans (see slide before) and would like to add the Caribbean dry forest.

Priority areas:

- All hiking trails
- Mary's Point trailhead
- Middle Island trail



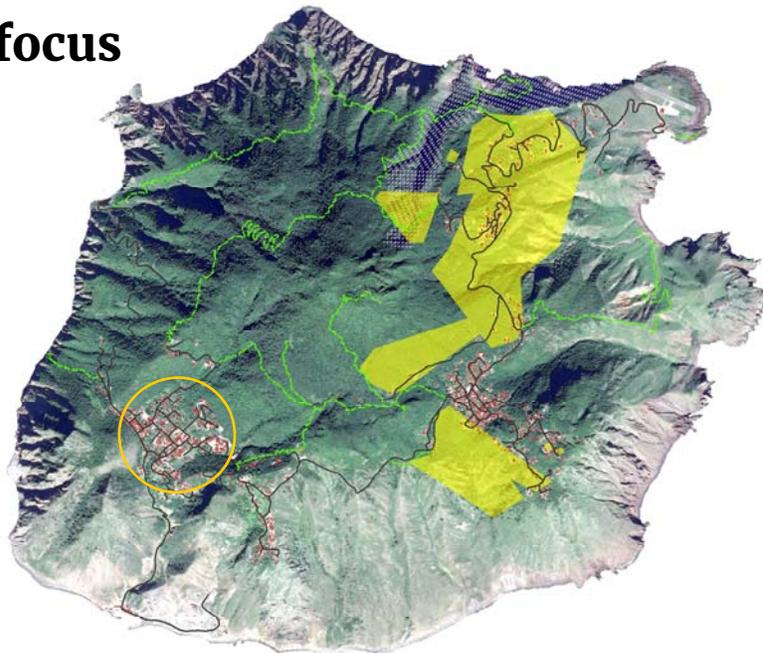
Socio-economic focus

agriculture

The colored area is what Sabans found the most important agricultural areas.

Oddly, the Bottom is missing, though agriculture happens there too.

Farmers are least impressed by Coralita: when weeding regularly, it's easy to keep under control.

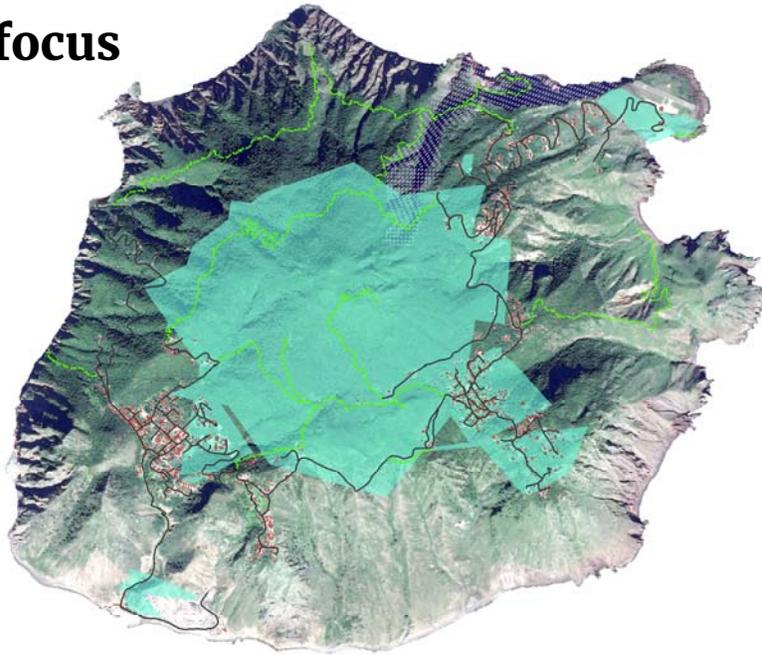


Socio-economic focus

tourism

The colored areas are what Sabans indicated as most important for tourism.

So in addition to keeping the trails Coralita-free, the villages should be clean too.



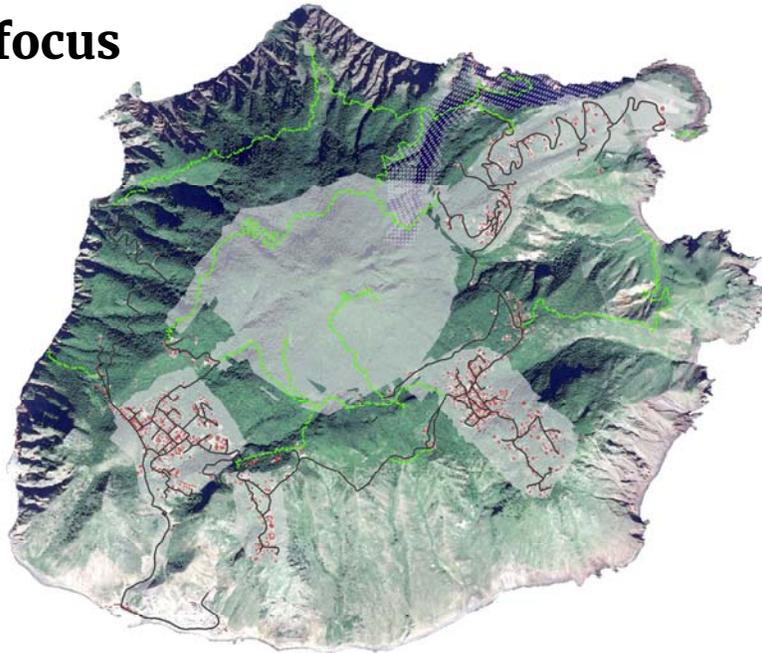
Socio-economic focus

Coralita unwanted

The colored areas are where Sabans don't want Coralita.

Recommendations:

- Promote gardening
- Monitor the trails, and keep them clean
- Coralita removal assistance program

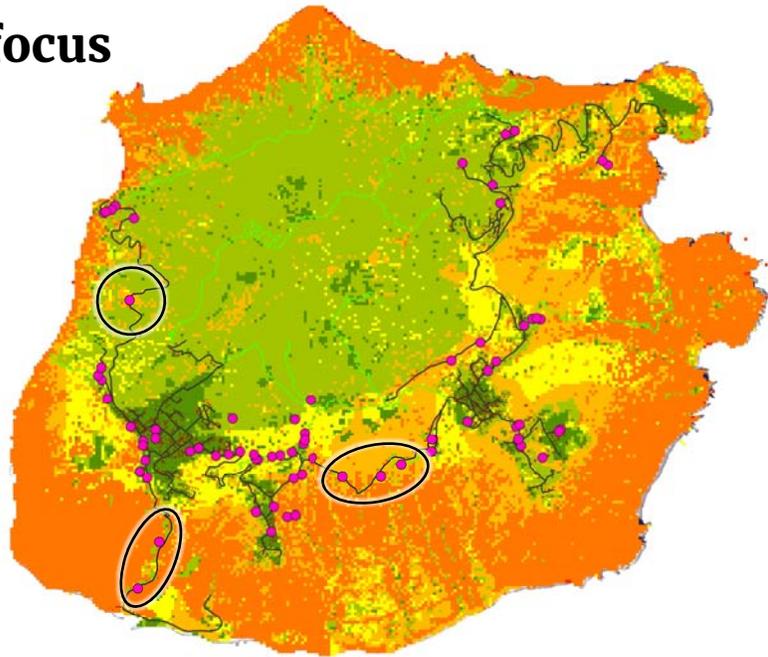


Socio-economic focus

Erosion risk

Trees and shrubs are better at erosion control than Coralita. So make sure to protect trees in the guts (harbour, Middle island, Guiles' quarter)!

But, if nothing else grows there, leave Coralita. E.g., cliffs near the harbour.



This map is based on work by Pim Arendsen and Jesse Opdam

How to act?

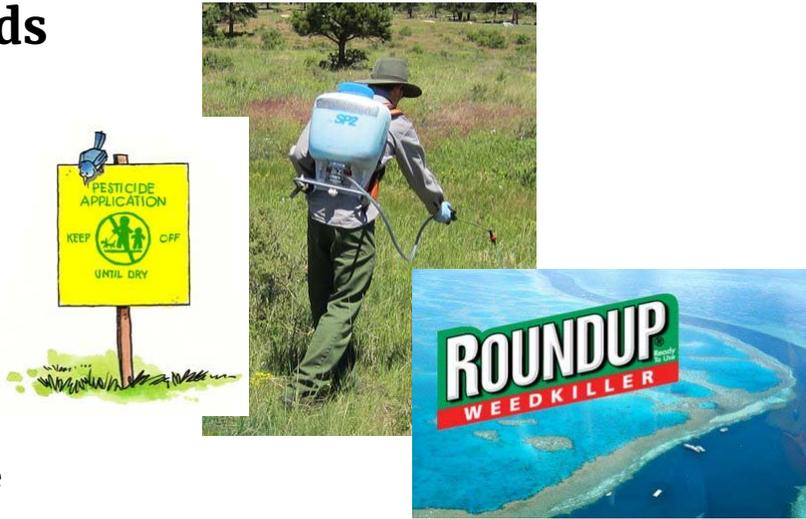
Digging, mowing, monitoring



Control methods

In an earlier job, Elizabeth used herbicide, for which very strict security protocols were followed.

Due to the large run-off risks on Saba, and the threats to human health, we highly oppose herbicide use.



Herbicide is really the last resort, and care should be taken with run-off on steep slopes.

Very precise application on mowed stems is the least damaging and most effective way to use herbicide.

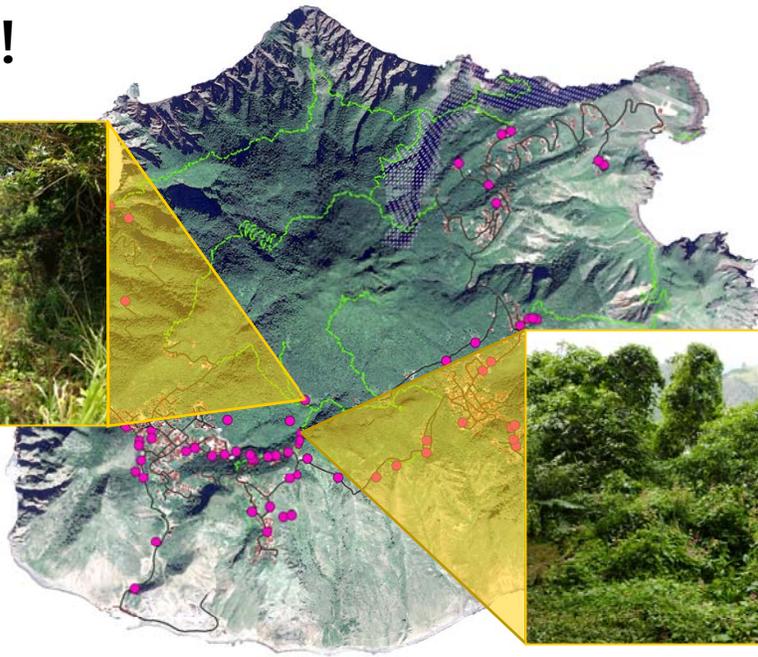


Integrated Pest Management

Act now!!



Reed Barnes' sheep pen



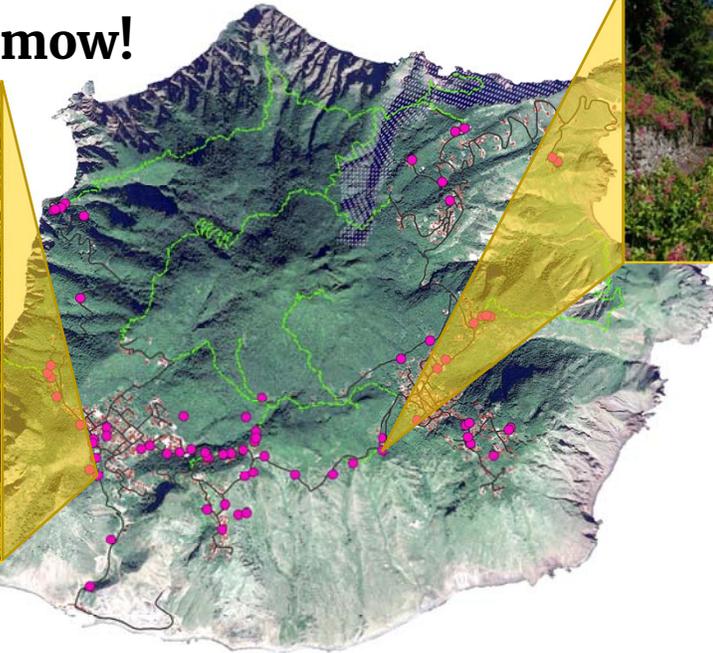
Upper Crispeen track



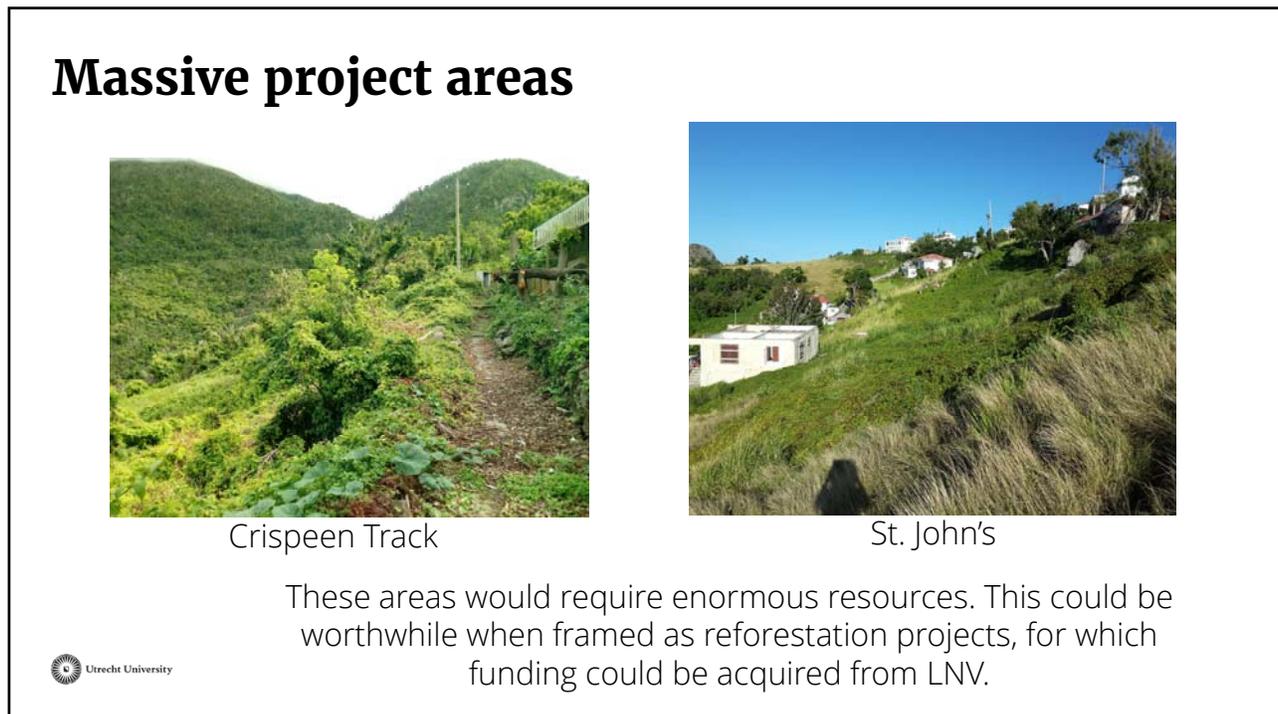
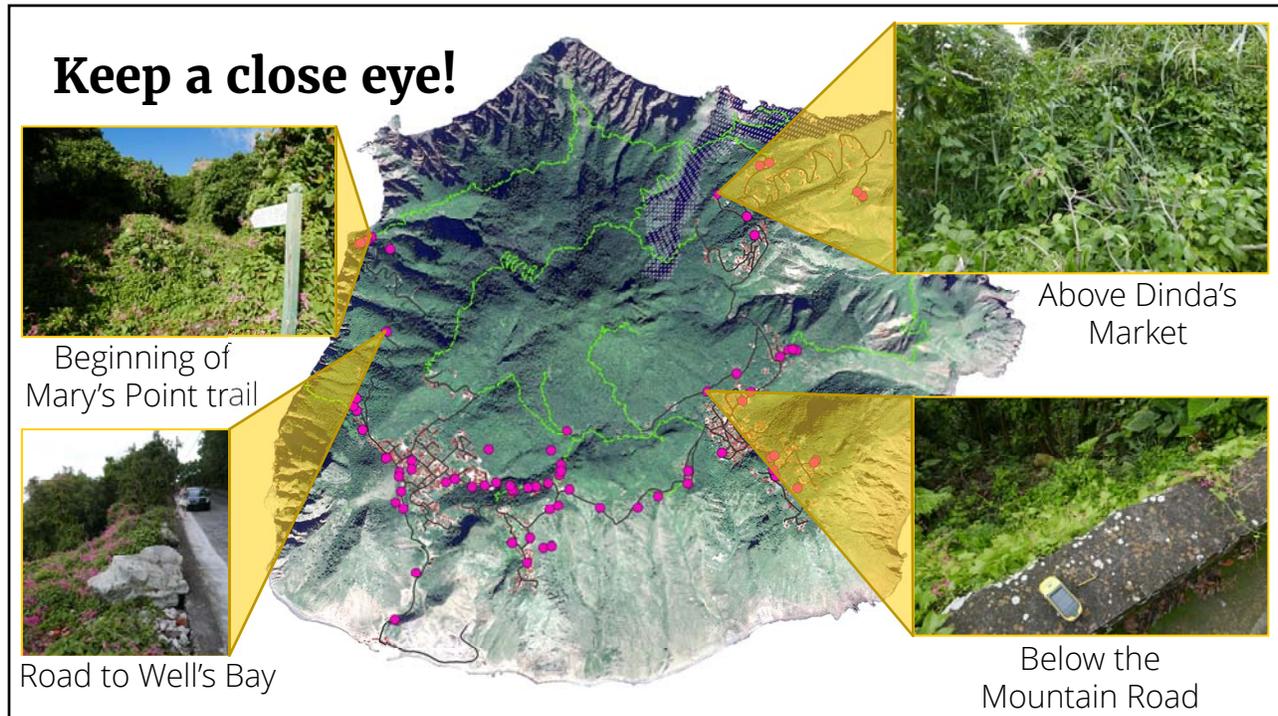
Pull out & mow!



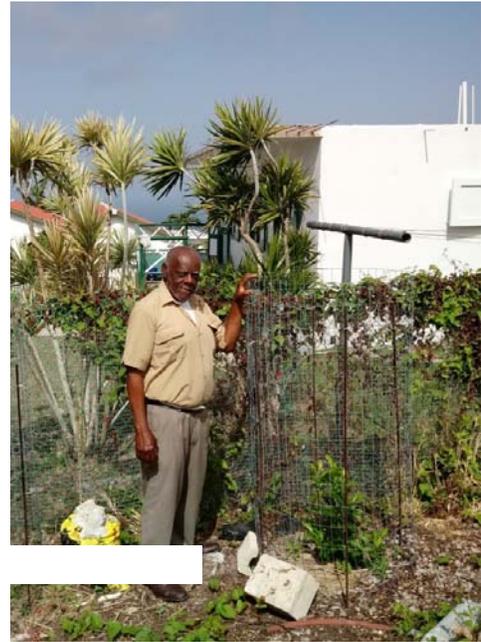
Flamboyant trees in Harbor Gut



Tamarind tree on Dancing Path



Findings from pilot



Most valuable resource: time and commitment.



Overview of recommendations



Recommendations to keep Coralita small...

Dig up early – prevention is the cheapest

Include removing and monitoring in trail maintenance

Promote gardening and other land-uses

Continue education on Coralita and its management

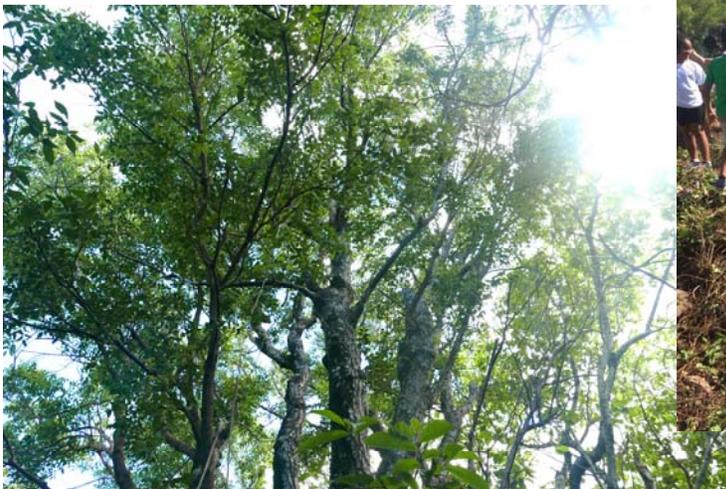
Stay strong - the fight is never over

Support for “Coralita Converts” (people who want to clean their land)

Coralita volunteer taskforce – the clean-up event was successful, and Saba has a pool of committed volunteers.



...and dream big!



What can you still expect from us?



Elizabeth: Impacts of Coralita on plant species on Saba. Fieldwork scheduled for Spring
 Jetske: finalising dissertation, due in March 2019



Any questions? Contact us!



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