

Conservation of Sea Turtles within the Cultural Context of Oceania - Possibilities Beyond Protection

Workshop Dates: July 19-21, 2018

Venue: University of the South Pacific
Suva, Republic of Fiji

Convened by George H. Balazs and Thierry M. Work, Co-Chairs for the Oceania Region of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group; in Cooperation with the Government of Fiji Ministry of Fisheries (Aisake Batibasaga and Saras Sharma); the University of the South Pacific (Susanna Piovano); and members and associate colleagues of the Oceania Region of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group.

AGENDA: THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2018 - DAY 1		ROOM: USP AUDITORIUM
TIME	TITLE	PRESENTER
9:00-9:15 AM	Welcoming Remarks and Prayer of Blessing for the People of Oceania and Their Sea Turtles. Welcome to the USP.	Co-conveners and Jioji Vuakaca Professor Derrick Armstrong, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
9:15-9:50 AM	Key Note Presentation: Poachers or Protectors? Sustainable use, incentives, and engagement of local communities in conservation efforts.	Rosie Cooney Chair, IUCN/SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group rosie.cooney@gmail.com
9:50-10:25 AM	Key Note Presentation: The Wanderings of a Field Naturalist in the Jungles of Sustainable Use.	Grahame Webb Chair, IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group and Member Australasia Region MTSG gwebb@wmi.com.au
10:25-10:50 AM	Special Award Presentation by Co-conveners to Government of Fiji, Group Photo and Morning Tea.	Morning Tea Sponsored by Fiji Fisheries Ministry
SESSION 1: Research-Related Stewardship of Turtle Resources		
10:50-11:10 AM	Magnifying the impact of field research: Involving students produces scientists and conservationists.	Marc Rice Hawaii Preparatory Academy mrice@hpa.edu
11:10-11:30 AM	Genetic mating system of hawksbill turtle in Fiji.	Shritika Prakash University of the South Pacific shritika.prakash@gmail.com
11:30-11:50 AM	Origin of green sea turtles in Fijian foraging grounds.	Susanna Piovano University of the South Pacific susanna.piovano@usp.ac.fj



AGENDA: THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2018 - DAY 1		
TIME	TITLE	ROOM: USP AUDITORIUM PRESENTER
11:50 AM-12:10 PM	Mapping spatial occurrence of seagrass meadows in Suva Lagoon.	Namrata Chand University of the South Pacific namrata_ac@hotmail.com
12:10-12:30 PM	Sea Turtle Stranding and Rescue Network in Taiwan.	Po-yu Wu National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium, Taiwan poyuwu@nmmba.gov.tw
12:30-1:50 PM	LUNCH BREAK	Sponsored by Fiji Fisheries Ministry
SESSION 2: Tourism-Related Stewardship of Turtle Resources		
ROOM: SEP PROJECTS LAB		
1:50-2:10 PM	Enhancing sustainable tourism through environment protection in the Mamanuca Islands.	Marica Vakacolo Mamanuca Environment Society marica@mesfiji.org
2:10-2:30 PM	Driving Innovation - Integrating and Improving Head Starting as a Conservation Management Strategy.	Sophie Dagoniyasi Treasure Island Resort Fiji sophiedagoniyasi@gmail.com
2:30-2:50 PM	TeAra The Way Forward with the Turtles of Rarotonga.	Jules Tamaariki Ariki Holidays Rarotonga, Cook Islands arikholidays@gmail.com
2:50-3:10 PM	Afternoon Tea	Sponsored by Fiji Fisheries Ministry
SESSION 3: Cultural and Traditional Stewardship of Turtle Resources		
ROOM: SEP PROJECTS LAB		
3:10-3:30 PM	Qoli Tabu, Qoli Savsava: the sacred traditions and practices of the turtle fishers of Qoma Island, Fiji.	Joeli Veitayaki University of the South Pacific joeli.veitayaki@usp.ac.fj
3:30-3:50 PM	Sea Turtle Conservation in the Pacific.	Bridget Kennedy Conservation International bkennedy@conservation.org
3:50-4:10 PM	Conservation Efforts Towards Management of Sea Turtles in Fiji.	Saras Sharma Fiji Fisheries Ministry saras.sharma0205@gmail.com
4:10-4:30 PM	Impacts of Turtle Protection on the Sea Turtle Population of Fiji.	Aisake Batibasaga Fiji Fisheries Ministry abatibasaga@gmail.com
4:30-4:40 PM	Closing Remarks for Day 1	Co-conveners
6:30 PM	No host dinner get-together by all attendees wishing to do so. Location to be announced.	



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AGENDA: FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2018 - DAY 2		ROOM: SEP PROJECTS LAB
TIME	TITLE	PRESENTER
SESSION 3 CONT'D: Cultural and Traditional Stewardship of Turtle Resources		
9:30-9:40 AM	Opening Remarks and Announcements.	Co-conveners
9:40-10:00 AM	It's all in the Bible: We are stewards of what God has given.	Pastor Atunaisa Vulaono
10:00-10:20 AM	Community based turtle conservation: Case study of the Dau ni Vonu community turtle monitors network.	Laitia Tamata WWF South Pacific Fiji ltamata@wwfpacific.org
10:20-10:40 AM	L'implication des populations locales dans la conservation et la gestion des tortues marines en Polynésie française (<i>The involvement of local populations in the conservation and management of marine turtles in French Polynesia</i>).	Miri Tatarata Direction de L'environnement de Polynesie Francaise miri.tatarata@gmail.com
10:40-11:00 AM	The SPREP Marine Turtle Conservation Plan.	Akiko Hamada-Ano SPREP akikoh.ext@sprep.org
11:00-11:25 AM	The way forward; more top down or more bottom up?	Francis Hickey Vanuatu Cultural Centre / National Museum francishi@vanuatu.com.vu
11:25-11:50 AM	Custom and Consumption, Lore and Law: The Legal Duality of Sea Turtle Resources in Papua New Guinea.	Jeff Kinch Papua New Guinea National Fisheries Authority's National Fisheries College kinch.jeff@gmail.com
11:50 AM-12:45 PM	Lunch Break	Sponsored by Fiji Fisheries Ministry
12:45-3:15 PM	Free-Flow Friendly Group Discussion on Oceania Cultural and Traditional Uses of Turtles - including harvest, consumption, commercial use, conservation, sustainability, and the diversity of related topics. Talking Points, including questions and expression of views, will arise solely from the participants derived from the array of presentations by speakers at the workshop.	Facilitated by Graham Webb and Rosie Cooney
3:15-3:30 PM	Next Steps - Ideas and Discussion. Day 2 Close of Workshop.	Co-conveners

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AGENDA: SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2018 - DAY 3		BURE – USP LOWER CAMPUS
TIME	TITLE	PRESENTER
10:00 AM-3:00 PM	Hands-on health examination training of a sub-adult green turtle.	Led by Thierry Work, DVM broukpitlik1@gmail.com
	Demonstration satellite tagging of a sub-adult green turtle followed by release into Suva Bay.	Led by Marc Rice using a satellite tag donated to the People of Fiji by the Hawaii Preparatory Academy, Kamuela, Hawaii mrice@hpa.edu



24 Countries of the Oceania Region of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, “The Global Authority on Marine Turtles”. <https://mtsg.org>. Regional Co-Chairs George H. Balazs itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com and Thierry M. Work broukpitlik1@gmail.com.



WORKSHOP BACKGROUND

As indicated below, our workshop title and focus are directly linked to the theme of the 38th International Sea Turtle Symposium held in Kobe, Japan in February 2018. We take very seriously Symposium President Matsuzawa's words that we need "the start of a new conversation to look forward".

Our Workshop Title:

"Conservation of Sea Turtles within the Cultural Context of Oceania - Possibilities Beyond Protection"

Our workshop title and focus will give us a great opportunity to respectfully exchange views, news, knowledge, disagreements, and conservation ideas that all-to-often have not been openly discussed at prior Pacific gatherings for sea turtles. Workshop conveners George Balazs and Thierry Work want the workshop to be "the start of a new conversation". We draw these words, and the idea for the workshop title, from the Presidential Declaration and Theme of the 38th International Sea Turtle Symposium held in Kobe, Japan in February 2018. The declaration reads as follows in English along with translations into Fijian, French, Baslama, Pjin, and Hindi.

The Kobe Declaration: Beyond Protection of Sea Turtles

At the 38th International Sea Turtle Symposium in Kobe, Japan, on 20 February 2018, a panel of international sea turtle experts have taken an important step forward in discussing issues surrounding the idea of moving beyond protection. The panel members encourage further dialogue on the need for flexible and diverse conservation and management strategies in accordance with sea turtle population status, management context, scientific knowledge, local and traditional knowledge, socioeconomic needs, and cultural considerations.

As the President of the 38th International Sea Turtle Symposium, I commit to respecting the diversity in conservation and management strategies. I recognize that the path to thriving sea turtle populations may differ with each community, culture, country, and region that have shared populations of sea turtles, and I declare this moment as the start of a new conversation to look forward beyond the protection of sea turtles.

Yoshimasa Matsuzawa

FIJIAN TRANSLATION by Esther Tora

Na Veidinadinati mai Kobe (Kobe Declaration): Na Nodra Taqomaki na Vonu

E ra a mai duavata na dauvakadidike ena nodra bula na vonu mai na veiyasai vuravura e na i ka 38 ni bose ka vakayacori mai Kobe, Javani e nai kai 20 ni Feverueri, 2018, ka vakatokai na "International Sea Turtle Symposium", me laurai na veika me baleti ira na vonu e na taudaku ni nodra maroroi.

E ra a duavata na vosa e na ulutaga bibi oqo me dikevi na vei gaunisala eso me baleta na nodra maroroi na vonu ka dikevi na veika me baleta na kedra iwiliwili, na I tuvatuva ni nodra taqomaki, na kila vaka sainisi, na kila vaka itaukei, na kena sema ki na bula veimaliwai kei na gagadre vakavanua.

E na noqu itutu vakaveiliutaki e na i ka 38 ni bose ka vakatokai na 'International Sea Turtle Symposium' au via vakadeitaka na noqu doka na veigaunisala eso e qaravi kina na nodra maroroi ka taqomaki na vonu.



Au kila ni duidui na vei gaunisala eda muria ka qarava kina na nodra maroroi ka taqomaki na vonu me rawa ni vakatubu kawa e na vei vanua, vei matatinu, vei wasewase ni vuravura eda dui bula kina. Au via vakaraitaka talega ni sai koya oqo nai tekitekivu ni noda veivosakitaka na veika me baleta na ulutaga bibi oqo e na taudaku ni nodra maroroi ka taqomaki na vonu.
Yoshimasa Matusuzawa

FRENCH TRANSLATION by Thierry Work

La déclaration de Kobe: au-delà de la protection des tortues marines

Lors du 38e Symposium international sur les tortues marines à Kobe, au Japon, le 20 février 2018, un groupe d'experts internationaux sur les tortues marines a franchi une étape importante dans les discussions sur l'idée d'aller au-delà de la protection. Les membres du panel encouragent le dialogue sur la nécessité de stratégies de conservation et de gestion souples et variées en fonction du statut de la population, du contexte de gestion, des connaissances scientifiques, des connaissances locales et traditionnelles, des besoins socioéconomiques et des considérations culturelles.

En tant que président du 38e Symposium international sur les tortues de mer, je m'engage à respecter la diversité des stratégies de conservation et de gestion. Je reconnais que le chemin vers des populations abondantes de tortues marines peut différer avec chaque communauté, culture, pays et région qui partagent des populations de tortues marines, et je déclare que ce moment marque le début d'une nouvelle conversation pour aller au-delà de la protection des tortues.

Yoshimasa Matsuzawa

BISLAMA TRANSLATION by Francis Hickey

The Kobe Declaration: Nuifala Toktok long Protection blong Si Totel

Long 38th Intanasonal Si Totel Symposium long Kobe, Japan long Febrari 20th 2018, wan grup blong ol intansonal sientis blong totel oli bin takem wan impoten step fowad long storian blong go moa blong bitem ol basik toktok blong protektem ol totel. Grup ia oli stap promotem mo storian long saed long nid blong mo flexibul mo ol difdifren consevasen mo manajmen strategis folem ol difdifren totel populasen mo manajmen level, sientifik, local mo traditional save, mo socio-ekonomik mo kaljoral konsiderasens.

Olse President blong 38th International Si Totel Symposium, mi stap stanap strong blong komit blong respektem nid blong gat ol difdifren konsavasen mo manajmen strategi. Mo mi luk save se i save gat ol difdifren rod blong ol totel populasen i kam fulap bakegen witem ol difren komuniti, kalja, kantri mo rijen wea oli sharem ol populasen blong ol si totel, mo mi markem tisfala taem noa ia we yumi save startem wan nuifala tingting mo storian blong luk fowad blong ol nuifala toktok wea mbae i bitem blong protektem nomo ol si totel.

Saen: President blong 38th Intanasonal Si Total Symposium, Yoshimasa Matsuzawa

PJIN TRANSLATION by Jeff Kinch

Tok bilong Kobe Presiden: Lukautim stron lo Torosel bilong Solwara

Long namba 38 Intanesanel Kibung bilong Solwara Torosel long Kobe, Japan long 20 Febuari 2018, ol intanesanel lain savaman bilong Solwara Torosel i wokim sampla bikpla tingting long ol rot bilong strongim wok lukaut bilong ol torosel. Ol memba ilaik kisim sampla moa tingting lo wei bilong isi lo lukautim na makim ol wei bilong lukautim populasan mak, save bilong ol saintis ol as peles na ol pasin bling ol tumbuna, wei bilong mekim moni na kalsa bilong peles.

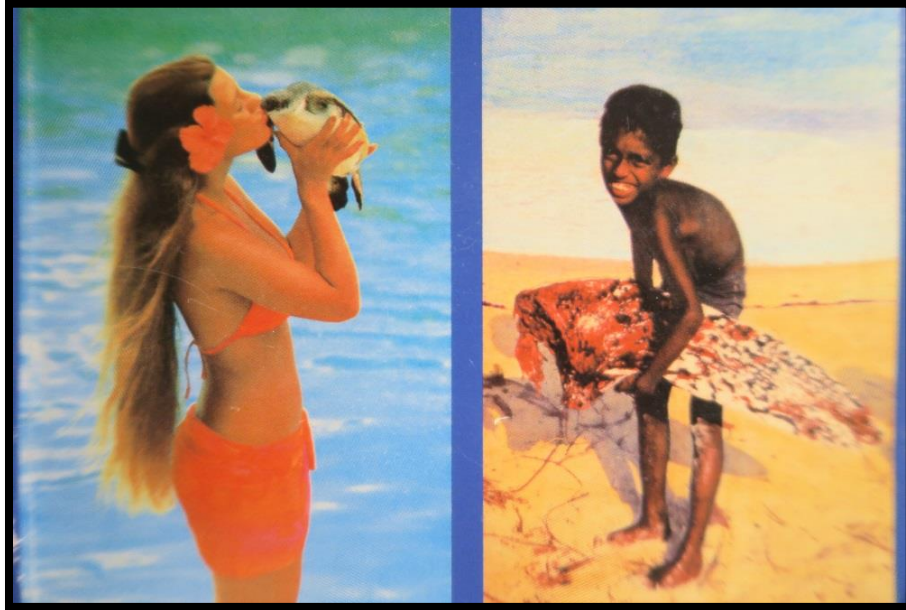
Olsem Presiden bilong number 38 Intanesanel Kibung bilong Solwara Torosel, mi laik stronim pasin bilong lukautim na bosimgut lon mak stret. Mi luksave olsem rot bilong was long ol solwara torosel bai ino wankain long olgeta pels, kalsa kantri na hap i wok bung long lukautim ol torosel bilong ol solwara, nan au mi makim nau kirap bilong niupela pasin bilong lukautim na lukluk go pas long wei bilong lukautim stron lo torosel bilong solwara
Yoshimasa Matsuzawa

HINDI TRANSLATION by Premika Lata

20 फरवरी 2018 को कोबे, जापान में 38 वें अंतरराष्ट्रीय सागर कछुए संगोष्ठी में, अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुद्री कछुए विशेषज्ञों के एक पैनल ने सुरक्षा से आगे बढ़ने के विचार के आसपास के मुद्दों पर चर्चा करने में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाया है।

पैनल सदस्य समुद्री कछुए आबादी की स्थिति, प्रबंधन संदर्भ, वैज्ञानिक ज्ञान, स्थानीय और पारंपरिक ज्ञान, सामाजिक आर्थिक आवश्यकताओं और सांस्कृतिक विचारों के अनुसार लचीला और विविध संरक्षण और प्रबंधन रणनीतियों की आवश्यकता पर और बातचीत को प्रोत्साहित करते हैं।

38 वें अंतरराष्ट्रीय सागर कछुए संगोष्ठी के राष्ट्रपति के रूप में, मैं संरक्षण और प्रबंधन रणनीतियों में विविधता का सम्मान करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हूं। मैं मानती हूं कि समुद्री कछुए की आबादी को संपन्न करने का मार्ग प्रत्येक समुदाय, संस्कृति, देश और क्षेत्र से अलग हो सकता है जिसने समुद्री कछुए की आबादी साझा की है, और मैं इस क्षण को समुद्री कछुओं की सुरक्षा से परे देखने के लिए एक नई वार्तालाप की शुरुआत के रूप में घोषित करती हूं।



Workshop Talking Point



Lui Bell – In Memoriam

***Our Colleague, Friend, and Man of the Pacific Islands
February 24, 1956 to November 29, 2012***

Lui opened every SPREP turtle meeting and training session with a prayer, asking God to bless the participants and guide their work and decisions in striving to conserve sea turtles for the benefit of the marine and island ecosystems, and for the cultural needs of the people.



George Petro – In Memoriam

(center right in photo)

Departed 2013

Our Colleague, Friend, and the 'Voice of the Turtle' in Vanuatu, left behind a community that was inspired by his creativity and passion for marine conservation. His many activities, including involvement in Wan Smolbag, a dynamic theatre group and non-governmental organization, focused on community engagement and cultural education.



Take-Home Points from the Suva Workshop 19-21 July 2018:

"Conservation of Sea Turtles within the Cultural Context of Oceania - Possibilities Beyond Protection"

As discerned by Co-Conveners George Balazs and Thierry Work MTSG Oceania Region Co-Chairs

- 1) An extended cessation of traditional hunting and use of turtles by indigenous people of Oceania may bring about the loss of those traditions within the cultures;
- 2) There are strong Biblical Church-Based Convictions to be good custodians of the marine resources God has given;
- 3) People want a better life for their families;
- 4) People and their families are more valued than turtles;
- 5) Culture and tradition bond people together;
- 6) The conservation of turtles cannot be separated from their cultural context;
- 7) There is the strong desire for traditional use,- indeed all use,- to be sustainable;
- 8) If communities can't manage their resources then nobody can because 'we are here and they are there';
- 9) Sustainable use is a part of conservation;
- 10) For some governments, provisions are in place for issuance of permits for case-by-case traditional harvest;
- 11) Conservation that relies solely on government enforcement capacity is unrealistic and can alienate communities hence lessen conservation;
- 12) The problem has not been traditional harvest but 'commercial greed';
- 13) Increased decision-making authority granted by government to the traditional village chiefs may serve to enhance conservation;
- 14) Turtle ecotourism and turtle cultural traditions can have conflicting goals;
- 15) Data deficiencies for the conservation status of turtles are widespread; there is little if any evidence of declines or increases;
- 16) Developing creative ways to encourage local communities to collect trend data in collaboration with government is a worthy goal;
- 17) There is merit in spending more time visiting and listening to local communities;
- 18) There are many turtle biologists but very few social scientists quantifying the indigenous community consumption of turtles;
- 19) The Government of Fiji deserves congratulations for instituting 23 years of moratoriums on the harvest of turtles which surely had a positive impact on their conservation status;
- 20) The Suva workshop achieved a long-standing need for focused participant discussions, listening, and talking about turtle consumptive use, cultural traditions, sustainability, conservation beyond protection, and the realities of village life. The door has been opened for additional workshops in Oceania;
- 21) Without remembering the past, we can lose our way.

