

IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group
2016 Annual General Meeting
March 1, 2016 – Lima, Peru

Oceania Region 2016

Regional Vice Chairs

George Balazs

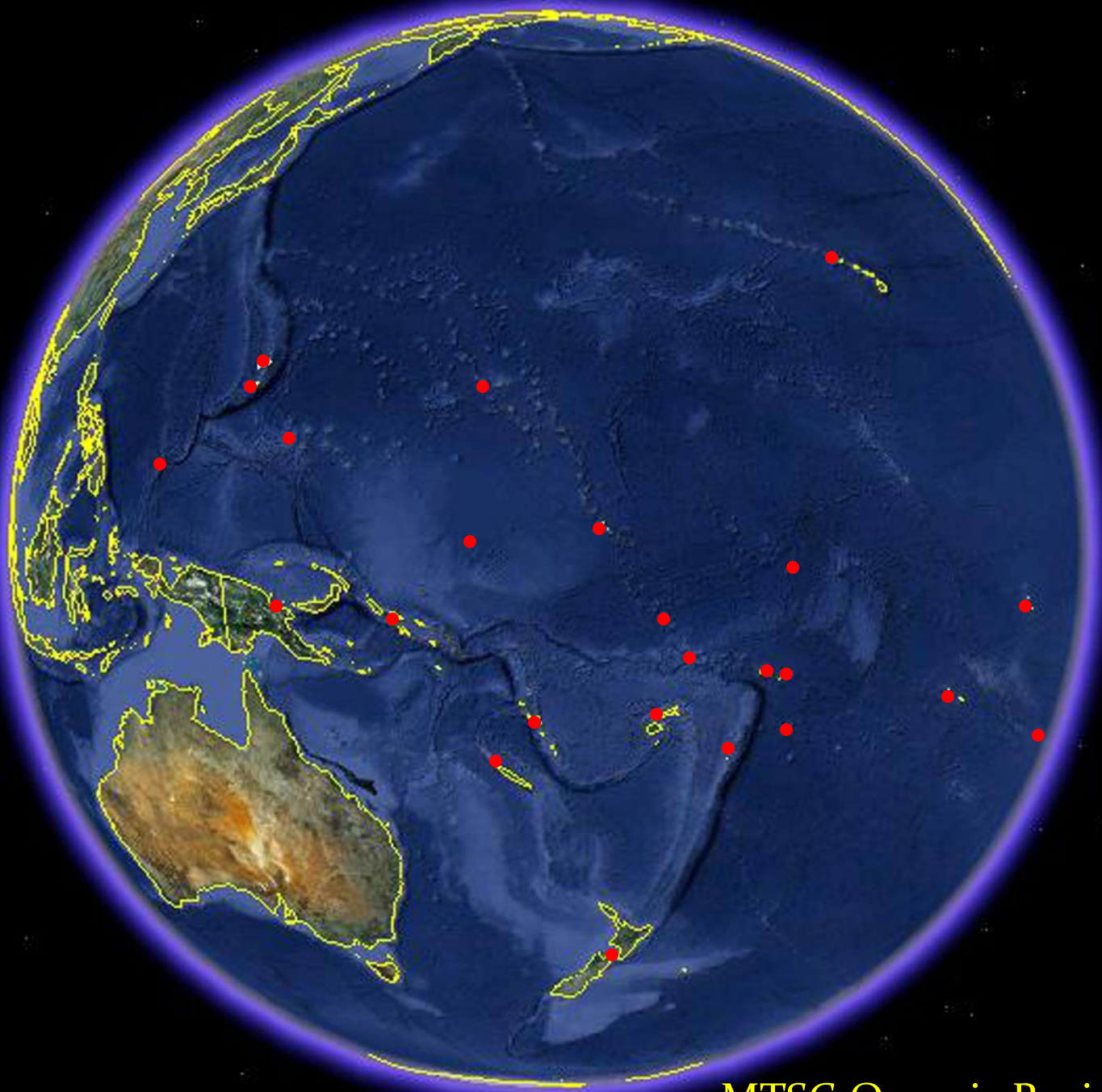
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MTSG OCEANIA REGION IUCN SSC



MTSG Oceania Region

2016 Regional Membership

- Countries represented

24 Island Nations or Territories of Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia

- Number of members

20 consisting of 8 from Hawaii, 4 from Australia, 2 from French Polynesia, and 1 each from Cook Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

- Recent changes to membership

None.

15,000,000 Population



American Samoa
54,947



Cook Islands
10,777



Federated States
of Micronesia
106,487



Fiji
890,057



French Polynesia
274,512



Guam
159,914



Hawaii
1,392,300



Kiribati
101,998



Republic of
Marshall Islands
68,480



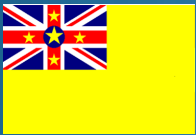
Nauru
9,378



New Caledonia
260,166



New Zealand
4,327,944



Niue
1,269



Commonwealth of
Northern Mariana Islands
51,395



Palau
21,032



Papua New Guinea
6,310,129



Pitcairn
48



Samoa
194,320



Solomon Islands
584,578



Tokelau
1,368



Tonga
106,146



Tuvalu
10,619



Vanuatu
256,155



Wallis and Futuna
15,453

1,164 Islands



American Samoa
7



Cook Islands
15



Federated States
of Micronesia
59



Fiji
322



French Polynesia
125



Guam
1



Hawaii
11



Kiribati
36



Republic of
Marshall Islands
34



Nauru
1



New Caledonia
36



New Zealand
7



Niue
1



Commonwealth of
Northern Mariana Islands
14



Palau
31



Papua New Guinea
151



Pitcairn
4



Samoa
7



Solomon Islands
138



Tokelau
3



Tonga
67



Tuvalu
10



Vanuatu
81



Wallis and Futuna
3

47,500 km Coastline



American Samoa
116 km



Cook Islands
120 km



Federated States
of Micronesia
6,112 km



Fiji
1,129 km



French Polynesia
2,525 km



Guam
126 km



Hawaii
1,210 km



Kiribati
1,143 km



Republic of
Marshall Islands
370 km



Nauru
30 km



New Caledonia
2,254 km



New Zealand
15,134 km



Niue
64 km



Commonwealth of
Northern Mariana Islands
1,482 km



Palau
1,519 km



Papua New Guinea
5,152 km



Pitcairn
51 km



Samoa
403 km



Solomon Islands
5,313 km



Tokelau
101 km



Tonga
419 km



Tuvalu
24 km



Vanuatu
2,528 km



Wallis and Futuna
129 km

Regional Oceania Concerns

Ongoing concerns for turtles

- The need for IUCN to reliably assess in some quantitative yet traditionally proper fashion the status and trends of the Regional and Regionally-linked populations.

Concerns for MTSG

- Establishing enhanced linkages and partnerships with SPREP local fishery and wildlife agencies, Conservation International and other appropriate entities for marine turtle conservation and sustainable use.
- Strengthening, merging and expanding cultural and traditional considerations for marine turtle conservation, concomitant with Western and Asian science.

Vision for Oceania

Prepared by Pacific Islanders at a 1996 SPREP meeting in Samoa

We see a future where generations of Pacific Island people will have choices about how they use and interact with sea turtles. This dream will come true if we take action now to ensure that sea turtle populations recover to become healthy, robust and stable. Sea turtles will be fulfilling their ecological role and be harvested by Pacific Islander people on a sustainable basis to meet their cultural, economic and nutritional needs.

Vision for Oceania

Translated into Solomon Islands Language and then back into English

It's not here yet, but we see a time when people in the Pacific and turtles are living together in harmony. The turtles will live to support the people in their needs; also turtles will have their place in the Pacific.

Vision pour l'Océanie

Nous envisageons un avenir où les peuples océaniens pourront choisir la manière dont ils utilisent et interagissent avec les tortues marines. Ce rêve deviendra une réalité si nous prenons des mesures dès maintenant pour s'assurer que les populations de tortues marines récupèrent à un niveau robuste et stable. Les tortues de mer atteindront leur rôle écologique et seront récoltées par les insulaires du Pacifique sur une base durable pour répondre à leurs besoins culturels, économiques et nutritionnelles.

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Regional Opportunities

- New projects, opportunities

Continuation of SPREP's satellite tracking educational outreach and research project; Ongoing pelagic tracking and data analysis of juvenile loggerheads reared for research at L'Aquarium des Lagons in New Caledonia led by MTSG Richard Farman; participate in 2016 IUCN General Meeting in Hawaii.

- Selected notable activities

New Caledonia's construction of a captive breeding facility and Southern Province green turtle foraging ecology/cultural harvest study supervised by MTSG Richard Farman; Satellite tracking of rehabilitated turtles by MTSG Miri Tatarata and Te Mana o te Moana MTSG Cecile Gaspar in French Polynesia.

Oceania 2016

Regional Opportunities

Gaps

- Status, trends and genetic relatedness of populations both within and between MTSG Regions of the East Pacific, Oceania, Australasia, and East Asia .

Opportunities for MTSG involvement

- Pursue hosting the ISTS in Oceania in 2019 or 2020.

Oceania 2016

Regional Opportunities

- Potential funding sources

Utilization of past sources for future funding potential;
Investigate People's Republic of China for assistance to Fiji and certain other independent nations of Oceania;
Overseas assistance by France to French Territories of Oceania, and Australia, Canada, USA and New Zealand assistance to others.

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Red List Assessments

- Species in need of IUCN Oceania regional assessments
Green turtles other than the Hawaiian Islands
- Status of regional assessments (ongoing support to global assessment processes, stand-alone assessments, etc)
Completion in July 2012 of Hawaiian Islands green turtle population assessment resulting in IUCN reclassification downgrading to Least Concern category led by Milani Chaloupka, Nick Pilcher , along with an assessment team of many other MTSG members.
- Challenges of NOAA/FWS Status Review relevant to the U.S. Endangered Species Act to be finalized and announced in 2016

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Networking & Regional Development

- Linkages between MTSG and other regional bodies (existing/proposed/possible)

Numerous linkages with continuing expansion;

- Support needed from IUCN and / or MTSG

Actively promote greater use of the MTSG ListServer through advocacy and example; Use IUCN global publicity avenues to give recognition to selected projects in Oceania, such as Cook Islands, New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji and others; Convene a meeting of Vice Chairs possibly in New Caledonia or Hawaii to promote the expansion of MTSG Regional partnerships; create a list server for enhanced Vice Chair communication.