

GEORGE BALAZS

2 of 2

23 SEPT - 3 OCTOBER 1979  
MEXICO, PA

26 - 30 NOVEMBER 1979 MOSTC  
WASH, D.C. P 55

6-18 DECEMBER 79 ~~NOVA~~ WASHINGTON, P 77 BALAB

8-13 JANUARY 80 GAINESVILLE, OV 1500, P 93

3 APRIL - 11 APRIL 2006 SYDNEY - NOUMEA - SYDNEY

See Reeds

71  
(16 DECEMBER 1979 SUNDAY)

N=5 Aerial survey - Southern New Caledonia  
Gene, Jim Gushman, Sylvia, Peter,  
Grandperrin (CROSSLAND) Spring Pritchard  
+ BALAZS

8:10 AM Depart Noumea

9:35 AM Land I. Piti's  
- Bus to Plage -

Loggerhead spawns on (I. de Pins)  
"La Bonne" green - Primer offshore islets

don't eat meat - just eggs  
and certain  
part -  
"200-300"

4-types nest (?)

Photo w/ Melanesian girl  
(injury in marginal  
of green carapace) ~ 28" SL

Grosse Tete - loggerhead

72 12-16-79  
SUNDAY

Photos with carapace

12-16-79  
SUNDAY

wife ↑  
(Dorothy)  
informant: M<sup>rs</sup> KANHU Wilfrid

Dorothee

DIED BEFORE  
Died 2006  
Info obtained  
ON  
ISLE  
des PIN

Baie de KANDUMERA  
KATO Ile des Pins

APRIL  
1<sup>ST</sup>  
2007  
by  
GHB

↑  
Pernambuco

[Dec - March] nesting for all 4  
"warm season"

" (big head)

Grosse tete" - loggerhead  
La Petite Gross tete"

[Loggerhead & green most common

Juvenile hawksbills  
featherbacks unknown  
1/2 grows loggerhead known

— jump or spear - chase

Used to use nets - in cove  
special for turtles - no more here

[Islanders - use nets]

new - cut - tall  
on island - brought in

F. Pins -  
Pop. 1,200

12-16-79  
SUNDAY

Rene - I like him -  
73  
Loggerhead - mussels

FOOD OF  
Loggerhead - shells (mussels - all kinds of shells)  
green - "grass" gastropods  
spermatophyte

hawkbill - grass + shells  
(oysters)

? <sup>rare</sup> ~~seldom~~  
(sidley) - same food as loggerhead

Hammerhead shark eats  
small turtles - cuts them up  
~~Loggerhead~~ Tiger not known - only  
heard of.

In old days - turtle was for  
chief

→ chief would distribute - turtle  
cut into pieces - put in canoe - and  
brought to chief for justice  
53 yr. 17-18 yrs he fished for

eat part of loggerhead & sidley & hawkbill  
shoulder muscle & liver

green - <sup>eat</sup> all - guts too

NO POISONING KNOWN

VAVERU = Chief

new - cut table  
on sidley - brought in

Films -  
Pop. 1,200  
very few white

74 → Catch turtles with net at night

11:23 AM Depart from I. de Pins

Roll 3  
I. de Pins ~ #3-10

12:04 <sup>noon</sup> PM Land

Noumea

Gerald Lagarde — Pilot  
TAXICAL of Cessna 310 P  
"TAXICAL"

12-16-79  
SUNDAY

MONDAY - TUESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 1.) Contact Mr. Petite - ① Make copy of Billings article ② Ask about Chester field ③ data sheet copy ④ Collaboration with ORSTOM vessel ⑤ ownership of D'Estrecaux ⑥ Give him my address.
- 2.) Rene - ① month in 1972? ② poison fish spec book ③ extra turtle buttons ④ ASN in town  
 051 Rom - Dr. RANCUVE (reports on Surprise)  
 (several times to Surprise) Surprise  
 - Birds - Turtles -  
 buttons; cardboard box  
 ↓  
 mail

- 80% explanations -
- Tag loss without detectable scars
- Nest somewhere else (outside study area)
- Captures without tag being returned
- Natural mortality (tiger sharks, physiological stress)
- Nest only one season

12-17-79 MONDAY DAY 3

Depart MAGENTA AIRPORT

8:27

Direct course across island

- |                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| ① Rene Crowderin       | ⑤ GHB   |
| ② James Crossland      | ⑥ Pilot |
| ③ KAYAMA SINBA - PNG   |         |
| ④ P. Pritchard (SINBA) |         |

8:38

East Coast - Peninsula

9:07

Lifou - land -

Big chief interview

4 different  
~~habits~~

LIFOU language

SEWEN (all 4 species)  
refers to turtles1) Green (Verde) - most common  
all year round2) Loggerhead }  
3) Hawksbill } <sup>2<sup>nd</sup></sup> about sameLoggerhead - <sup>IN-WATER - NO nesting</sup> April - June (big tides)A few nests, but not as many as  
at Chesterfield - he heard this

12-17-79 MONDAY

77

from people at Belep.

Beaches are on wind coast -

— 2 years in (June) found a marked turtle  
ink "NO 8" written in  
2 on plastic; from  
"300 kg" flipper -

Leatherbacks not known

Pidley?

st<sup>th</sup> species (?) - sloping head - "travels  
about" - 300 kg  
seasonal arrivals - head smaller  
than loggerhead"

Big chief pulled out car keys and  
sent man for shells.

Eat all turtles.

Green & hawksbill spurs now.

— 2-3 per beach per year  $\approx$  20 beaches  
come back 2 months later to  
pat sand for young to come out.

PIDGIN  
spoken

— eat eggs - when they see tracks



78 12-17-79 Monday

captivity?

they look for eggs - but don't always find

First dried in sand - then some put in BOUNGA (underground oven).

Don't take all eggs - fill a bag and leave rest.

Some old men take first layers - leave rest.

prefer hawkbill eggs - better.  
- not as strong.

Last year - found turtle on beach  
- 600 eggs + 600 inside (some with shell some with just yolk - small).

- Food -

- Green - green grass

-> hawkbill - shells, also yellow & red stuff - (plants) - like leaves -

hawkbill are always on the reef  
-> Loggerhead - looks like leaves - hard; purple;

Mother goes to seashore - flaps - all hatchlings go to egg and are eaten by mother - he has seen - also in stomachs

Green only

12-15-79  
MONDAY

Tokelau  
too?

12-17-79 MONDAY TH3

Proverb behave as the turtle does,  
"You (shouldn't do)  
you shouldn't eat your young"

→ kids keep in buckets for fun -  
change water 3x days -  
Easy to feed when young - eat every 4 months - 10 kg

If hatchlings see kids when coming out  
of nest, they return  
for Chief weddings - ceremonies -  
August-Sept (after crossing jaws)  
people come from mainland with big  
turtles. for feast  
split into different parts for chief.

Fisherman gives to owner of sea  
for district - passes to little  
chief to big chief -  
only one man may kill turtles  
for a family - Tradition.

Given to chief - <sup>as gift</sup> who can distribute  
to anyone -  
Head is an aphrodisiac - cannot  
be eaten in chief's house.

sacred  
banana - coconut leaves.  
goes back to one clan -  
traditional refrain -  
chief cannot eat it.

Methods of cooking

Put in whole - plastic cut open -  
yams put in and cooked.

cut <sup>or</sup> into pieces and cooked in  
different oven

Fishing methods

All day time

1. Nets - large mesh (cotton - one line)  
Banyan tree twice previous

~~2. Spear~~  
2. Spear and jump as from boat

3. Exhaust with outboard -  
rock or outrigger ~~at~~ canoe

[2 species all year - methods used]

[Eat everything from all 4 species]  
(no poison known)

Sometimes leave turtle net all  
night - pick up turtles in morning.

one clan w/ several families - cannot  
eat turtles. All originate  
from one family.  
Chief family  
only one can eat - him -  
others are in a position to  
protect.

4<sup>th</sup> species could be adult hawksbill -  
not incubated.

sent

(Mr Paul SIHAZE)

Grand Chief (w. a.) = Big Chief  
Angajoune

(ANGAJOXUE)

MARE — different language (Mare & Lifou)  
A few beaches - situation same  
(with species -  
TIGA — <sup>mare</sup> Lifou language (pe

Goats — on small islets between  
Mare & Lifou.

[Coconut crabs, other islets Mare &  
Lifou

Shell of hawksbill & sea shells  
used for fishhooks.

Burial — stones carved of turtle —  
also wood

12-17-79 Monday

from Tonga - heavily  
also Wallis Is.

→ VVEA - two types - Polynesian  
& Melanesian

Very stunted in Tokelau due to shortage  
of protein -  
not ~~in~~ in effect as Mainland -  
now have ~~grass~~ cows, etc.

NATMALO - chief village  
village

4th species doesn't come ashore  
- Small fish in stomach & guss  
- No shells

Sometimes find copulating -  
male has larger tail

Give shells away to tourists.

No. of turtles killed each year - 5-19 yr  
For this district for this by chief.  
3 districts to LIFOU.  
Take when there is a need

same numbers present - perhaps slightly decreased in talking with old people - no dramatic decline.

sent

PASCAL

DRAIKOLO

↑

Sine LAPA i

family name

Angajouxue =

Big Chief

SINE LAPA i ANGAJOUXUE =

The house keeper of the chief

Blood is good to make you strong.

Blood & eggs - ophodesoi - not ~~good~~ <sup>cooked</sup>  
"makes you hard"

→ photos of Group

11:45 <sup>AM</sup> Depart LIFOU Island

12:06 <sup>PM</sup> Land Ouvea Island

12-17-79 Monday

(Guest House of)  
in VW bus to FAYROVE

1 Adult (~38") 1 SA (~29")  
varnished in bus.

ASN poster in office.

Denial of selling turtle meat by owners

sent  
separate  
from Rene

ORSTOM

24 rue Bayard  
75008 Paris

(you can write to DR RANCUREL  
c/o Océanographie  
at the above address)

12-17-79  
MONDAY

$\frac{200}{1261320}$

85

Ouvea

Interview with old man

batel then with nets in old days.  
nowadays spearing

Nesting on the small islets. Occasionally on  
December - March main island  
300 eggs / clutch

Species: green, hawksbill, loggerhead

UNYI local name for all turtles

Not known which is the commonest species.  
Everybody can eat turtles. One part is  
kept for the chief (it doesn't matter what part)

3:38 PM Depart Ouvea

4:50 PM Land Magenta Airport in Noumea.



French Beach

Hunter B. NO as per pane

volcanic 5978 MAP NUMBER Chesterfield Request from Rene

- Action items for return to Honolulu -

Call or write to Carr - Sylvia Huang (3) results of aerial survey

sent Billings to Hitchcock Carr

sent Return forms to Rene - papers

sent Letter to France? OSTROM

sent Sylvia's paper to D.C.

sent #12 to B. Byrd

sent 12-20-79 Buttons to Rene

sent 12-20-79 Letter/material to French Polynesia

sent NBT letter to Gomez

- alter Central Pacific paper  
- Shomura - Importance of Hawaiian work  
- ditre Castreux recet plans (Mexican list of migrations see her paper)

- Rose Atoll

- W. Samoa

- Howland, Baker, Jarvis

sent letter to Rene - names of Patrick; Brown; Guinea

sent letter to young Vivian - Cocktail party

sent Billings article to Sylvia  
sent Eggsman letter - Rose Hatch; Howland; Baker; JARVIS

- Ehrenfeld (foots sheet) correct foets

sent Svarez shipments to Japan

- Vivian - request assortment of news articles

GO Call Carla Kim B.P. Museum Display  
- PEACERSAT arrangements

sent article to Sam (farming)

sent Report to Bob & FFG  
- Call Arche/Wixons/Vivian

12-18-79 TUESDAY AM

names? addresses

12-18-79

87

TUESDAY AM

Feb - March - April  
not as dense

Beginning in Nov.  
next Jan 21 & Feb 6

March - Chesterfield - not as  
dense as Stelostreus  
(need discovery date & vessel)

88 chart  
5978

→ send slide

12-18-79  
TUESDAY  
AM

Michel PETIT + publications  
O.R.S.T.O.M.  
B.P.A.S NOUMEA CEDEX  
Nouvelle Calédonie

sent

P. Rancurel

sent

16-23 April Chesterfield report  
at OSTROM "no  
mention of turtles".

sent

GIGAROFF Hervé  
ORSTOM BPAS  
NOUMEA

(movies) taken  
at islets off  
Ouvea

NOTE  
APRIL 2006  
NOUMEA copy  
IN SPC  
Library?

→ This broken Archipelago  
Lazell contains section on sea turtle  
, as per Pitkhard

Tuesday  
12-18-1979  
2:5 PM

→ DEPART from Noumea via Air Pacific  
Flight 714 to Port Vila, New  
Hebrides.  
Booklet gives enroute to Madeline Day.

→ Chris Poole  
a contact at Museum

sent  
request

The Marine Turtles and snakes  
occurring in New Zealand

by Charles McCann

Records of the Dominion Museum  
Vol 5, No. 21 pages 201-215  
23 December 1966

Stayed on the ground at Villa for ~ 2 hours waiting  
for temperature to fall for take off.

12-19-79

MOHD

AZAD

Sigatoka market vendors  
with green & hawksbill  
shells.

# photos  
30-32

VATUKARASA.

SIGATOKA

P. O. BOX 149

Fiji

sent  
photos

JAIN NISHA

P. O. BOX 85

SIGATOKA

Fiji

Arrived at Nadi ~ 8:30 PM - checked into  
Nadi Hotel - double \$18.00 - had Fijian dinner.

12-19-79 WEDNESDAY

NADI — morning

Proceeded via bus with Pritchard  
to Sigatoka — river — market.  
Several stalls had hawkbill (Taka)  
and juvenile green (Vona) shells  
for decoration. Also standard  
type hawkbill jewelry.

Several photos.  
Reported that all jewelry is  
obtained from Suva, where  
manufacturing takes place at private  
residents.

Noted non-variegated brackets —  
orangish amorphous. Reported that  
this is hawkbill. <sup>type</sup>  
Speculated possibly old hawkbill.

~ 2 PM returned to Nadi Hotel.  
Bought custom carved wood turtle  
from carver — Mickey.

TO Airport —  
Depart CONTINENTAL FLIGHT

Michael  
Guinea

Mr. Guinea - Vom - note -  
also, he had a chart listing  
several islands as "basking" -  
not positive though.

Sent  
1/22/80

note - 2/22/77 trip -  
Gordon Elliott on vessel  
YAGASA LEVU to NE (Lau Group),  
Cakau Levu - 10 miles East  
of Nanika, 2 miles NE  
of Yagasa Levu. a hard  
Cay - 60 turtles (greens)  
all sizes, no fears - tame  
7 taken; no nesting.

Sent  
1/22/80

Report from Woran on CO flight  
from <sup>note Nadi</sup> <sup>2/80 - most likely</sup> Gamea, as per Bob Bustard  
<sup>oryx article (1970)</sup>  
"GUA MEA (GAMAYA)  
3 1/2 hours off Taveuni in  
15 hp boat -  
nesting turtles present - towed  
some back."

END

(Continued from p. 46)

New CALEDONIA  
2006

Monday  
 APRIL 10, 06 + ANN TRAVOT - Jean-Louis Association Taggings  
 BOURAIL Taggings? IN SPREP DATA BASE.  
 + Call Jean-Louis tags used BOURAIL? by Limpus students?  
 PM - Drove around Noumea - went to main post  
 office - bought souvenir turtle stamps and turtle phone card.  
 Dined at Thai-Vietnamese ASIE restaurant  
 - Best dinner yet.

APRIL 11, 06 UP 7AM - Checked out of  
 Tuesday Hotel - Drove rental car to airport  
 AIR CALIN FZ — depart 11:25am for  
 Sydney - 2pm arrival - Checked in  
 at Holiday Inn 3pm - Walked again  
 to Botany Bay town - at Chichester Sardines

Depart Hawaiian Air FZ 452 9AM  
 to Honolulu - 10 hour flight  
 ARRIVE APRIL 11 Tuesday  
 Same Day

See page 116

## Directions to Oviedo, Florida

South I 75  
to FL Turnpike (at Wildwood)  
South on " to R 50 exit)  
Proceed East on "  
5-6 miles signs that say  
East-West Express  
to right (cost 40¢)  
all the way - out on  
~~R 50~~ back to R 50 (on E side  
of town)  
4-6 miles - Univ. Inn  
(Univ. Inn)



4/2006

Beer NC



94 GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

WSTC Conference Scientific Committee Meeting  
called him last week from Honolulu  
L.M. Ehrhart (305) 365-3773

8 JANUARY 80

TUESDAY

Depart <sup>WESTERN</sup> WA Airlines flight 562  
at ~ 9:15 AM - originally scheduled  
for 8:45 AM - Heavy Kona rainstorm.

LA. Visited Fox Hill Shopping center  
via City Bus .55

Xerox  
section  
on  
New Caledonia

At Walden's bookstore saw:  
The Great Book of the Pacific 1979  
by Doussset & Taillemitte

The Art of Oriental Embroidery 1979  
by Y.Y. Chung

Purchased Scrooge McDuck Book - \$15.95 + TAX  
Consider comic collection - autographs -  
buy issues now that I don't have.

wet handle (Plastrons)  
16 mm spool  
call wither wax  
see withow w/photos

Called home ~ 7:05<sup>PM</sup> - report of heavy rains.

Depart LA for Miami on WA Airlines  
~ 12 midnight after air conditioner smells  
held up flight

Items:

1. Pritchard TT MS (final typed) [clifford?]
2. Shomura - aging studies (see American Zoologist abstracts)
3. Pennies
4. Maragos Palmyra - (contracts?)
5. India SSC meeting - travel money HELFRICH?
6. Tern Is. report (Altam contact) F. Knola
7. Purse Seine Problems Need Report
8. SW <sup>Fish Develop</sup> <sup>Hono</sup> Lab Monk Seal Problem
9. Reprints of Proceeding - Probably not
10. Satellite info from Pritchard (?) ANNE?
11. Contract for Lobster Pot-Loggerhead interaction
12. Shomura - publish my report (?)
13. Get original copy of Kay's Turtles  
Got + Windward Road by Carr
14. Need p 74-75 of TURTLES: P & R (also Biblio)
15. Kam - mount turtle skeleton like B. Museum
16. More info needed on San Pedro Seal Bomb
17. OTHAI - fish traps - problem w/ seals? Letter
18. Stamp issue for HINUK - support Letter
19. Total population \* study - As suggested by Working
20. Carr - Mortimer; Spring; Huang; Newsletter pending; (Tampa discussions)
21. Suarez update [Ducks ARTICLE] ← No Great force as per Carr
22. Patty Shaver situation - options
23. Newsletter aging article - American Zoologist got
24. Andy Guthrie - FWS news release results
25. Silverstein: Pins; photos for proceedings; TRULAND

submitted  
got  
Get Gettue  
Vivian?  
Kemperer letter sent  
LARRY Ogren  
as per Naffel  
incorporated  
Pritchard  
note to  
send color slide

(75) Got some

26. Articles on endangered turtles <sup>+ photos</sup> for  
 \* IN Flight - magazines. Several standard  
 ones needed - not Newsweek article.
27. Funds for preparation of  
 informative pamphlets (as per P&R)
- Got 28. American Zoologist Copy of abstracts from Anne (TAMPA)
- Got 29. Copies of Hawaiian articles & letter from Karen
30. Action Project - Purse Seine Information <sup>(to investigate Hawaiian)</sup>
- Done 31. Add New Caledonia; Sicily;
- \* 32. Aerial Follow-up letter to Wayne King <sup>(SICILY + enclosures SPC)</sup>
33. ~~completed~~ envelopes for Ehrenhaft <sup>STRUCTURE</sup>
34. Aerial Glass balls for " + Report.
- ? 35. Use Shomura's telephone to call Can, etc.
- ? 36. <sup>wright</sup> Florida permit system - Ross Witham - endangered greens
37. See listing of Invitational "paper at Tampa.
38. Critical nature of tags & tag placement.
39. ~~Reduce~~ Copy of DC Conference papers. ~~to Cooper~~
40. Balazs & Bitchard Pacific Reports - Bird & Sergio <sup>COVER PAGE</sup>
41. <sup>SP</sup> Reports to Meylan - Bjorn Dahl - Mortimer <sup>Request</sup>
42. Tie-on labels for my lab specimens
- \* 43. Algae receipts for Jeanne, sent Mabruker <sup>Book on algae</sup>
- \* 44. Visit Rancho Ouedo
45. Copy of Archie & Peter's Tampa papers. Request.
46. Gifted - Wayne, new (?) Hwang
- sent 47. Nine letters to Witham requesting info
- Witham?

Aboard Eastern 727

9 JANUARY 1980  
Wednesday

Arrive Gainesville ~ 9:30 AM

Met by Anne Meylan;  
Taken to "Florida Motel" outside  
of Gainesville - \$15.95 per night.

1 PM Pre-meeting in W. King's office with  
Carr, Bjorndahl, Mortimer.

Discussed, among other things, Karen  
being hired for Turtle Conference carry  
on. Can write action letters - signed by?  
mostly?

In office:

Saw Carr's old tags - mild  
corrosion at piercing site. THESE  
COULD BE ANALYZED FOR A NIFE STUDY.

Carr tag still  
in my collection?

Looked through some of Harrison's old  
reprints that are now with Carr.

Had Chinese dinner at "Mr. Hans"  
and discussed function & role  
of group; options of Nicholas &  
newsletter.

Concerning Tampa meeting - ① Island's  
paper on tracking juvenile green at  
Bermuda reported to be excellent.

② Mosovsky's good.

③ " introduced Carr - made  
biting comment about "without malice".  
Talked extensively with Pritchard  
and wife.

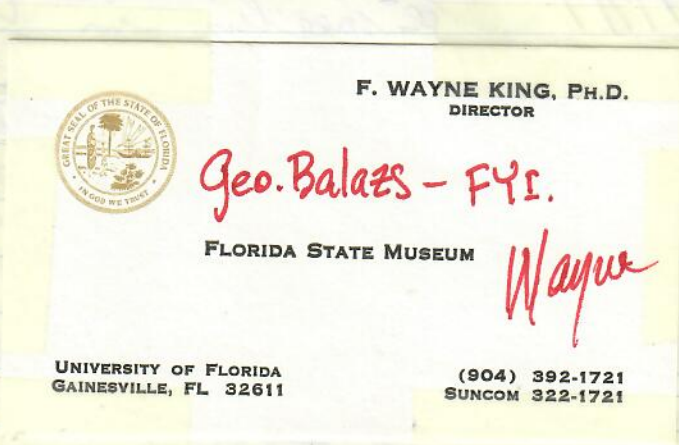
9 JANUARY 1980

THURSDAY

Nancite - last virgin  
olive ridley rookery.

Carr told of Nancite project  
developing with Carr, Richards, Cornelius,  
and freeze as P.I. - build lab?  
→ Reported to be \$18,000 now left from  
WCSTC funds.

Brochure - ?



### PURPOSE OF TURTLE Group

1. Provide best available expertise on  
turtle biology - source of factual information.
2. Work for the conservation of sea turtles.
3. Evaluate projects - help determine  
how best to spend available funds.
4. EDUCATE? - (ARE PROPOSALS now circulated?)  
NOTES -
5. Lobby? (mild opinion)

Recalling "self-assigned" duties. Resend  
to Anne

How can group distinguish itself?

9 JANUARY 1980  
WEDNESDAY

GAINESVILLE - OVIEDO 99

Activities that can be conducted by  
Chairman and "core" on behalf of  
the Group:

1. Query letter to each member -  
inform of membership and ask  
for action suggestions; problems in  
area. (Throw ball to them and  
see what happens!)
2. Reassign Newsletter so that Chairman  
and core can espouse a (their)  
conservation principals - policies.  
If this is not satisfactory with  
members of Group - they can  
resign or work to remove chairman.
3. Implement some of "action projects"  
of WCSTC
4. Give membership to Spring & Huang
- x 5. Produce a brochure on  
sea turtle conservation
6. Implement captive ridley plan -  
(Jacobs-DVM heard Wood say that  
some Kemps will be brought from  
Mexico)

9 JAN 1980  
WEDNESDAY

- 8. Group will meet with SSC in Sept of 1980 in Florida.
9. Attack or denounce forces that oppose ~~the~~ the conservation of sea turtles.
10. Letter to airlines - travel agencies

Pick up by Karen →

10 JAN THURS 1980 Breakfast with Jeanne Mortimer - at health food restaurant - discussed sea turtle matters.

10 JANUARY 1980  
THURSDAY

all day meeting  
WCST CONFERENCE  
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Better to be right than consistent -

- |               |                |              |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1) Carr       | 4) Mortimer    | 7) Pritchard |
| 2) Meylan     | 5) Silverstein |              |
| 3) Bjornsdahl | 6) King        |              |

Sunday [ 12 JAN GAINESVILLE-MIAMI 9:30<sup>PM</sup>-10:22<sup>PM</sup> EASTERN  
13 JAN MIAMI - HONO 9:40<sup>AM</sup>-4:50<sup>PM</sup> ]

name - addresses of  
"turtle" newsletters of  
→ Plastron jacket +  
Request names from Pritchard

Project for FFS-LEEWARDIS:  
"Extend seaward boundaries  
to include foraging  
habitat." particularly  
LISIANSKI

ORLANDO → MIAMI

Eastern - 376-4411

7:50 PM

National - 1-800-432-9431

(10:25 confirmed)

(Southern)  
Republic

10:05 PM

sent request from Wayne King -

1/15/80 (Dr. Bill Maples - Human Bone Caging)  
Florida State Museum

noted -

Photo of leatherback in  
Joop Schuy publication

- Enlargements in both Carr and Pritchard's.

Dinner at fancy restaurant in Gainesville - Carr,  
grad. students and Majorie Carr. DISCUSSIONS TURTLES.



11 JANUARY 1980 FRIDAY

Breakfast  
with MEYLAN

over lunch - morning continuation meeting in Wayne's office.  
 to Bob Scott for letter to Nicholas.

1. Budget over-ship
2. unlimited mailing list
3. Cryptic mailing list
4. overly editorial
5. Too personalized tone
6. berating of WCN (when unwarranted)
7. insistence on a title (NM)
8. inclination to accept fund from industry
9. lack of clarity over what audience should be addressed
10. Need for greater editorial responsibility
11. Reduce expenditures for long-distance telephone calls (restraint)

Marin<sup>ter</sup> Newsletter  
 (publication of MTSB)

12. Emphasize "Group" aspects of newsletter

Teletype-telegram from Bob Scott concerning a number of pending project for WWF funding - A number of these we had never heard of - passed judgment on others - support for Sylvia's & Wayne called Scott.

Reim. check from WWF via Silverstein for \$625.00

103

address from Archie's  
address book:

write?

James Oliver  
NY Z Park  
Bronx, N.Y. 10460

(212) 266-8500  
of Oliver & Shaw (?) HI

11 JANUARY 1980 FRIDAY

Pritchard → (Ridley to Cayman Farm?)  
(Radio & Satellite tracking)  
(at Rancho Nuevo)

→ Answer: property of ~~the~~  
Mexican government, therefore  
can be returned anytime without  
a US permit - will be returned  
only as far as Cayman Farm.

Afternoon meeting concerning Turtle  
Group in Carly's office - lat.

- Can, Karen, Anne - later Jeanne -

Decision made on 4 broad functions -

" " " a number of short  
term project or activities to be undertaken.

(note - drop Pong - add Sylvia & Huang.)  
Anne Meylan will type these up for  
the file.

List of some of Projects (get copy of typed list)  
1. Resurrect stamp proposal

in 1969 -  
12 members  
on Group

11 JANUARY 1980 FRIDAY

2. "Concurrent letters on Action projects (WCSTC)
3. "Finger in pie" - control in follow up WCSTC through Karen Bjornedal.
4. Air travel Association Action (WARNTOURISTS) <sup>travel bills</sup>  
+ IN Flight magazines.
5. Letter to each new member by Carr; my letter later.
6. Plan for SSC - Group meeting follow-up in Florida in 1980? DATES needed.

\* Joint SPC - IUCN-WWF funded turtle project for the Pacific.

\* Need - Copy of updated Action Plan.

Talk Mrs. Mitty out of farm.

MS report on Peru by Jack Frazier has been sent to Carr.

Telephoned <sup>using Carr's "8" private fax dialing.</sup> Larry Grez in Panama City concerning NBT - top orders - he has just received a 2 JAN letter on this subject from NBT - possibility of an order soon -

Duplicated some articles by <sup>TOM</sup> Harrison, among those donated to Carr by Barbara Harrison.

11 JANUARY 1980 FRIDAY

Left by car at ~ 6 PM with Jeanne Mortimer for Oviedo - Lew Ehrhart.

Arrived ~ 9 PM - met undergraduate students at his house for gathering.

Spent night at Pritchard's house -

→ noted latest brochures for Cayman Turtle Farms.

Pritchard will meet with Carabza and Suarez next week in Mexico City.

Swartz has not yet responded in writing to Pritchard's earlier letter about suppleans at DC meeting.

Noted report by Fletenoy (1979) on Florida loggerheads.

Also, 197? article in Pesca by Pritchard.

Write to Pesca, as per Carr (?)

Note - Loggerheads just past hatching size. Wee washed up at Merrit Island by Hurricane DAVID - given to Carr.

12 JANUARY 1980 SATURDAY

Left Pritchard's house ~ 7 AM.  
Breakfast at restaurant in Oviedo.  
Proceeded to University of Central Florida - visited in Lew's office;  
loaded Boston Whaler for trip to

12 JANUARY 1980 SATURDAY

Mosquito Lagoon and Merritt Island  
nesting beaches. overcast skies, but  
light wind.

Told of numerous jurisdictions for  
area - e.g. NASA, FWS, Parks Service.

Visited FWS "lab" that few used to  
use - picked up other BW.

Mary + three students proceeded  
with net boat, while Lew took  
Jeanne and me for tour of lagoon.  
Few mentioned point where turtles were  
held in a KRAAL - late 1800's; apparently  
after being removed from nesting beaches  
ocean side.

Everywhere lagoon is shallow - 2'-20',  
Indian & Babara Rivers are not  
really "rivers" - mostly salt water -  
→ look up old Florida reports.

Diking for mosquito control <sup>15-20 yrs ago?</sup> has  
greatly changed ecology of area.

Watched Mary put out net -  
They have several nets - purchased  
from former turtle fishermen -  
no floats on top line - "lead" on

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bottom line consists of "lead core" line,  
or lead pieces woven in.

Floats on top line are periodically (~30')  
attached as net is set out.

Anchor at end w/ orange float (bulletproof) found  
on beach; - boat drifts and net is tossed  
out from pile - no tangling seems to be  
involved due to absence of floats -  
many holes in net - apparently seldom  
needed.

Water at setting site only ~7' deep -  
net is (15'?) deep. Float line is  
polypropylene. Faint bottom topography  
could be seen. Water Temperature -16.2°C  
outside ocean - 57°F

Reported that lagoon temperature varies  
radically - up to 32°C in summer -  
turtles go to deepest sites.

Returned to shore where net fishermen  
were hauling out boats, etc.

Mosquito Lagoon is fished for blue crabs  
with cage traps, as well as  
gillnets/mullet - when water warms they go  
into shallows (heats quicker).  
"Fisherman with twin net (small mesh on  
inside" - large on "outside" told of

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seeing a small green yesterday in shallows at south end of lagoon. He reported that turtle bumped into his net - but never got caught.

Consider marine critical habitat designation for lagoon (?).

Collected bottom samples of Marateegass ( ), Halimnobia, Syringodium, and algae (Laurencia, Gracilaria, etc.)

I believe I missed the coralline (Cormarin?)  
Also check to see if I collected Hypnea & Spyridia. All of these will be pressed and ID'd by Dennis Russell.

At Lew's lab, I noted Caulerpa racemosa, strange Codium, and others that I am unfamiliar with (all preserved).

Note - Storage of toxic substances (fuels) at NASA facility.

Ate lunch at restaurant - Boatbuilder at Titusville - saw Maratee at surface (briefly) swimming in small harbor.

Saw 3 juvenile Chelonia carcasses on wall of restaurant.

Some rainfall.

Lew's project reviewed by "ABS panel."  
Caraveral ship channel situation (need up to date information).

Laurencia  
Bitter  
Tasting

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(Playalinda Beach)

visitors  
 information sign on turtles  
 at entrance to  
 beach.

Following lunch, proceeded with Lew to Merrit Island beaches - to end of road along National Seashore - noted board-walks across beach to vegetation to beach - beach is quite narrow with cliff dune backdrop - photos taken with Agachrome 67 supplied by Mortimer.

Fishermen at some sites - also nude bathing past road's end.

Lew reports that this 8 mile strip is darkest - no lights - also has the most green turtle nesting of his 40 km study area.

To the north, Stoneburner has initiated a tagging program - recorded a green and published a note in H Review on "northward extension" of range.

This <sup>past</sup> season (1979), Lew had 18 green turtle nests - more than South Florida where during other years more nests have been laid.

Ross Whittam has ~ 13 release sites for headstarted turtles - Merrit Island is one of them. He will not release any in Mosquito Lagoon for experiment. Some of the Galveston Head-started loggerheads were released at Merrit Island.

Lew reports that racoon predation



- Sand sample collected.

is almost total on Merrit Island nests. Area also has skunks and other small mammals.

Considerations for presence of juvenile turtles in Mosquito Lagoon:

1. Very small entrance - exits (North; South shipping)
2. Can they get out?
3. How do they get in?
  - a.) Hatchlings going the wrong way.?
  - b.) Nestings inside the lagoon.
  - c.) In<sup>or</sup> out under own power.
4. Do juveniles (either loggerheads or greens) also occur along ocean side coastline?
5. Nesting turtles go high on beach - hatchlings make it across at narrow sites.
6. Lew has caught "almost" adult loggerheads.

Flying very high.

Florida law on "gill nets" - check files - deaths must surely occur from gill nets in Mosquito Lagoon.

Recommendation given to Lew:

- 1.) Continue netting work to renew tags.
- 2.) Set wheel historical talk about net setting.
- 3.) Bait net
- 4.) Release some headstarted in lagoon
- 4.) Release some outside
- 5.) Night dive on turtles w/ lights
- 6.) Use look-box
- 7.) Publish cold-stunning.
- 8.) Double tag with Inconel

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GAINESVILLE 111  
OVIDO

From Merritt Is. beaches we proceeded back to Mosquito Lagoon boat launch site, and motored out to net - Several sting-rays removed by slipping or cutting out of spine.  
Reported on one <sup>(spotted rays?)</sup> Get there were 64 rays in net. Eagle Ray captured that weighed ~250 lbs. Mary Mendocino reported that they killed two porpoise - mother and calf. Thereafter, careful monitoring was maintained. They also catch large "redfish" (~60 lbs). A few jellyfish were noted while pulling up net. Net just piled altogether in the bottom of the boat (when finished).

We proceeded through canal (slow for Manatees (warning sign), to Indian River - motored slowly ~~was~~ over shallow areas - pulled up old Laurencia - large patches - some H<sub>2</sub>S bottom noted.

In very shallow water (<10') we observed 4-6 bottlenose dolphins, one possibly with young. Seemed to be play behavior.

Returned to haul boat out at about sunset. Mary indicated that they observed a Jivento loggerhead near net.

Returned to FWS lab where Lew

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took me to his "bone yard" (<sup>mosquitoes</sup> loggerheads from strandings) where I retrieved several humeri, femurs, pectoral bones. Depart for University, stopping on the way at Taco Bell for food. At Lew's office I obtained calipers <sup>(cm divisions ONLY)</sup> manufacturer's address:

~~sent~~ Forestry Suppliers  
205 West Rankin Street  
Jackson, Miss 39204 (supply cat.)

Obtained humerus, femur and hypoplastion (?) from small green (56.5cm SL) salvaged from Mosquito Lagoon (Brevard County) on 3 March 1977.

A whole unlabeled juvenile green (dehydrated) was in freezer - light brown-reddish some streaks - some ~~chelonia~~ <sup>estimate</sup>. Also bones in box of ~40cm green in vertebrate teaching lab. Freezer had numerous whole loggerheads - tremendous number of barnacles present - some of species that I am not familiar with. Teaching lab also had numerous loggerhead skulls (all salvaged - resulting from shrimper mortality undoubtedly).

At ~ 8 PM proceeded to woods near University where stranded leatherback

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was taken to decompose. Removed bone  
platelets - thin; thin skin; 1.525 cm  
layer of connective tissue or cartilage  
under platelets. Noted series of  
slashes indicative of propeller injury.  
Few mentioned that one flipper was  
missing - from boat? Head was taken  
passed by. Few excised and froze  
proximal portion of flipper which has  
healed hole - possibly from tag lost.

Proceeded to Orlando airport - National  
Airlines flight at 10:25 AM (\$43.00) to  
Miami.

In Miami, checked into Airway Hotel  
\$26.00 + tax -  
depart

13 JANUARY 1980 SUNDAY 9:45 AM

Western FL 561 -

one hour layover in LA - arrive  
Honolulu at ~ 5:30 PM.

NOTES -

Small hawksbill found (pieces of) -  
Few has bones.

## POST NOTES:

Results of 10 January <sup>1980</sup> meeting WCSTC  
Wayne King's Office:

- 1) Added new action plans
- 2) Need for person (Karen) to draft "plan" letters
- 3) Problems with Publishers
- 4) Trial editing by Ken Dodd
- 5) Vivian terminations in late March
- 6) List of Participants - Speakers, etc. <sup>Draft</sup>

FROM 1992  
 DATES, MOVEMENTS AND EXPENDITURES  
 NEW CALEDONIA 3-11 APRIL 2006 G. BALAZS

APRIL 3, 06 <sup>HONOLULU</sup> DEPART AC033 AIR CANADA (UA 8489)

MONDAY

Wed. 4/5 ARRIVE 630am Sydney - Currency Exchange - \$2. AD  
 HOLIDAY INN Sydney AIRPORT - Layover - \$124. AD

4/5 DEPART SYDNEY SB145 AIR CALIN (QANTAS 365)  
 ARRIVE TONTOUTA AIRPORT, NEW CALEDONIA

4/5 NIGHT (1) DEPART TONTOUTA - VAN Currency Exchange - XPF 525.  
 ARRIVE NOUMEA LE PACIFIQUE HOTEL - XPF 7,250

4/6 Thurs NIGHT (2) LE PACIFIQUE HOTEL XPF 7,250

4/7 FRIDAY NIGHT (3) LE PACIFIQUE HOTEL XPF 7,250

4/8 SAT. NIGHT (4) LE PACIFIQUE HOTEL XPF 7,250

4/9 SUN. NIGHT (5) HERTZ RENTAL CAR - 2 DAYS NOUMEA XPF 9,660.  
 LE PACIFIQUE HOTEL XPF 7,250

4/9 Rental Car Gas - 2000. NO Receipt  
 4/10 MON NIGHT (6) LE PACIFIQUE HOTEL XPF 7,250  
 TOTAL HOTEL PHONE = XPF 11,310 4/11 Rental Car Gas XPF 2,700.

4/11 TUES. NOUMEA TO TONTOUTA AIRPORT - Rental Car Return.

4/11 DEPART AIR CALIN (QANTAS 362) 1125am

4/11 ARRIVE SYDNEY 2pm - Holiday Inn Sydney - \$149. AD

Depart Sydney Hawaiian Air FL 462 Currency Exchange \$2. AD

ARRIVE Honolulu 4/11 TUES. 10AM  
 POV PARKING - USD 80.00

APRIL 2006



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APRIL  
2006



April  
2006

**Objective 3 – Improved understanding of pelagic ecosystems in the western and central Pacific Ocean, with a focus on the western tropical Pacific**

*HOT 2006-2008 Ocean Fisheries Draft Strategic Plan*

This objective is pursued by the OFP's Biology & Ecology Section, which undertakes research on the biology of selected tuna and by-catch species, and on the ecosystem in which they live. Information on tuna biology, such as age and growth and vertical habitat utilisation, is incorporated directly into regional tuna stock assessments. As assessments for important by-catch species are developed, similar biological information will also be required for these species. The nature and impacts of ocean climate variability on tuna fisheries are also a focus of the section's work, with modelling techniques used to integrate basin-scale observations and models of physical and biological oceanography with the biology and physiology of tunas. Research is also underway to characterise and model the western tropical Pacific warm pool ecosystem in a holistic way, focusing on defining the trophic relationships among the broad assemblage of pelagic species inhabiting the system. Work during this three-year period will include examining the significance of seamounts as a habitat of special importance in the pelagic ecosystem.



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## **Project to determine the distribution and population sizes of nesting marine turtles in New Caledonia, and to enhance the capacity of local governments to protect and manage these species**

### **A. Project Summary**

This project, aims to <sup>1)</sup> identify all marine turtle nesting sites in the three provinces of New Caledonia for the three species which nest here; Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) <sup>2)</sup> determine the mature female population for each species, and <sup>3)</sup> involve the respective New Caledonia provincial marine technical service field representatives in the monitoring and surveillance of these nesting sites. **This project is scheduled to begin in December of 2006.**

### **B. Project Narrative**

#### **1. Statement of need**

A country wide marine conservation and management plan for New Caledonia is currently being developed with the assistance and support of the WWF via the "ecoregional" approach method. Simultaneous to and in collaboration with this effort, the French Government is working closely with the three New Caledonia provincial governments to support a national bid to classify the New Caledonia Reef System as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Furthermore, this "UNESCO" bid, whether successful or not, likewise necessitates the development of comprehensive management plans for the marine ecosystems of New Caledonia. During the initial phases of the development of these plans, the urgent need for additional marine turtle population and distribution details was identified as a priority objective. Although existing marine turtle nesting information for these three species is scant and incomplete the most recent estimates indicate that New Caledonia is an especially important nesting site for Loggerhead turtles (10% of Pacific females nest here) and for Green turtles (largest South Pacific population of nesting females). Furthermore, already significant marine turtle hunting pressure, in conjunction with other human related pressures, appears to be taking a toll on nesting turtle populations, but for lack of any systematic turtle population monitoring studies, there exists no reliable information on which to build an effective marine turtle conservation strategy. The information which this project aims to furnish would provide essential missing data about these keystone species, and allow the development of effective local turtle conservation and management plans. This project would allow New Caledonia to furnish data about its nesting turtles and thus contribute substantially to the regional turtle conservation strategies which are currently being developed in the South Pacific and on a global scale by the WWF and other international NGO's and governments.

See **Annex #1** for map which denotes the extent of current distribution knowledge concerning New Caledonia's marine turtle populations.

## **2. Project goals and objectives**

The ultimate goal of this project is to provide essential scientific data which will guide the efforts to ensure the long term conservation of stable and viable breeding populations of the three marine turtle species which nest in New Caledonia. The immediate objectives of this project are threefold;

- the identification of all marine turtle nesting sites in New Caledonia in and outside the lagoon system,
- the determination of the number of mature female marine turtles per site and per species,
- involve the representatives of the respective provincial marine technical services in the monitoring and surveillance of all nesting sites in New Caledonia, and thereby enhance their capacity to develop and implement effective marine turtle conservation and management activities.

## **3. Project activities, methods, and timetables (CV's included in Annex)**

The WWF-France New Caledonia Program proposes to conduct aerial surveys of all pre-identified confirmed and supposed marine turtle nesting sites in New Caledonia. These sites were identified as a result of preliminary sea-based marine turtle surveys conducted by a local NGO, Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Nature Neo-Calédonienne (ASNNC), with the financial, technical, and logistical support of the WWF. These aerial surveys will be conducted with a Cessna 172; one pilot, and three observers. The pilot is very familiar with the New Caledonia lagoon, and its various island and will fly, during fair weather, over designated beaches, and at low altitude (~ 300 feet) to allow the observers to count turtle tracks and to identify the species which made them. Subsequent passes will be made if and when necessary. The three person onboard observer team will consist of <sup>1)</sup>marine turtle expert Dr. Colin Limpus, <sup>2)</sup>an experienced WWF NC staff member, and <sup>3)</sup>a marine ecosystems technician from one of the three respective provinces of New Caledonia due to be surveyed.. Approximately 25 hours of flights will be performed per province at a rate of approximately five hours of survey flights per day. Sites identified as being particularly interesting or as yet insufficiently or undocumented will be ground-truthed by sea-based teams which will include experienced and novice turtle survey teams made up of provincial marine ecosystems technicians, and WWF NC field staff and volunteers. The sea-based teams will confirm or deny the results recorded by the aerial teams, perform opportunistic turtle tagging, collect genetic samples from turtles encountered, and record relevant conservation related data specific to each nesting area which might be overlooked by the aerial survey team. Genetic tissue samples will be stored until such time as funds can be secured to perform the necessary analyses.

See **Annex # 2-4** for CV's of project managers and marine turtle expert

## **Timetable:**

The proposed project field activities will commence with the arrival of marine turtle expert, Dr. Colin Limpus, in the first week of **December 2006**. Project coordinators will organize a day of theoretical and hands-on turtle survey training for survey participants, and relevant provincial representatives to ensure the consistency and comparability of results. Aerial surveys will take place during the 18 days which follow, allowing for a day of rest and results collation every five days, and two days at the end of the 18 days for a preliminary rendering of the aerial survey results presented to the representatives of the three provinces, research bodies, other stakeholders, and the press.

The sea-based turtle survey teams will coordinate with the aerial team to target key areas of interest identified by the aerial team and perform day and overnight trips to offshore islands. The sea-based turtle survey teams will continue their field work beyond the end of December and for the first two weeks of January. The results of the surveys will be compiled, collated and analysed between the months of February and April, and a report of the finding will be furnished by the end of **April 2006**.

### **4. Stakeholder coordination/involvement**

The project coordination will be the responsibility of the WWF Country Manager for New Caledonia, Ahab Downer. He will be seconded by a WWF NC eco-regional coordinator, Hubert Geraux, and the WWF New Caledonia bureau administrative assistant, Anne-Laure Bove.

Representatives from the three provinces of New Caledonia be involved from the beginning to the end of the project as they will be charged with utilizing the resulting information (rendered in the form of dynamic GIS layers) and carrying out future monitoring and surveillance activities in their respective provinces. As such, field representatives from the provinces will be part of the aerial survey teams as well as the sea-based field teams and will be charged with assisting survey activities in their respective provinces. Furthermore, each provincial government has been asked to provide boat, captain and crew for ten days, with which to provide access to beaches and turtle nesting sites throughout their respective areas for the sea-based turtle survey teams.

The aerial and sea-based team members will be given training with the assistance of Dr. Colin Limpus and WWF field representatives prior to the launch of field activities. The provincial representatives will also be asked to assist in compiling, collating, and analysing the data. The provincial resource management services will also be asked to assist in generating geo-referenced maps and spatial data elements of the final report. Cartographic information and databases will be designed to be easily integrated into the GIS and EIS of each province. The results will be presented to the three provinces once completed and every effort will be made to lobby for legislation which is consistent with the recommendations for future marine turtle conservation and management activities presented in the final report. Furthermore, the local representative body of the French Initiative for Coral Reefs (IFRECOR) will be implicated to diffuse and valorize the results of the surveys, and the results will likewise be used to guide the development of the WWF catalysed "ecoregional" marine conservation plan which is currently being developed in conjunction with an exhaustive list of marine ecosystem stakeholders in New Caledonia.

## **5. Anticipated benefits and outputs**

This project is devised to produce:

- an exhaustive geo-referenced map of marine turtle nesting sites in New Caledonia per species and per site,
- quantitative results concerning the population size of mature female marine turtles per species and per site,
- a number of marine ecosystem management representatives per province capable of performing future aerial and sea-based surveys, tagging and genetic sampling,
- a description of nesting sites and the potential associated threats
- an undetermined number of newly tagged turtles and the identification numbers of already tagged turtles
- genetic samples from turtles encountered

Marine resource managers from each province will receive training at several levels; <sup>1)</sup> during the initial introductory turtle survey methods workshop at the initiation of the project, <sup>2)</sup> by participating in aerial surveys (approximately 25 hours of flight per province), debriefing and results capture sessions after each flight with WWF NC staff and marine turtle expert Dr. Colin Limpus, <sup>3)</sup> by participating in and co-coordinating sea-based surveys with WWF NC staff and volunteers,

## **6. Project monitoring and evaluation**

The progress and success of this project will be evaluated in relation to:

- the percentage of pre-identified (confirmed or potential) nesting sites surveyed
- the percentage of areas signalled for ground truthing which is effectively surveyed by the sea-based teams
- number of provincial technical staff who are trained to conduct future activities

## **7. Sustainability**

As provincial staff will be trained to perform future aerial and sea-based surveys and activities, beyond the end of this project, the provinces will be able to utilize the resulting data to monitor the identified areas without assistance, and to produce effective and realistic management plans to conserve and protect these sites in future. The provincial governments have pledged to utilise this capacity, once aquired, to monitor and protect their marine turtle nesting areas as necessary. These same governments are already preparing to enact new laws which will effectively close marine turtle hunting/fishing throughout New Caledonia save for during very specific traditional rites, and then only with authorization. The WWF and other partner organisations will make every effort to support them in this effort by providing technical support and the use of volunteer field teams. Furthermore, the WWF is committed to conserving these marine turtle populations in New Caledonia and beyond, and will make whatever effort necessary and appropriate to support New Caledonia in this effort.

## **8. Description of organisation(s) undertaking the project**

WWF New Caledonia is an extension of WWF-France and part of the extensive global WWF network. At present, the WWF NC bureau consists of a country program manager, an ecoregional coordinator, and a part time administrative assistant who has extensive project support experience. WWF NC has been working in New Caledonia for four plus years and has been extensively associated with turtle survey activities and is currently very implicated in helping the governments to devise plans to manage marine ecosystems and their associated species.

9. **project budget table: begin your project budget table on a new page (see Annex #5)**

**budget justifications**

- **see budget sheet**

**10. governmental endorsement**

- **are included in index**

**13. see check list for forms to be filled out**

- **In process of filling out tables/forms and will forward directly to Caroline Mitten**

**Annexes :**

- 1) map depicting current data related to marine turtle population and distribution
- 2) CV of WWF Country Program Manager Ahab Charles Downer
- 3) CV of WWF Ecoregional Coordinator Hubert Geraux
- 4) CV of Marine Turtle expert Dr. Colin Limpus
- 5) Budget sheet
- 6) Governmental endorsement document from NC Southern Province
- 7) Governmental endorsement document from NC Northern Province
- 8) Governmental endorsement document from NC Island Province
- 9) USFW forms



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY  
SECRÉTARIAT GÉNÉRAL DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ DU PACIFIQUE

FIFTH SPC HEADS OF FISHERIES MEETING  
CINQUIÈME CONFÉRENCE DES DIRECTEURS DES PÊCHES DE LA CPS

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 3-7 April 2006)

(Nouméa, Nouvelle-Calédonie, 3-avril 2006)

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### Abstract Preview

**Abstract ID:** 1438 **Type:** Poster **Subject:** Ecology and Evolutionary Biology **Country:** Australia

**Submitted By:** Michelle Boyle (michelle.boyle@jcu.edu.au)

### THE ECOLOGY OF CARETTA CARETTA AND CHELONIA MYDAS POST-HATCHLING'S FROM EAST AUSTRALIAN POPULATIONS

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The ecology of *Chelonia mydas* and *Caretta caretta* post-hatchlings in the south west Pacific was investigated using a combination of ecological and genetic methodologies.

Post-hatchlings were obtained for this study from strandings and from the stomachs of dolphin fish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) and previous records were collated from the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency's database of marine wildlife strandings and deaths.

Data on the spatial and temporal distribution of post-hatchlings in relation to rookery location and oceanographic features provides evidence that *C. mydas* and *C. caretta* post-hatchlings from populations in the southwest Pacific region become entrained in oceanic currents and live a pelagic existence. Occupancy of an oceanic and pelagic habitat is supported by dietary investigations that show post-hatchlings in the southwest Pacific Ocean from both of the investigated species derive nutritional sustenance primarily from animal matter, and that they feed on neustonic species in a non-selective manner.

The spatial and temporal data on the two species of post-hatchlings, however, indicates that the two species do not take the same migratory route after departing from the same coastal waters. The data provide strong evidence that loggerhead post-hatchling undergo trans-Pacific migrations within the southern Pacific sub-tropical gyre. This is suggested by: (i) incremental

size increase in direction of this current away from nesting beaches, (ii) loggerhead post-hatchlings are reported in New Zealand waters and on the eastern side of the southern Pacific, and (iii) loggerhead post-hatchlings larger than 13.7cm CCL are not documented in the southwest Pacific. Although the current resolution of the genetic stocks in the southwest Pacific does not allow differentiation between stocks on the local scale, it can provide discrimination on an oceanic scale. Analysis of the haplotypes of the loggerhead post-hatchlings shows that all specimens investigated in this study originated from southwest Pacific rookeries.

Whereas the data imply that *C. carretta* post-hatchlings embark on trans-Pacific migrations, it suggests that *C. mydas* post-hatchlings do not. While this species also occupies offshore oceanic waters, it appears they remain in the southwest Pacific region. This is indicated by: (i) green post-hatchlings occupying waters around offshore seamounts (whereas *C. carretta* post-hatchlings appear absent), (ii) the absence of *C. mydas* post-hatchlings in New Zealand or south east Pacific waters, and (iii) the occurrence of larger size classes of green post-hatchlings stranded on eastern Australian coast. Mixed stock analysis (using SPAM & TURTLE) performed with haplotypic information from post-hatchlings calculated that *C. mydas* post-hatchlings originate from the SGBR (60%), Coral Sea (27%) and New Caledonia (13%) rookeries.

The differences in the habitat occupied by these two species most probably arise from behavioral differences, as initially they embark upon the same route. *C. mydas* is a more tropical species in comparison to *C. carretta*. I therefore propose that green post-hatchlings respond to warmer waters where they maintain themselves within the warm water gyres that form off the coast from the EAC. In comparison, the loggerheads remain within the cooler currents that traverse the south Pacific ocean.

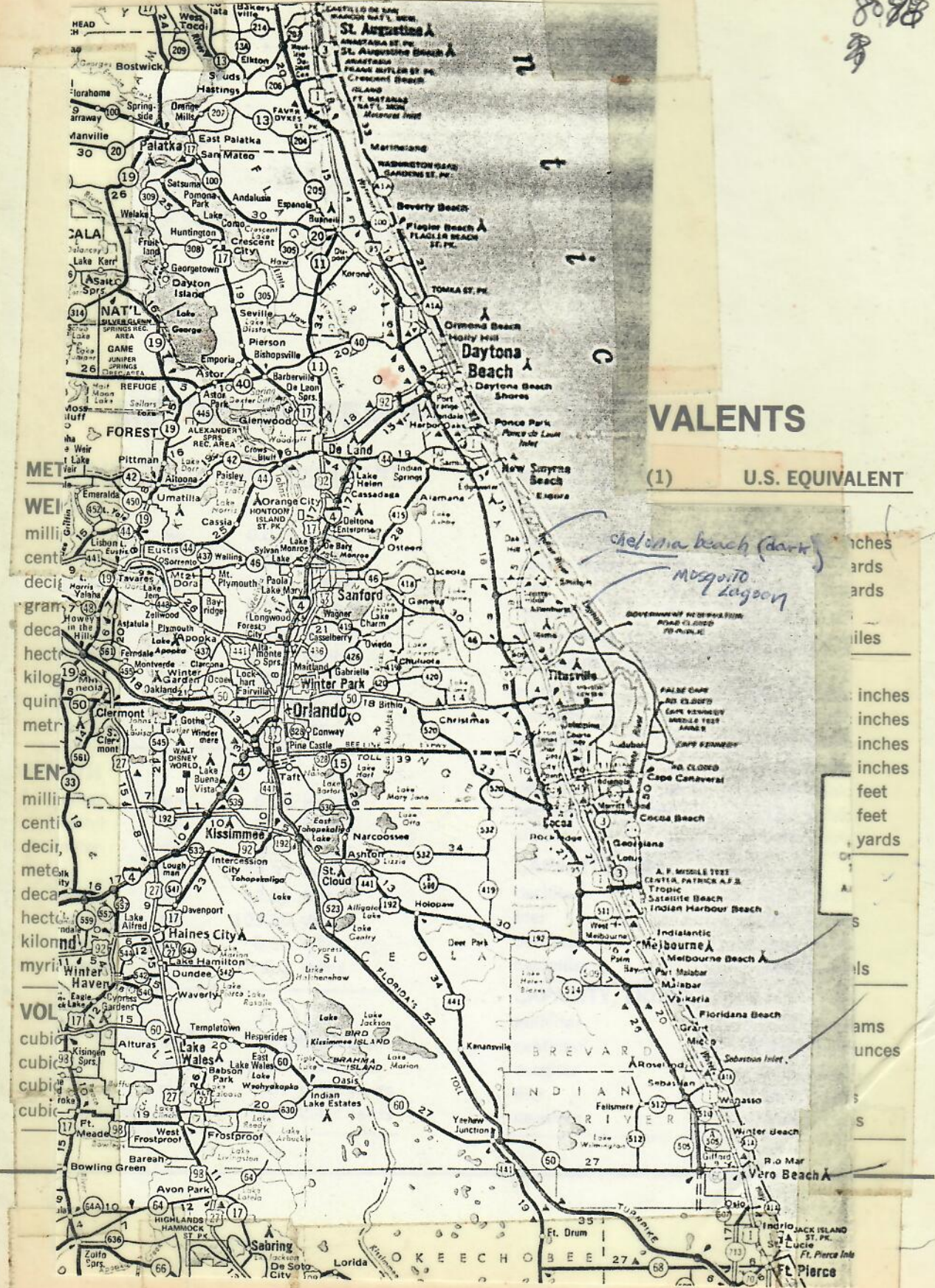
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