



INVITATION TO PUBLIC LECTURE

Dr Susanna Piovano, Course Coordinator of BI305/MS305 Marine Biology

is pleased to invite you to a

PUBLIC LECTURE FROM GEORGE BALAZS AND THIERRY WORK,

co-Chairs of the Oceania Region of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialists Group.

Date: Monday 23rd May 2016

Time: 1pm

Duration: 1 hour

Venue: Marine Studies Lecture Theatre, USP lower campus

See program attached.

PUBLIC LECTURE FROM **GEORGE BALAZS AND THIERRY WORK**

Monday 23rd May, 2016, 1-2pm

Marine Studies Lecture Theatre, USP lower campus

Programme:

<p>1.00- 1.25pm</p>	<p>"Fall and Rise of the Hawaiian Honu: 50 Year of Cultural and Conservation Change" George Balazs IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, Oceania Region, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA; itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com</p> <p><i>Abstract: Seven species of ocean turtles exist globally as descendants of ancient reptilian lineages that have adapted and survived for millions of years. Over the course of human history an array of relationships have developed with turtles, and especially marine turtles amongst coastal and island peoples such as in the Hawaiian Islands. Turtles are woven deeply into the cultural, traditional, and contemporary fabric of humanity with uses ranging from food to fortune telling, pets to funerary. In 2012 Hawaii's green turtles or honu (Chelonia mydas) were downlisted from Endangered to the category of Least Concern following a comprehensive assessment by the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group (see http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/16285718/0). Over the past 50 years Hawaii's honu have exhibited new behaviors and adaptations along with an increasing population and expansion into new habitats. These favorable changes have ranged from increases in terrestrial basking to feeding on new types of vegetation, to name a few as witnessed first-hand by the authors. Even more beneficial changes and acclimations can be expected in the future, including shifts in nesting to adapt to climate change, as sea turtles have successfully done with resiliency for millennia. In light of their rise to abundance, green turtles in the Hawai'i constitute a unique experimental model to comprehensively understand the restoration dynamics of an increasing sea turtle population. Conservation practices in Hawai'i can serve as a real-life learning ground for people in other regions striving to save and sustainably utilize their own charismatic and culturally important sea turtle resources.</i></p>
<p>1.25- 1.35pm</p>	<p>"Tracking Vonu Back Home to Fiji" George Balazs, IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, Oceania Region, Honolulu, Hawaii USA; itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com</p> <p><i>Abstract: A photographic overview with brief descriptions will be given of all known sea turtle satellite trackings linked to or originating from the Fiji Islands.</i></p>
<p>1.35- 2.00pm</p>	<p>"Monitoring wildlife health in the Pacific" Thierry Work, IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, Oceania Region, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA; IUCN Wildlife Health Specialist Group</p> <p><i>Abstract: Terrestrial and marine ecosystems in the Pacific Islands are under increasing strains ranging from human encroachment to climate change. Unusual instances of wildlife mortalities and diseases are signals that something might be awry in the environment. Unfortunately, most such events are not investigated for various reasons ranging from lack of interest to lack of expertise. However, knowing what kills wildlife can have beneficial management outcomes for wildlife conservation, particular for endangered and threatened species, a phenomenon all too common in island ecosystems with their unique flora and fauna. Wildlife mortalities may, in some cases, also have important human health ramifications as a form of early detection of pathogen spillover from wildlife to humans. Examples of this in Hawaii are presented some of which might apply to Fiji.</i></p>