



ALL SAINTS CHAPEL

NOLA VILLAGE

REEF ISLAND

TEMOTU PROVINCE  
SOLOMON IS

26<sup>th</sup>-3-97

DEAR HIMB

HELLO YOU PEOPLE OF HIMB

THIS IS ME CASPER KALLO

VERY SURPRISING THINGS TO YOU

BUT NEVER MIND, THIS IS ABOUT THE  
THINGS YOU PUT ON THE TURTLE, I SAW  
THE TURTLE ON THE REEF OF OUR ISLAND

WHEN I'M GOING TO FIND SOME FISH FOR  
THE X-MAS FEAST, THEN I SAW THE  
TURTLE WHEN I WAS DIVING,

THE TURTLE WAS STILL BUSY FOR EATING  
THEN I DIVING TO IT, AND GRAB IT

SO THE TURTLE WAS NOT HURT

S-858

AND THEN I SAW THE BITS OF IRON YOU  
PUT THEM ON IT, SO I TAKE THEM HOME AND  
COPY THE WRITINGS, THEN I RELEASE IT  
AGAIN IN THE SEA, SO I THINKS

THATS ALL I CAN SAY

From

GOD BLESS YOU ALL

CASPER KALLO

S-858

ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE.



H I M B

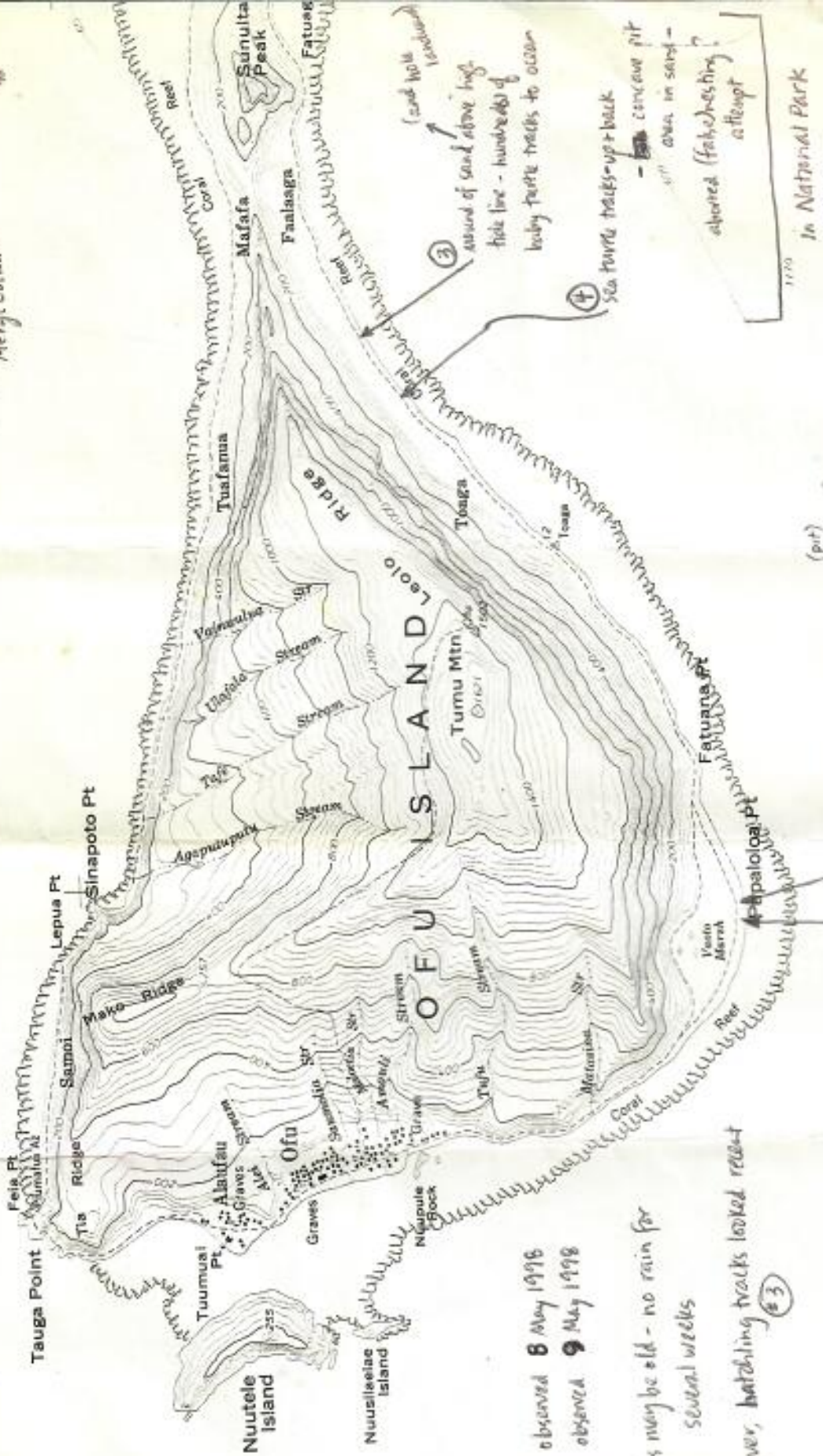
UNIVERSITY

HAWAII 96744

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Only walked southern coast beaches;  
 - northern beaches of Ofu not surveyed  
 - Olosega island not surveyed at all

American Samoa  
**MANUA ISLANDS** topo  
 sea turtle info prepared by  
 Meryll Goldwin



- ①+② observed 8 May 1998
- ③+④ observed 9 May 1998

tracks may be old - no rain for several weeks

however, hatching tracks looked recent ③

① sea turtle tracks - up + back

② sea turtle tracks - up r back - concave area in sand - abandoned nesting attempt?

③ mound of sand above high tide line - hundreds of baby turtle tracks to ocean (sand hole 150' diameter)

④ sea turtle tracks - up + back - ~~concave~~ concave pit - 4" area in sand - abandoned (falsely?) attempt

In National Park

+ in Vaoto Territorial Marine Reserve (paper park)

Received  
5/98

Dear George:

Attached are some notations re sea  
turtle nesting along the southern coast  
of Ofu.

I don't know which species it was,  
but I have someone going back who will  
compare tracks to a track guide from  
Australia (I'll let you know if anything  
comes of track ID.)

Meryl Goldin  
Goldin  
mgoldin@samoatelco.com

Box 4423  
PAGO PAGO AS 96799

P.S. What is your opinion re: #'s of turtles

nesting @ Padre Island Nat. Seashore this  
year?

Pastor PITA PULU  
P.O. Box 1599  
NUKUA'LOFA



GEORGE H. BALAZS  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Fisheries Science Center Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396  
(808)943-1221 • Fax: (808)943-1290

31 July 96

Dear Pastor Pita Pulu:

Thank you for your letter dated June 19, 1996. I appreciated hearing from you. However, I am eager to learn the number on the tag found on the sea turtle fished with your friend on May 2, 1996. The address is on one side of the tag, where you mailed your first letter [WRITE HIM B, UNIVERSITY, HAWAII 96744]. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TAG IS THE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER. SOMETIMES THERE IS AN ALPHABET PREFIX. PLEASE, SIR, WILL YOU BE KIND ENOUGH TO WRITE AND TELL ME THAT NUMBER? A REWARD T-SHIRT AND POSTER WILL BE SENT TO YOU FROM THE SPREP ORGANIZATION IN W. SAMOA, AFTER I RECEIVE THE NUMBER.

THANK YOU KINDLY FOR YOUR COOPERATION. I AM SENDING COPIES OF OUR LETTERS TO MY COLLEAGUE, MR. ANITIMOU PETELO, SENIOR FISHERIES OFFICER OF TONGA. ALOHA,

George H. Balazs  
2001/07/31



19/6/96.

Dear My Friends,

I'm sorry for take long time  
because we had conference here in  
Tonga - but what you need to here  
from me is ready to give to you

~~One~~ One of my friends here  
was doing all - this things.

The weight of the turtle is 188 Kg and  
two point.

long - 5 feet and 4 inst.

hight - 2 feet and 3 inst.

hands - 2 ft and 4 inst each.

feet - 1 ft and 8 inst each.

length - 3 ft and 9 inst.

My friends There are so many  
turtle - I saw the same sign this  
is the first time do me get this

biggest turtle - Sometime 168 kg turtle  
156 kg - I got on 2<sup>th</sup> of may - and

Thank you - for your help - love  
From P. L. P. L.

I saw many turtle, The part  
of Tonga where I live Nukunono  
the Capital. about five miles from  
my place - to where I fishing -  
I have no post -

If you  
help me with my friend - to  
build your department here -

We need to keep the turtle and -  
Build a place - in the sea - for fish -

But first first, We need ~~to~~

your help -> to tell me How

can you help me to my family -

My wife - my two children -> I have  
no house - only going fishing - help  
the church - here - Pastor -

Thank you - I'm glad to here  
from you again - Thank you.

God Bless you all -

love from your friend.

of Tonga where I live Nukunono  
the Capital. about five miles from  
my place - to where I fishing -  
I have no post -

If you  
help me with my friend - to  
build your department here -

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can you help me to my family -  
My wife - my two children -> I have  
no house - only going fishing - help  
the church - here - Pastor -

Thank you - I'm glad to have  
from you again - Thank you.

God Bless you all -  
love from your friend,  
Pastor Pitia Pulu.



I'm sorry for take long time  
because We had conference here in  
Tonga - but what you need to here  
from me is ready to give to you  
~~One~~ One of my friends here  
was doing all - this things.

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is the first time do me get the's  
biggest turtle - Sometime 168 kg turtle  
156 kg - I got on 2<sup>th</sup> of may - and  
Thank you - for your help - love  
from. Pita Pulu.



GREETINGS FROM  
THE KINGDOM OF TONGA

U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southwest Fisheries Science Center Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole St Honolulu Hawaii 96822-2396  
(808)943-1221 FAX (808)943-1290



Sendre

Pastor Pita Puluh,  
P.O. Box 1599,  
Nuku'alofa -  
Tonga Tapa -  
Tonga T.S.

**Christian Outreach Centre**

P.O. Box 1599,  
NUKU'ALOFA

Tonga

Received

5/22/96

Dear Sir, I write you a letter today. I hope you contact to me.

I went with my friends on 2<sup>th</sup> of May <sup>1996</sup> I was fishing and tiring I

got two turtle - big on - The other I was fine this adress -

I hope you will help us -

~~P. Post~~ My Name is Peter Pulu

A fisherman. Everyday I go fishing and here in Tonga they allow to fishing a turtle - I was suplies

when I saw this turtle - Theirs is a No - I want tells y

This adress was written one in front left hand and right feet. two -

That why I found - your adress very far to come from Hawaii. Thank you from. Pastor Pita Pulu.

To



WRITE HIMB  
UNIVERSITY  
HAWAII 96744



Dr George Balazs

Pastor Pita Pullu  
P.O. Box 1599  
Nukunono  
Tonga.

X-577  
Cherry Turtle tag (Lothaine Sadao - 1/19/96)

Turtle caught end of October <sup>1996</sup> near Ngemelis  
(S of Blue Corner)

Carapace about 5' long

Caught by Hendricks Jack from Pelilien

\* please send turtle info (from UH re. individual turtle)  
to Lothaine. (Wants to post info at Storyboard)

Audrey,

Pls call

George Balazs

for directions who

to give this to.

I sent a fax to him  
today (11/2).

Tel: 395 6409

Thanks,

Andrew.



Box 388,  
NAVUA.  
REPUBLIC of FIJI.  
31<sup>st</sup> MAY, 1999.

The Chancellor,  
HUMB University  
Hawaii.

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter to inform you of an information which might interest your Research Section on aquatic life.

Few months back we caught a "Hawksbill" turtle with this information:

- (i) Hawksbill Turtle
  - (ii) Tagged on a silver tag with the words & figures
    - (a) on one side - WRITE HUMB UNIVERSITY HAWAII
    - (b) on the other side - X-267
  - (iii) Weight 6 Kg
  - (iv) Length 14 inches
  - (v) CAUGHT: Shark's Reef entrance (2-3 mls from shore)
    - South West of Suva - adjacent to Serua Reef.
    - Caught by "hand" on a night diving trip
- \* We have put it back to the sea after taking weights & measures

We've enquired our Fisheries Dept and they know nothing about it. But our Navua Fisheries Section urged us to write over to you. If the tag is yours please reply again on the above address. Thanks you.  
Sincerely,

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Sincerely,

~~Peni Narana Jr.~~

PENI NARANA JR.

Par avion

AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

SUIVA  
-1.6.99  
F111

AH00.45  
POSTAGE  
PAID  
00.45



POST OFFICE  
SUVA  
1999

FOR ALL YOUR POSTAL NEEDS SEE US

best copy  
to  
Astrak

The Chancellor, <sup>George Jones</sup> (MINS)  
HIMB UNIVERSITY - HAWAII  
HAWAII

International

Air Mail

Air Mail

RETURN TO SENDER IF NOT CLAIMED: MR PENI NAKHAT (JR)

Box 388,  
NANUAH.

REPUBLIC OF FIJI



University,  
Hawaii.  
96744

Mizpah Avenue,  
Box 377,  
Savusavu.  
Fiji Islands.  
1st April, 1998.

Write Himb

Dear Sir,

I would like to inform you that I have found a small Hawksbill turtle of about 18 inches in length with your address on it. It was found about June, 1997 in good health at a little Bay in the second biggest Island of Fiji (Natewa Bay). Tag number x-964. I also like to inform you that by the same time, last year I was fishing 20 miles away from Natewa Bay with a group of fishermen when we found another Hawksbill turtle of the same size with the same address, but I could not recall the number on the other side of the tag. This one was very weak and only floating on the surface.

I hope this information will do a little help to your research.

Yours faithfully,  
*Edwin*

Sakaraia Gonelevu.

Air Mail



HONOLULU P&D CTR

HIMB

UNIVERSITY

HAWAII 96744

AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

Par avion

Air Mail

Par avion

Thanks Bill  
Fiji  
X964

HIMB

AUG 27 1999

P.O. Box 2693,  
Nadi  
Fiji Islands.

WRITE HIMB  
UNIVERSITY,  
9674,  
HAWAII.

The operation manager,  
Dear Sir.

I am writing this letter in regarding  
of the turtle tag no. 1-580 which I  
found lying dead on a fishing hook  
near the savana in Ba. So when  
I saw the tag no. I thought of writing  
a courtesy letter you that we have found  
the turtle and your experiment has become  
a successful one.  
For further information about this  
particular turtle please donot hesitate  
in writing to us on the above address.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully  
Shankar Lingam

S. Lingam

Par avion

AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION



Air Mail

WHITE HMB  
UNIVERSITY  
96744  
HAWAII.

Attn: GEORGE BAUM

HMB

AUG 27 1998



Air Mail





MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, FORESTS & ALTA  
Fisheries Division  
PO Box 4450 , Lautoka , Fiji

HIMB

JUN 9 1998

(Ref: )

Tel: (679) 665899  
Tlx: N/I  
Fax: (679) 667939  
Date: 1/6/98  
File: 34/4/7

The Professor  
Institute of Marine Resources  
University of Hawaii

Sir

RE : TURTLE TAG ( L - 612 )

A fisherman Mr. Jone Raita of Natawarau , Ba , Fiji spotted this dead Turtle with wounds on its neck at Udu Levu Reef near Teidamu Hill at Lautoka on 28/05/98 .

On closer examination he found the Turtle was tagged . Please find the enclosed Tag . The following particulars were obtained from the fisherman however the species of the Turtle was not determined :

1. Estimate Size of the Shell : 63.5 mm ( 30 inches )

2. Estimate Weight : 17 kg .

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you require further informations.

Regards .

Suresh Chand  
Fisheries Officer ( Western )

GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF FIJI

*for Balau*

THE PROFESSOR

INSTITUTE OF MARINE RESOURCES

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII 96744

HAWAII



**GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF FIJI**

*for Balce*

THE PROFESSOR

INSTITUTE OF MARINE RESOURCES

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII 96744

HAWAII



①

YADUA VILLAGE.

SIGATOKA.

12th JULY 1999

P.O. Box 827

SIGATOKA.

FJI ISLANDS.

DEAR MR HIMB,

"BULA" Its our word of greetings in Fiji. I do hope that you are well and in a good health. I am writing this letter at the place I worked just near my village. I am a thorough bred Fijian. I work as a Security Officer at our Company which process the coconut trucks and made furnitures. This is the only factory in the South Pacific that make this job.

Before I continue any further I want to let you know what I have found near my village at 11 AM on the 9th July 1999 just swimming on the entrance of the Reef which I speared and stuck on the neck that instantly killed it. It is a tortoise. I didn't see the mark which was pinned on the left limb until I arrived at my house to gutted it before the pot. This pin was written on one side: WRITE HIMB. UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII 98744 and another end is THE No. 238E.

12th July 1999

P.O. Box 827

SIGATOKA.

FIJI ISLANDS.

DEAR MR HIMB,

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So that is the reason I write to you and let you know what. PTO



MR HAMB.  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
98744

Attn: GEORGE  
BALAZ

Par avion

AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

HAWAII  
JUL 2 1969

Air Mail

8

(Cont.)

I have found near our Reef. I only follow the instruction on the piece of metal I found pinned on this turtle.

I do not know whether my letter will be any good to you and may give you any information that can help in anyway the movement of sea creatures. I do not know whether my address to you is correct or not.

I only follow the words written on the label which I do believe that it will be going on the wire track and reach you in good time.

I do believe that you may expect some information regarding your job at the university which in any case my letter can shed some information you may require on your job.

I attached a Fiji Times leaflet to show the exact spot where I found the turtle.

I sincerely do hope that you can inform me if you have received my letter.

Yours faithfully

SOMEKETA NIA

I have found near our Reef. I only follow the instruction on the piece of metal I found pinned on this turtle.

I do not know whether my letter will be any good to you and may give you any information that can help in anyway the movement of sea creatures. I do not know whether my address to you is correct or not

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Yours faithfully

APIMELEKI T. NIU  
Box 827. SIGATOKA.  
FIJI ISLANDS.





U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Fisheries Science Center Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396  
(808)943-1221 • Fax: (808)943-1290

July 11, 1994

F/SWC2:ghb

Mr. Richard Namelson  
Agriculture Department  
Vemali  
S.E. Ambrym  
Vanuatu, S.W. Pacific

Dear Mr. Namelson:

I am writing to formally thank you for reporting our tagged turtle K625 that was found ashore dead with head and one flipper missing at Ambrym Island, Vanuatu, on 1 April 1994. We are most appreciative that you took the time to notify us of this important recovery.

The turtle that you discovered was originally tagged on 5 November 1994 at Rose Atoll in American Samoa. The turtle, an adult female green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), was originally tagged and measured while she was laying eggs at this important breeding site. In early November 1993 I spent four days at Rose Atoll with Dr. Peter Craig and his staff of the American Samoa Division of Marine and Wildlife Resources. Our principal objective of this trip was to attach small satellite transmitters to the shells of three nesting green turtles. We were able to successfully accomplish this work and determine the turtles' routes and swimming behaviors to their home foraging pastures. All three animals swam to the Fiji Islands, averaging only about 1.8 k/hr on their journey. A paper describing this important work has been enclosed for you information.

As promised, I have enclosed a t-shirt with a sea turtle logo as a small token of our appreciation for telling us about the turtle you found. Please write to us again if you find or hear about any other tagged turtles being recovered in Vanuatu. By copy of this letter, I am requesting that additional literature on sea turtles be sent to you by the Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Program of SPREP (South Pacific Regional Environment Program), based in Apia, Western Samoa.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist and Leader,  
Marine Turtle Research Program

cc  
Peter Craig  
Sue Miller, SPREP  
Col Limpus





WAIKIKI  
AQUARIUM

6/16/93 Sally  
9.7kg  
44 cm x 39 cm

June 21, 1994

HONOLULU

TO: George Sakas  
Chief Technician, BIP

FROM: Bruce Carlson, Director  
Waikiki Aquarium

The information you are providing me regarding the  
presence of a group of Hawaiian monk seals who  
have been seen in the area of the National  
Marine Sanctuary, I will be happy to provide you  
with any information I can provide to you. I will  
be glad to meet with you on any date you wish.

Thank you; I'm sure the information will prove to be very  
interesting to those people who are tracking turtles around the  
islands.

Hope you can get back to see you this coming November after our  
Hawaiian Islands trip -- I'll stay in touch.

Phone Fax	925-1771
George Sakas	B.C.
	925-9741
943-1270	925-1771

# FACSIMILE MESSAGES

The University of the South Pacific, P.O. Box 1168, Suva, Fiji Islands. FAX: (679) 301 490  
MARINE STUDIES PROGRAMME

From: Chief Technician

To: Bruce Carlson  
Waikiki Aquarium  
University of Hawaii  
2777 Kalakaua Avenue,  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815-4027

Fax: (808) 923.1771

Date: 20/6/1995.

Subject: re Turtle Caught in the Claw Trap.

Dear Bruce,

Sorry to trouble you, but it seems that you are the only contact we have in the University of Hawaii.

Information was received from a school teacher (Jane Osborne) of

Waikiki, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96815-4027 and

she has a turtle which was caught in the claw trap.

The turtle is a female, approximately 100mm in length.

It was found on the beach at Waikiki, Honolulu, Hawaii.

It is very healthy and appears to be a juvenile.

It is very important that you contact us as soon as possible.

Thank you very much for your help.

Yours faithfully,

*[Signature]*

Chief Technician



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Fisheries Science Center Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396  
(808)943-1221 • Fax: (808)943-1290

T-shirt  
sent  
7/8/94

June 13, 1994

F/SWC2:ghb

Reverend Kumar Sarwan  
B.P. 10  
Pouebo 98 824  
New Caledonia

Dear Reverend Kumar Sarwan:

Thank you for your letter of 16 May 1994 written on behalf of Mr. Theayouen Philippe, a fisherman of Belep Island, New Caledonia. We are most appreciative to receive the information about tagged turtle S318 and S319 harpooned on 27 April 1994 off the island Balabio.

This turtle (a green turtle- Chelonia mydas) was originally tagged while nesting on 28 October 1991 at Motu Oia, Scilly Atoll to the northwest of Tahiti in French Polynesia. The turtle was tagged by the resident caretaker of Scilly, Mr. Rene Taputu. The tagging of sea turtles in this manner is carried out to determine their ocean movements and other important aspects of their biology. The work being conducted at Scilly Atoll is in collaboration with the regional marine turtle conservation and research project of the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) based in Apia, Western Samoa. The scientists in Tahiti that are overseeing the tagging study at Scilly Atoll are Mr. Philippe Siu and Mr. Jean-Pierre Landret of the Etablissement pour la Valorisation des Activites Aquacoles et Maritimes (EVAAM).

During early October 1991 I was able to travel to Scilly Atoll with Mr. Siu and Mr. Landret to provide some professional advice to SPREP regarding this important nesting location. Although SPREP has their own tags used on sea turtles, there was a shortage at that time. Consequently, we left several hundred tags at Scilly from the supply that I normally use here in the Hawaiian Islands. It was those tags that were attached to the large nesting female green turtle that Mr. Philippe captured at Balabio.

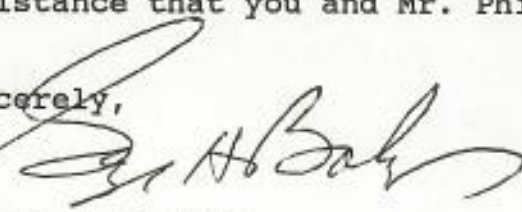
My tags bear the inscription of the University of Hawaii's Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) because I worked there as a researcher from 1971-83. I continue to have close ties with HIMB, and the staff kindly informs me of any letters received relating to tag recoveries of sea turtles. As you know, the tags are very small with only limited space for a return address. The brief and simple inscription that we have used now for 20 years (Write HIMB, University Hawaii, Kaneohe 96744) has been ideal ensuring that letters are delivered to us.



We would be interested to know if Mr. Philippe, or other fishermen in the area, have ever caught other turtles with tags attached to their flippers. Are turtles regularly captured and eaten at Belep Island? Are there special areas where fishermen from Belep go to harpoon turtles? Thank you for any additional information that you can supply on these important subjects.

In a separate package I will be sending a T-shirt with a sea turtle design as a small gift for Mr. Philippe for reporting the tagged turtle. Again, we express our appreciation for the assistance that you and Mr. Philippe have given.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs  
Zoologist and Leader,  
Marine Turtle Research Program

cc  
P. Siu and J. Landret  
S. Miller, SPREP  
C. Limpus  
G. Grau, HIMB



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Fisheries Science Center Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396  
(808)943-1221 • Fax: (808)943-1290

July 11, 1994

F/SWC2:ghb

Mme Marie Douperere  
B.P. 58  
98832 Vao  
Ile des Pins  
New Caledonia

Dear Mme Marie Douperere:

I sincerely apologize for the delay in writing to you with additional information about the tagged green turtle (Chelonia mydas) number S197 captured on 4 April 1994 at Baie d'ufi at Vao in Ile des Pins. Dr. Tony Lewis of the South Pacific Commission in Noumea has kindly forwarded to me a copy of your helpful letter of 26 April 1994. I am most appreciative to have this information, since the tag used on the turtle was supplied by my research program, working in collaboration with the South Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP).

Turtle S197 was originally tagged at Motu One (also called Bellingshausen) located about 600 km to the northwest of Tahiti. The atoll of Motu One is the northern-most possession of French Polynesia. In the past small numbers of Tahitians lived there to make copra, however, the atoll is now uninhabited.

During October of 1991 I was able to travel to Motu One as a visiting sea turtle scientist courtesy of SPREP and Mr. Philippe Siu of the Etablissement por la Valorisation des Activities Aquacoles et Maritimes (EVAAM). While at Motu One, Mr. Siu and I tagged 3 green turtles that had come ashore to lay eggs. There were 8 people living at Motu One at that time and, upon our departure, I left a supply of tags with instructions on how to attach them to nesting turtles. Your turtle S197 was tagged by these residents sometime during November 1991. Unfortunately, during early December 1991 Hurricane WASA with winds exceeding 180 km/hr passed over Motu One causing great destruction. However, I am happy to say that all of the residents were safely evacuated by military helicopters just prior to the storm's arrival.

The detailed information that you gave in your letter about turtle S197 was exceedingly valuable to our research. After leaving Motu One, turtle S197 migrated about 3,200 km to Ile des Pins, where presumably the animal returned to forage on marine vegetation. Other adult green turtles that have been tagged in past years while nesting in French Polynesia (mainly at Scilly Atoll, a short distance from Motu One) have also been recaptured far to the west. These sites have included Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, and New Caledonia.



In your letter you asked about the age of large adult green turtles, such as S197. The results of research on growth rates in the wild conducted in Australia, Hawaii, and elsewhere indicate that from 20-50 years are necessary to reach adulthood. Since green turtles are principally vegetarians, their diets are low in protein thereby resulting in slow growth and delayed sexual maturity. As requested in your letter to Dr. Lewis, I have enclosed some literature that provides interesting information about the biology and life history of sea turtles.

When your time permits, I would greatly appreciate learning what method was used to capture turtle S197. Are large green turtles or other species of sea turtles commonly taken for food in Ile des Pins? Have other turtles with tags ever been captured? If you know about other turtles with tags found in Ile des Pins, please write down the numbers and send them to me. I will determine when and where the tags were attached to the turtles, and write to you with this information. The tags do not have to be inscribed with the Hawaii address in order for me to determine when and where the turtles were tagged. Thank you for any additional assistance you can provide in this important matter of tags being recovered from turtles.

As a token of our appreciation for reporting turtle S197, in the near future I will be sending you a t-shirt with a sea turtle design. I look forward to hearing from you. In closing, I should mention that in 1979 I visited your beautiful Ile des Pins for a short time after attending a meeting at the South Pacific Commission headquarters in Noumea. It was an enjoyable trip that I will long remember.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist and Leader,  
Marine Turtle Research Program

cc  
A.D. Lewis, SPC  
Sue Miller, SPREP  
Col Limpus  
P. Siu

George H. Balass  
National Marine Fisheries  
Service, Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole Street  
Honolulu Hawaii.

①

Selwyn Rae  
Saint John the Baptist  
Mineri Village  
Santa Cruz.  
Tamatua Province

23rd August 1993

Dearest,

George, thank you once again for taking the time to write to me regarding the sea turtle with tags X378 and X379. I am sorry I could not reply your letter at the earliest possible, due to the fact that I had just returned from Nupani Island where the turtle was found, back to Santa Cruz a distance of about 30 kmiles. Upon receiving your letter I could not find an possible transport to give the reply of the letter, as communication is very difficult. However thank you for enclosing the same of 2 dollars us and for informing Suzie Germans about the turtle, she has just send me her letter with a beautiful t-shirt. So thank you once again for informing her. I am please once again to inform you that the same turtle was found or caught again by me on the 10th January 1993 while diving for fish at night. The turtle was caught sleeping near a huge stone, this time I could not save its life any more. The turtle was kill and eaten the same day it was found but the tag numbers are with me. Greatful if you could inform me again of what to do with it. because somebody working in the Fisheries department here in the Solomons what's me to give him the tag numbers and he will pay me with an amount of five hundred dollars \$500. However I did not give him the tag numbers despite the big amount. Finally greatful to hear from you again and for I will be very happy if you could send me some some more t-shirt because people in my village really like the advertisement on



Mr. George H. Balazs  
National Marine Fisheries  
Service, Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole Street  
Honolulu Hawaii, 96822-2396.

②

the t shirt. please send me the following sizes  
medium and small size. I look forward to hear  
from you soon, or I am sorry I did not answer  
the questions because you had already ans  
answered it. but I look forward to answer future  
questions if arise from you again.

hear from you soon  
regards

Delwyn Sae

Sae



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Fisheries Science Center Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396  
(808)943-1221 • Fax: (808)943-1290

June 13, 1994

F/SWC2:ghb

P.O. Box 25  
Dr. A. D. Lewis  
Oceanic Fisheries Coordinator  
South Pacific Commission  
Noumea, New Caledonia

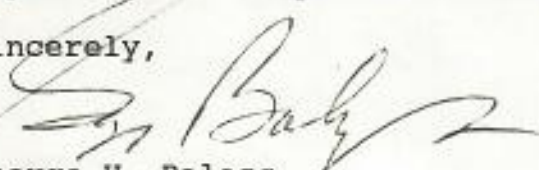
Dear Tony:

I am writing to thank you and to provide some additional information on tagged turtle S197 that you reported to me in your fax of 6 April 1994. It had been indicated that this turtle was captured at Baie de Upi, I'lle des Pins, on 5 April 1994, as reported by a Mme Marie Douperre.

After contacting Philippe Siu and Jean-Pierre Landret of EVAAM in Tahiti, I was able to positively determine that the turtle had been tagged with my tags S197/S198 while nesting at Motu One (Bellingshausen) during November 1991. The turtle was a green turtle, Chelonia mydas, measuring 101 cm in curved carapace length. When I visited Motu One for two days with Philippe in October of 1991, we taught the eight native residents how to tag turtles. We left tags, applicators, measuring tape, and data forms when we departed. Unfortunately, a devastating storm (Hurricane Wasa) passed over Motu One two months later in early December 1991. All of the residents were safely but permanently evacuated to Tahiti by military helicopter.

It was unclear to me if any tagging by the residents had been accomplished at Motu One. But now, as the result of your letter and clarification received from Philippe and Jean-Pierre, it is clear that some turtles were indeed marked at this remote location. I trust that you will relay this information to Mme Marie Douperre. I assume that the turtle was killed and eaten, but it would be worthwhile to confirm this point. Also, the method of capture. In the near future I will send you a T-shirt with a sea turtle logo as a small reward for Mme Douperre for reporting this important information.

Sincerely,

  
George H. Balazs  
Zoologist and Leader,  
Marine Turtle Research Program

cc  
P. Siu and J.-P. Landre  
Sue Miller, SPREP



TO . MR - GEORGE H : BALAZS  
ZOOLOGIST MARINE TURTLE  
RESEARCH .

NO  
DATE ON April 25 - 1996 .

Dear George Balazs

Thank you for answered my letter  
I want to explain how . . . and TURTLES areas .  
I hope you see all maps in this letters  
I want to explain One by One and Drawed  
TURTLES areas at Papua Newguinea Island . -

Papua newguinea island to have many small islands  
at South Pacific , Almost THOUSAND small islands .  
That small islands to hold many turtles - Please see  
TURTLES areas in this maps . and Place I to caught -  
TURTLES NUMBER I . 141 . and Please see Biak Island  
and Yapen Island in this map . Can you see Place .  
Which I to caught That Turtle . Number I . 141 .

### ATTENTION .

DEAR GEORGE , I and my Friend want to care or to protect  
That animals . But Almost DESTROYED , Because many  
People to killed That animals . So we are want to protect , -  
but we are NOT make something . Because we are -  
haven't cost or expenditure FOR protect That  
animals , I "m very waiting Next your information

NO. ....

DATE .....

DEAR GEORGE . . . THIS IS MY ADDRESS AT MY VILLAGE .

NAME : ABRAHAM : MERANI  
DESA TINDARET  
KECAMAT YAPEN TIMUR . 98211 .  
IRIAN - JAYA - INDONESIA

But This is My JOB ADDRESS :

ABRAHAM . MERANI  
FI-03351 FREEPORT INDONESIA INC  
Barak I-327 - Tembagapura 98100.  
IRIAN JAYA - INDONESIA .



Please MAIL TO My JOB ADDRESS . I'm Always  
waiting your letters

I'M TO MEET YOU NEXT LETTER .

THANK VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION .

VERY TRULY YOURS .

( A : MERANI )

SOUTH PACIFIC



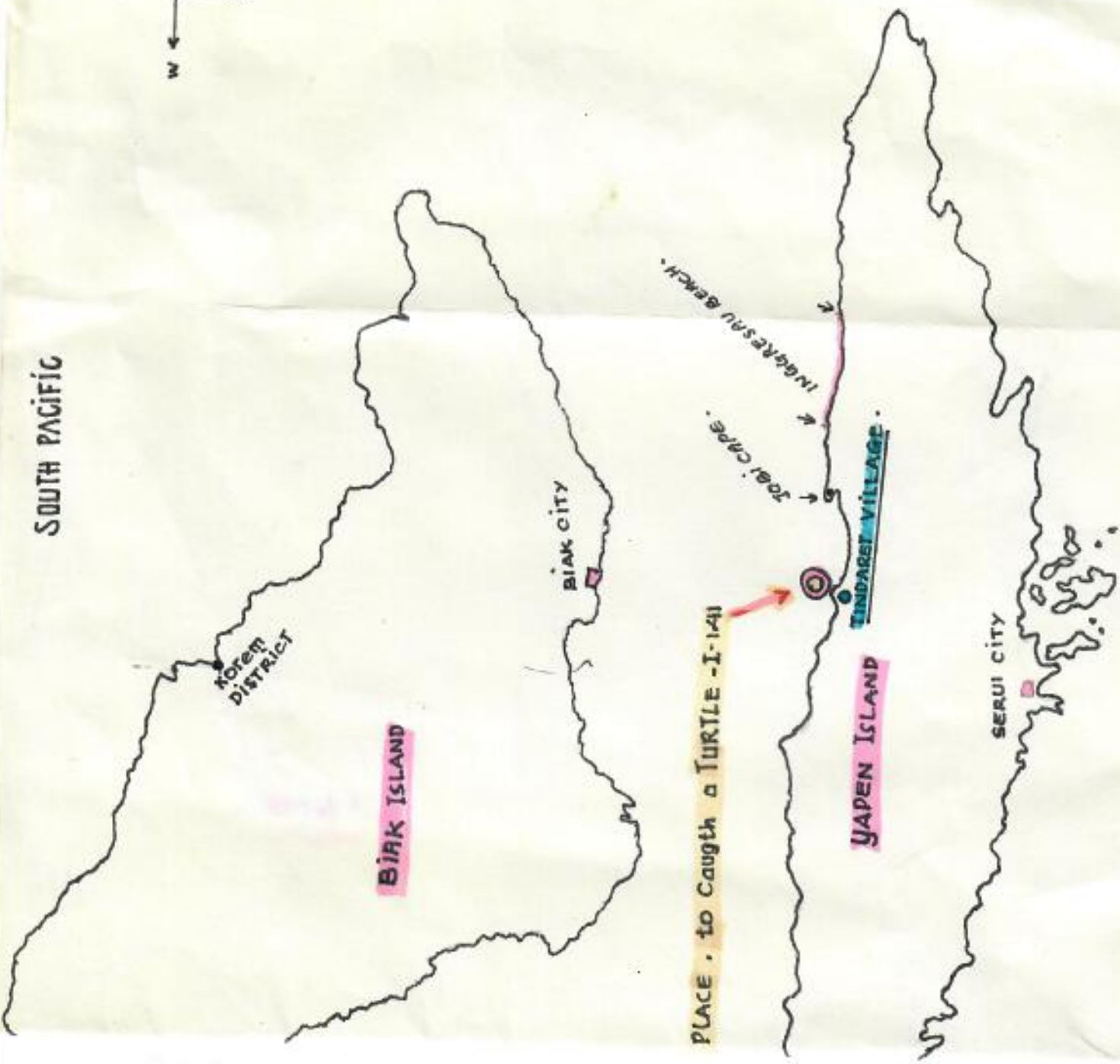
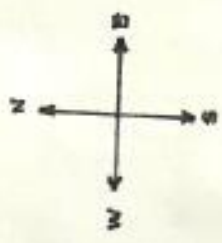
**LATITUDE** : FROM E TO W - 136° - 36  
**LONGITUDE** : FROM N TO S - 4° 42.

THIS IS PLACE . TO CAUGHT A TURTLE - I-141



IRIAN JAYA

SOUTH PACIFIC



BIRK ISLAND

KOREM DISTRICT

BIAK CITY

PLACE TO CAUGHT A TURTLE - I-141

JAPAN ISLAND

TINDARET VILLAGE

JOAI CAPE

INAGRESNU BEACH

SERUI CITY

SOUTH PACIFIC



LENGTH BEACH : 11 KM .  
KORDINATE N 1° 42' S 1° 44' E 136° 26' W 136° 21'

**JAPAN ISLAND**



SOUTH PACIFIC



INGOREJRU BEACH  
NESTING BEACH

JOAI CAPT.

SERUI CITY

JAPEN ISLAND





SOUTH PACIFIC



MAPIA ISLAND



IRIAN JAYA



FANILDO ISLAND

BEARSI ISLAND

MAPIA ISLAND



WIDE CORAL  
WIDE ISLAND  
KORDINATE

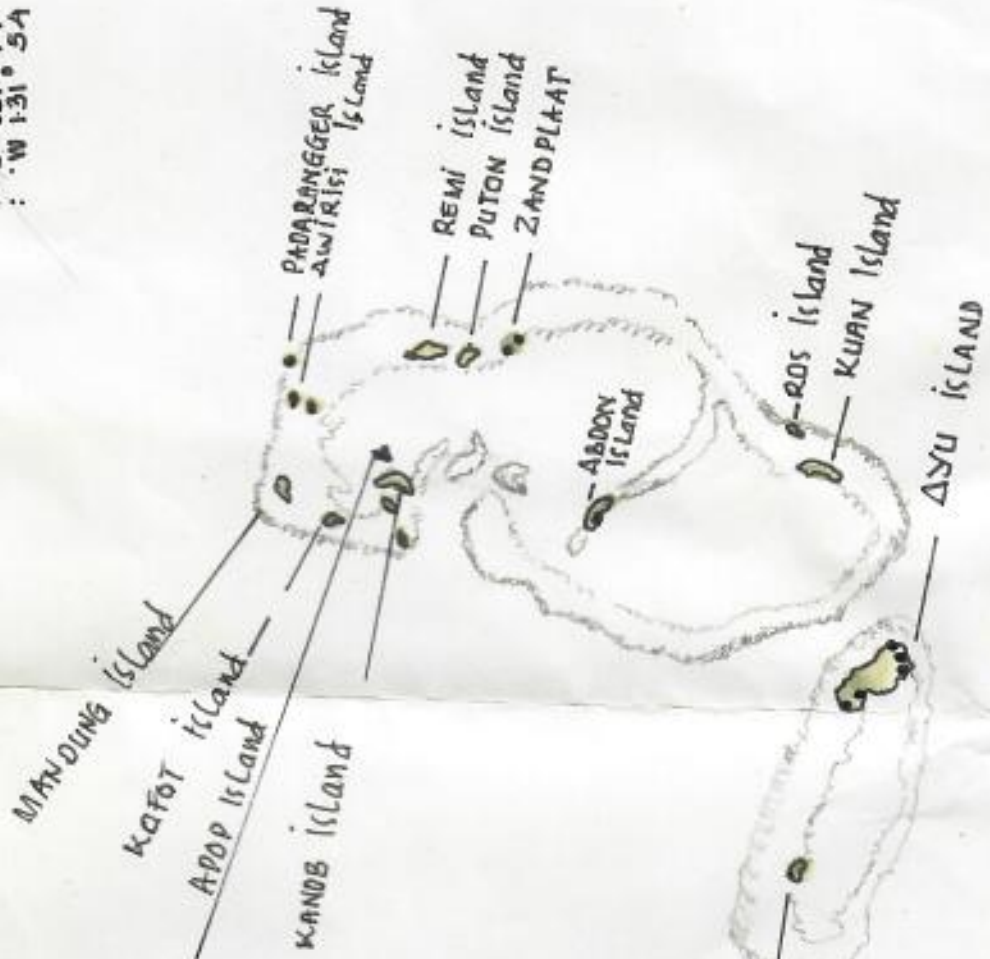
- : 255 Mm
- : 3-760 Ha
- : N 0° 57'
- S 0° 48'
- E 134° 21'
- W 134° 17'

NESTING BEACH

# AYU ISLAND



WIDE COASTAL : 11.875 Ha.  
 KORDINATE : N 1° 01',  
 : S 0° 59',  
 : E 131° 14',  
 : W 131° 54'



UR ROS Island

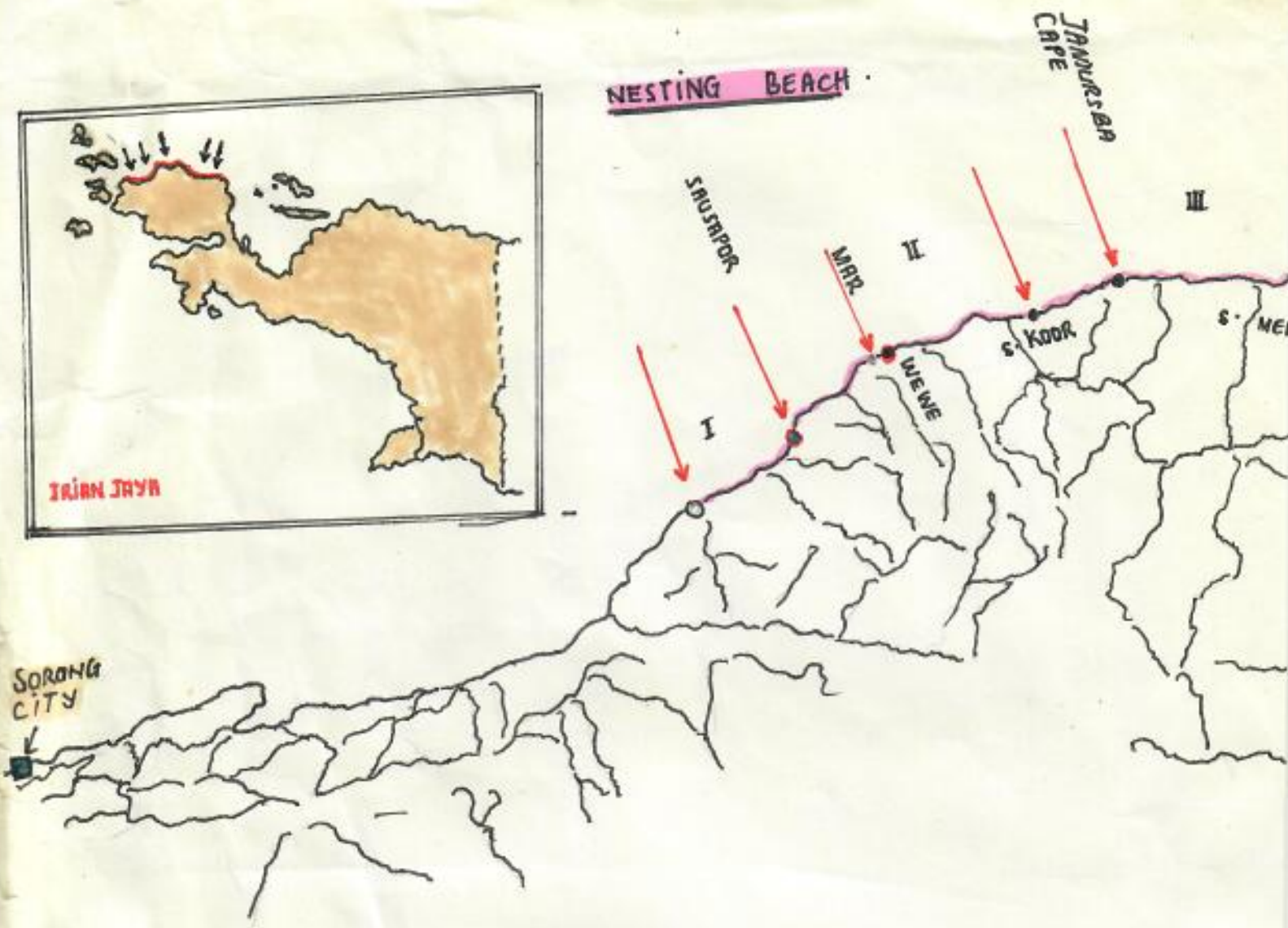
AYU ISLAND



## TURTLES AREA



NESTING BEACH



① NAME : SALSAPOR DISTRICT  
 LENGTH BEACH : 14 KM  
 KOORDINATE : N) 0° 29'  
                   : S) 0° 34'  
                   : E) 132° 05'  
                   : W) 131° 59'

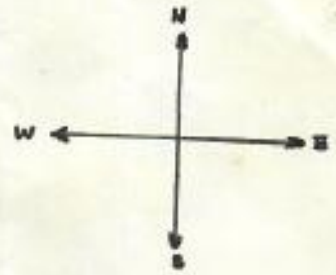
② NAME : WEWE - KOOR  
 LENGTH BEACH : 20 KM.  
 KOORDINATE : N) 0° 32'  
                   : S) 0° 25'  
                   : E) 123° 05'  
                   : W) 132° 10'

⑤ NAME : Sidei - Wibain x  
 KOORDINATE : N) 0° 43'  
                   : S) 0° 45'  
                   : E) 133° 45'  
                   : W) 133° 35'  
 BEACH : 18 KM

NESTING BEACH - TURTLES AREA.



SOUTH PACIFIC



NAME : JAMURBA - MANDI  
 LENGTH BEACH : 28 KM.  
 KOORDINATE : N) 0° 20'  
 : S) 0° 22'  
 : E) 132° 39'  
 : W) 132° 25'

④ NAME : MUBRANI - KAIRONI  
 LENGTH BEACH : 20 KM  
 KOORDINATE : N) 0° 44'  
 : S) 0° 45'  
 : E) 133° 38'  
 : W) 133° 34'

# Marine Turtle Newsletter

Number 41 September 1987

Editor: Nat B. Frazer  
Department of Biology  
Mercer University  
1400 Coleman Avenue  
Macon, GA 31207 USA

Associate Editor: John P. Eylers

Editorial Board: Peter C. H. Pritchard, Anders G. J. Rhodin, Harold F. Hirth, N. Mrosovsky

## REPORT FROM OROLUK

Oroluk is a low coral atoll in the Caroline Islands in the mid-Pacific region. It is located about 1600 km ESE of Guam and about 300 km east from Pohnpei Island. This small island (18 hectares) historically has had large numbers of nesting green turtles, and Pritchard (1977) felt Oroluk was the most important nesting ground in the state. From June through July 1985 and May through August 1986 turtles were tagged and their activities watched.

The arrival of turtle project personnel on Oroluk in May 1986 was a sad day for them. The residents of the island (7 people) killed three female turtles and cooked turtle eggs to take with them on the field trip ship back to Pohnpei. Project staff also found that two turtles tagged in May 1985 were eaten in August of the same year.

During the 1986 period, some preliminary work was done to protect two nests with wire cages and to look at hatching success. Humerus bones were collected, and forwarded to Dr. George Balazs of US National Marine Fisheries Service in Honolulu.

So far, one turtle tagged during the project has been seen elsewhere. A 99 cm female was tagged while nesting on Oroluk 2 June 1986 and laid 72 eggs. The turtle was captured alive in Nan-Way Bay in Taiwan on 18 April 1987.

It should be noted that for 1985 observations, turtle nesting averaged 2.3 nests/month, and in 1986, 3.4 nests/month were seen. This is considerably fewer than the 9-15 nests per night reported by Pritchard (1977). We do not know if the current nesting pattern has two peaks in December-January and June-July as has been reported. Nesting (maybe some false crawls) is reported by Oroluk residents all year round.

By law, FSM citizens are allowed to take green turtles greater than 34 inches except during

June-August and December-January, but commercial sales are illegal. The impact on the turtles by the residents of Oroluk is certainly great. Changing technology has also resulted in making catching turtles easier (McCoy 1974, 1981). Other people (from Truk and Pohnpei, for example) now have boats which can easily go to Oroluk to fish and possibly take turtles and turtle eggs. There have also been reports of dynamite fishing off the atoll reefs.

At the end of the 1986 project, workers made several recommendations to Pohnpei State government about the turtles of Oroluk. The sandy beach facing the ocean should be left out for turtle nesting ground and houses and pig pens moved inland. Pigs and dogs should be kept in fences or tied up. A proposal is being made to make Oroluk a sanctuary for wildlife, but state finances are very limited.

Funding for the turtle tagging project has been irregular. The past two years the project has been funded by Pohnpei Economic Development Authority, Pohnpei Marine Resources Division, a private grant from Ms. Donna Matson (Western Instructional Television, Los Angeles), and organized by Teresa Herring, a US Peace Corps volunteer. While a proposal to establish monitoring has been made, no funding has been granted for 1987. Attempts are also being made to make Oroluk a marine sanctuary (including seabirds and turtles). Project workers are continuing to seek sources of funding for the project, as well as for educational materials which can be used for turtle conservation education.

TABLE 1.

	<u>JUNE '85</u>	<u>JULY '85</u>
Turtles Tagged	2	2
Tagged Turtle Nests	1	2
Tagged False Crawls	2	

TABLE 2.

	<u>April '86</u>	<u>May '86</u>	<u>June '86</u>	<u>July '86</u>	<u>August '86</u>
Turtles Tagged	1	5	3	2	0
Tagged Turtle Nests	0	2	8	2	1
Tagged False Crawls	1	4	1	3	0

McCoy, M. A. 1974 Man and turtle in the central Carolines. *Micronesica* 10 (2)

McCoy, M. A. 1981 Subsistence hunting of turtles in the western Pacific; The Caroline Islands. In Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles, K. A. Bjorndal, ed., Washington D.C.; Smithsonian Institution Press.

Pritchard, P. C. 1977 Marine Turtles of Micronesia San Francisco; Chelonia Press

CLAY EDSON and FLINN CURREN, Marine Resources Division, P.O. Box B, Kolonia, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia 96941



24 JUL 1996

5/1/96  
RML



**GRAND PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE, LTD.**

*A member of the Finance Factors Family*

WADSWORTH Y. H. YEE, J.D.  
President  
Chief Executive Officer

July 22, 1996

Dr. Michael Laurs  
Director  
NMFS  
Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Dr. Laurs:

I had a wonderful experience of a turtle befriending me last Sunday. He was very friendly to the extent of taking food from my hand. I hope he returns again so that I can continue to feed it. I noticed a tag on the turtle's rear left fin, but I chose not to capture him to check the identification as I want him to continue to return.

I thought you would be interested to know about this pleasant experience of mine. For your information, the pier fronts my home located at 44-221A Mikiola Drive in Kaneohe.

Sincerely,

  
WADSWORTH YEE

WY:ly

Enclosure







**GRAND PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE, LTD.**

*A member of the Finance Factors Family*

1164 Bishop Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2810



HONOLULU P&D CTR #07/23/96\*22:19\* DCR #1 \*

Dr. Michael Laurs  
Director  
NMFS  
Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822



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I

10/7/97




# Christian Outreach Centre Of Tonga

Senior Pastor: Pita & Vea Pulu  
Phone No.: 22-141  
(Longolongo)



P.O. Box 1599  
Nuku'alofa  
Tonga Is  
South Pacific

Dear Sir, I'm writing to you about the turtle that we finded 6<sup>th</sup> of march 1997. → I everything and detail of last year - is the same Kg and and same size → Me and the orther two fishermen going tithing turtle. I took turtle and leave them to go on 7<sup>th</sup> of march 1997 - but - I saw on of his legg was cut by shark His both hand is still good - one hand - I saw maybe someone was ~~band~~ <sup>band</sup> like this →  the other hand is still good - I love this turtle - I didnt hunt him - I like he was sleepin on




# Of Tonga

Senior Pastor: Pita & Vea Pulu

Phone No.: 22-141

(Longolongo)

P.O. Box 1599  
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I'm a pastor of one church here  
but I keep the number of the  
turtle. unless, I can hear from  
you. I will not give the number  
of a tag - to someone - last year  
I gave to fishermen; Because this  
year - two friend of fishing told  
me to kill your turtle - I stop him  
I gave two hundred to some one  
and the other one was 3 hundred.  
So they told me to leave the turtle  
I was pray for him befor I put  
them to the sea. those two man  
are here; How can you help  
us to know that your turtle  
is coming back to you - but I  
wrote the number and I saw the same  
adress on may last year - but the tag  
the turtle is stick I didnt took  
it of -



# Christian Outreach Centre Of Tonga

Senior Pastor: Pita & Ve'a Pulu  
Phone No.: 22-141  
(Longolongo)

P.O. Box 1599  
Nuku'alofa  
Tonga Is  
South Pacific

The new about Tonga - they like  
the turtle meat fat and all kind  
of turtle. I was fishing on 1984  
So today - I keep on fishing. Some-time  
I use the rope when the turtle is sleep-  
his not hurt. When the turtle is running  
he did quick because we use the spear-  
I'm sorry about last year - I'm keep on  
looking for helping your turtle - I'm very  
sad last year - because you gave my  
letter ~~to~~ to the fisheries - I told them  
but I didn't told the number -  
I love say thanks your help -  
I help you now - to releas your  
turtle - If the fisherise come I told  
them I forgot the number - but I  
keep in my mind - unless you and me

The best things I want to tell  
you; There are hundred turtle  
I saw and see ever year -  
Maybe you don't believe me, I  
promise; My friend didn't know  
that only me & five gave on a  
rock I know - no one know - I  
hide; One gave two or three turtle  
are sleep there, Today If I jack  
the gave and see your turtle -  
What I'm going to do. If you  
write to me and tell me about  
your help me → I will keep on  
write If I found another one →

I hope you fine well and happy  
when you find my letter → I  
know you need the number -  
I keep well the number in my  
heart → my mine - I wait, How  
you think, about I help you -

The last things I want to tell  
you; There are hundred turtle  
I saw and see ever year -  
Maybe you don't believe me, I  
promise; My friend didn't know  
that only me & five gave on a  
rock I know - no one know - I  
hide; One gave two or three turtle  
are sleep there, Today If I jack  
the gave and see your turtle -  
What I'm going to do. If you  
write to me and tell me about  
your help me, I will keep on  
write If I found another one →

I hope you fine well and happy  
when you find my letter → I  
know you need the number -  
I keep well the number in my  
heart → my mine - I wait, How  
you think, about I help you -  
today - Thank you - God bless.



fast POST  
PARCEL



My 13thly

write Himb

University

HAWAII 96744

Dear Sir,

On 13 of Dec 50 1996  
I caught a TORTOISE in my Fishing Net.  
TORTOISE NO M-716.

Write back for my address  
please.

'ATELEA VEAMATAHAU,  
HOLONGA,  
TONGATAPU,  
TONGA IS.

MY DOOR NUMBER ph NO 32-373 OR 32229.

May God Give you a Good Christmas  
and a happy new year.

I'm 32 year old I'm marry I got five kid  
three girls two boys  
please write for me for a friend.  
Thanks Steve on Tokian.

fast POST  
PAR AVION

TO,

WRITE HIMP,  
University,  
Hawaii 96744.

→ George Balazs  
(NMFS)





TONGA BLESS.

27/16



NIUATOPUTAPU ISLAND

TO TAFahi ISLAND  
(5 miles)



Satuna (Christianity Landing Place)

Makamisi

HIKUNIU

FALEHAU

Ve'emalo

Hehaa Atatuka

Faka'ehotaha

Toma Beach

Namolimiu Pt.

Mafu Ridge

Fo'imou Ridge

Muhua Ridge

VAIHOA

MUTOUA

SPRING

MATA'ARO

AIRPORT

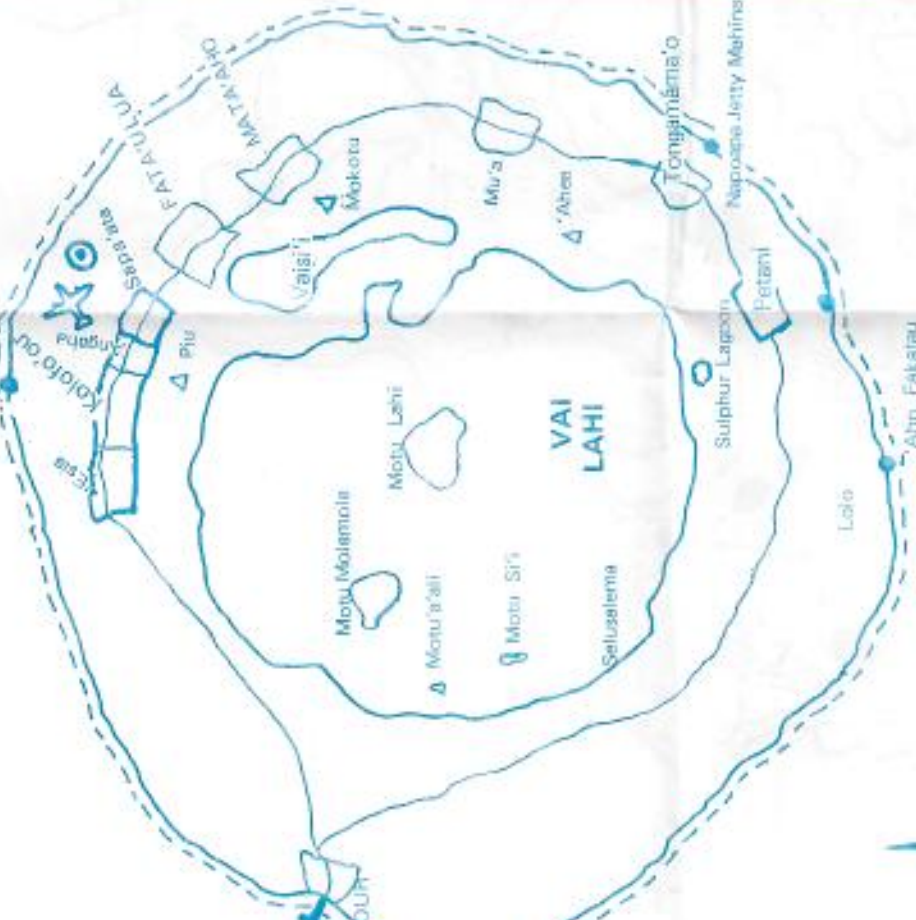
Hungana

Tavili

Sandy Beaches

NIUAFO'OU ISLAND  
(TIN CAN ISLAND)

SILA (OLD HARBOUR)



AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

Need phone  
to



HIMB UNIVERSITY  
HAWAII, 96744.  
Attn: GEORGE BAAZ

To:  
HIMB  
MAY 30 2000

96744/3383

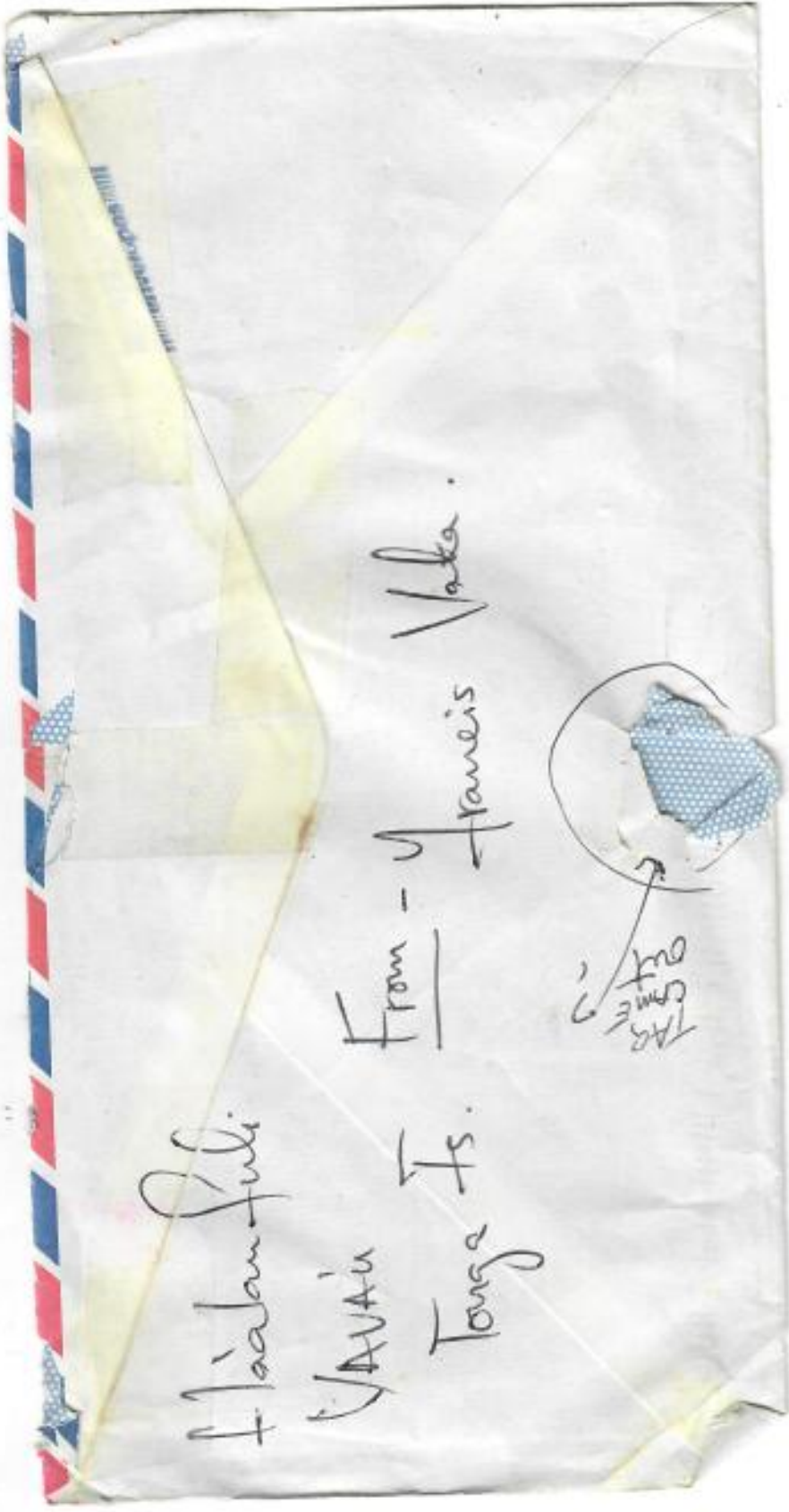


Miaalam Fuli

VAUVAU  
Tonga Is.

From - y Francis Vaka.

TAO  
SAME  
out  
?





Tout box



L'INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DE RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE  
POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT EN COOPERATION

**CENTRE DE NOUMÉA**

Boite postale A5, 98848 Nouméa cedex  
NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE

☎ (687) 26 10 00 Fax (687) 26 43 26

NEW CALEDONIA

**PRIORITAIRE**  
PRIORITY

A-34



UNITE CALÉDONIE  
POSTES  
DE 20789  
0130

WRITE HIMB  
UNIVERSITY HAWAII 96744  
U.S.A

FONDON ATORTLE IN NEW CALEDONIA  
225-165E IN OCTOBER 97



PLEASE CONTACT  
ME IF EXTRA  
INFORMATION IS  
NEEDED  
REGARDS  
S-DELCAN x

Tout va bien



L'INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DE RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE  
POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT EN COOPÉRATION

**CENTRE DE NOUMÉA**

Boîte postale A5, 98848 Nouméa cedex  
NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE

☎ (687) 26 10 00 Fax (687) 26 43 26

NEW CALEDONIA

**PRIORITAIRE**  
PRIORITY

A-34



UNION CALÉDONNIE  
POSTES  
0130  
N° 26399

WRITE HIMB  
UNIVERSITY HAWAII 96744  
U.S.A



L'INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DE RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE  
POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT EN COOPÉRATION

**Dr Thierry DELCROIX**

Océanographe Physicien

CRSTM, BP A5  
98848, NOUMÉA, CEDEX  
Nouvelle-Calédonie

Tel : (687) 26 07 23 - 26 10 00  
Fax : (687) 26 43 26  
E-mail : delcroix@noumea.crstm.nc

**TELECOPIÉ**

N°: (687) 24 32 56

Exp.: FAO BERNARD (BUREAU DES PECHES &amp; AQUACULTURE DRN)

Dest.: Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

N° de FAX: (1808) 2367443

Date: 9 mars 1999

Ref :

Sujet: Turtle tag recovery from New Calédonia.

Direction des  
Ressources Naturelles

Nb. de pages: 1**MESSAGE:**

à l'attention de:

Dear Sir,

2 turtles tags have been collected by Mr VAMA Germain, local fishermen of the South Province .

The zone of capture is south east of the main island. The place is called YATE and the reef where they have been caught is called NOKUEKA reef.

Specie : Green turtle.

Capture method : Jumped from boat in 5 m depth.

The tag number : S - 257 and S - 259.

Sex : 2 females (adult)

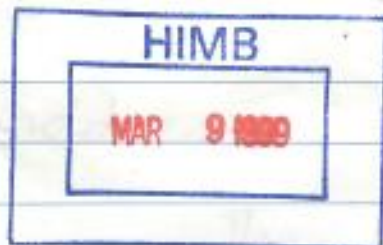
Date of capture : 10/02/99 around 12 h 00 local time.

Other information : Turtles captured while eating.

Yours sincerely,

FAO Bernard.





PAULIAS PIRIT  
of PTR COLLEGE  
P.O. Box 104,  
KOKOPO, ENB  
P.N.G.

HIMB

19/2/99

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
HAWAII 96744.

Dear Sir,

Your initial and address was found on the right wing of a turtle "296-C". This turtle was found on the reef of on Carterets Island on the 18/01/99 and measured 19 ins.

Carterets is made up of five small islands in the North Solomon Province, Bougainville P.N.G.

I'm still holding the pin that was attached to the turtle

If you want the pin or label to send back to you, you can write to me by using the

P.T.O.



HIMB  
 UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
 HAWAII- 96744.  
 U.S.A.

To



**SPREP**

South Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme



**PROE**

Programme régional  
océanien de l'environnement

P.O. Box 240, APIA, Western Samoa. Tel.: (685) 21 929  
Fax: (685) 20 231, E-mail: sprep@pactok.ppg.apc.org

Fax no.: USA 1 808 943 1290  
To: George Balazs, NMS

No. of pages: 1 (including this one)

From: Petelo Ioane  
Date: 10 October, 1996  
Subject: TURTLE CAPTURE

Authorised by: *[Signature]*  
File: AP 2/15/4

Budget: XB102UA27BL

Dear George,

Taloina lava from Western Samoa and hope you are still in good health.

I have an urgent enquiry concerning a turtle caught in Savail two days ago.

A Fisheries officer from the island of Savail reported to us a turtle caught by fisherman from the village of Palauli, (this will help you refreshing your knowledge of the Samoan Geography). The turtle is a Green one and tagged on the left front flipper with tag (M-618) and on the right front flipper with (HIMB-96744), the length of the carapace is 47.3cm. I have searched into our database but we do not have these tags on our register. Could you please check if this is one of your tagged turtles. The fisherman is very interested to know the migration route of this turtle also the tagging place.

I will be more than happy to hear from you of the above turtle as soon as possible and will update our database accordingly.

Best Regards,

*[Signature]*  
Petelo Ioane  
(GIS/Database Assistant)

*Petelo Ioane*

*TO SIU  
10/8/93*

*~~sent in response (attached)~~*

*9 Oct  
Lu. Bell*

*M-618*

P.O.Box 1874  
Apia  
Western Samoa

Tel: 685 20369  
22047  
22624

Fax: 685 24292



Government of Western Samoa  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTS, FISHERIES AND  
METEOROLOGY  
FISHERIES DIVISION**

YourRef:

OurRef:

**FAX TRANSMISSION**

To: Shawn K.K. Murakawa  
NMFS  
Honolulu  
Fax: 808-943-1290

From: Lui Bell, Apia, Fisheries Division

Thanks for your fax dated October 11, 1996 concerning the tagged turtle caught here. The tag will be mailed to George Balazs once we receive it from our Office on Savaii. The turtle was released on 10 October, 1996 at Saleleoga, Savaii Island, Western Samoa, after being re-tagged using SPREP tags. The new tags are as follows:

Left flipper: R 10605; Right flipper: R 10606

Tail length at capture/release: 1.8 cm

The turtle carapace length given in my first fax was that following the curve of the carapace. The straight carapace length measured was 45.5 cm.

Our Fisheries Officer on Savaii Island confirms that the alpha prefix is M. We'll send the tag as soon as we receive it here on Upolu.

We would be interested to receive information concerning the turtle.

Best regards.

*L. Bell*

Lui A.J. Bell  
Principal Fisheries Officer

DEPARTEMENT AQUACULTURE

EVAAM

BP 20 Papeete

Tel (689) 428144 - Fax (689) 434979

Papeete, le 11/10/1996

REF : N° 121 / EVAAM / IPL

**TELECOPIE**  
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DE LA PART DE : Jean-Pierre LANDRET  
A FAX MESSAGE N° : 00° 1808 943 1290  
COMPAGNIE : NOAA-NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
ATTENTION : Georges BALAZS  
NB PAGES : 1  
V/REF :

Dear Georges,

Yesterday, 10 October 1996, Omeri TAPUTU came to the EVAAM office in Papeete, in order to see me.

He said me that he has observed in July 1996 in Bellingshausen The turtle S 183-S 184 on the beach.

This turtle was tagged on the atoll, on 21 November 1991, after our trip.

Omeri has taken off the two tags (Why ?) and tagged again with three others:

S 231 - S 248 - M 591

That is all the informations I can give to you about that.

I stil have 45 turtles from 4 to 8 years old, in captivity in a small tank. Last year, I observed that the tail of three turtles has begun to grow longer at about 5 and half years old.

In the Réunion island turtle farm (see letter enclosed) sexual maturity occure from 6 - 7 years old and the first mating was observed at 7 (seven) years old.

*With best wishes*



**Jean-Pierre LANDRET**





Monsieur Louis SAVOIE  
EVAAM  
BP 20 PAPEETE  
POLYNÉSIE FRANÇAISE

	SAVOIE	SAVOIE	SAVOIE
Reçu			
Exp.			

Pointe des châteaux  
HP 40  
97436 SAINT-LEU  
Ile de la RÉUNION

Saint Leu, le 29 septembre 1996

FAX 19(262)347687

Ref: 960911  
Objet: Tortues marines.

Monsieur,

N°: 3335

2 OCT. 1996

Nous vous remercions pour les données que vous avez bien voulu nous communiquer concernant le relâcher et la recapture des tortues franches. Les résultats que vous obtenez va dans le sens de nos observations en captivité, à savoir que les individus jusqu'à 25 kg environ prennent spontanément de l'alimentation naturelle (poissons ou crustacés morts ou vivant) pouvant parfois la préférer à l'aliment artificiel. Pour les animaux plus âgés, entre 5 et 9 ans, la prise d'aliment naturel est relativement rare surtout concernant les sexes vivantes. Ces animaux plus âgés consomment par contre, volontiers des algues quand nous leur en distribuons.

Il faut que Monsieur Frédéric LEPROUX vienne nous voir sur la Ferme CORAIL, lors de son séjour à la Réunion, surtout que l'IFREMER Réunion est un de nos partenaires privilégiés sur la tortue de mer. Ce sera l'occasion d'un échange d'informations, qui pourrait être l'ancrage d'une collaboration entre nos deux structures, dont les orientations semblent très proches: production de juvéniles à partir d'un cheptel captif associé à un programme éducatif. Cette collaboration présente un intérêt réel pour l'avancement des connaissances sur les tortues franches et des différentes populations. Elle constitue également un atout supplémentaire pour la mobilisation de financement

→ Concernant la maturité sexuelle, l'apparition des caractères sexuels secondaires se situe à la Ferme CORAIL à partir de la sixième et septième année. Les premiers accouplements ont été observés en bassin début 1996 et concernent des animaux de 7 ans.

Dans l'attente de recevoir M. LEPROUX

Nous vous prions de croire, Monsieur, en l'expression de nos sentiments les meilleurs.

Stéphane CUCIONE

*Stéphane CUCIONE*  
Gérant

P.O.Box 1874  
Apia  
Western Samoa

Tel: 685 20369  
22047  
22624

Fax: 685 24292



YourRef:

OurRef:

Government of Western Samoa  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTS, FISHERIES AND  
METEOROLOGY  
FISHERIES DIVISION**

**FAX TRANSMISSION**

9 October, 1996

To: HAWAII INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA  
COCONUT ISLAND 96744-1346  
FAX: 1-808-286-7443

From: Lui A.J. Bell  
Fisheries Division

**HIMB TAGGED TURTLE CAUGHT IN WESTERN SAMOA**

A turtle with a HIMB tag has been caught here. The relevant information are as follows:

Date of capture:	7 October, 1996
Place of Capture:	Vaitoomuli Palauli, Savaii Island, Western Samoa -caught by gillnet just off the main barrier reef by 4 gillnet fishermen fishing for fin-fish
Tag No.:	M-618
Species:	Green turtle (female)
Carapace length at capture:	47.3 cm

The turtle is being retained by Fisheries Division. The HIMB tagged was removed by fishermen before Fisheries Official arrived and the turtle will be re-tagged using SPREP tag before it will be released again. Will relay tag number.

Will give SPREP the same information for their database but would appreciate any views on re-tagging the turtle as HIMB tag that was on the turtle is damaged.

Please acknowledge receipt of this fax message.

Thank you

Lui A.J. Bell  
Principal Fisheries Officer

M 133

P.O.Box 1874  
Apia  
Western Samoa.



YourRef:

OurRef:

Tel: (685) 20369  
(685) 22047  
(685) 22624  
Fax: (685) 24292

Government of Western Samoa  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTS, FISHERIES AND  
METEOROLOGY**  
**FISHERIES DIVISION**

**FAX TRANSMISSION**

Date: 29 November, 1996

Page 1 of 1

<b>To:</b> Dr George Balazs	<b>From:</b> Lui Bell
<b>Organisation:</b> NMFS, Honolulu	
<b>Fax:</b> 1 (808) 943-1290	
<b>Subject:</b> HIMB TAGGED TURTLE CAUGHT IN WESTERN SAMOA	

Another turtle with HIMB tag has been caught here. The relevant information are as follows:

Species: Green Turtle  
Date of capture: 23 November, 1996  
Place of Capture: Vaitoomuli Palauli, Savaii Island, Western Samoa  
Tag No.: M-133 (on right flipper)  
Curved carapace length: 48.0 cm  
Sex: Female

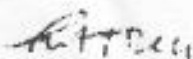
The turtle was kept in a fresh-water pool by the family that caught it and was bought for WST40.00 by an Agriculture Officer and brought it to the Fisheries Division. The turtle was re-tagged using SPREP tags and released. Relevant information concerning the re-tagging and release are as follows:

Date of Release: 29 November, 1996  
New tags (SPREP): Left flipper: 10607; Right flipper: 10608  
Place of Release: Off Apia Harbour

A copy of this fax is being sent to Mr Jean-Pierre Landret of EVAAM in case the turtle was tagged by their project in Tahiti.

Would appreciate receiving information concerning the turtle and will send the HIMB tag soon.

Best regards

  
Lui A.J. Bell  
Principal Fisheries Officer

cc: Mr Jean-Pierre Landret, EVAAM, fax: (689) 434-979

ETABLISSEMENT POUR LA VALORISATION  
DES ACTIVITES AQUICOLES ET MARITIMES

BP 20 Papeete

Tel (689) 428144 - Fax (689) 434979

Papeete, le 19/12/96

REF : N° / EVAAM/JPL

TELECOPIE  
\*\*\*\*\*

DE LA PART DE : Jean-Pierre LANDRET  
A FAX MESSAGE N° : (685) 24292  
COMPAGNIE : Ministry of Agriculture, Forets, Fisheries and Meteorology,  
Fisheries Division.  
ATTENTION : Lal AJ. BELL  
NB PAGES : 1  
V/REF : HIBM tagged turtle - Your FAX from 10/12/1996

Dear sir,

The Turtles are from the same batch. I don't know how old they were; probably one.

The curved length of the carapace was approximately 25 cm.

The turtles were reared from hatchlings at scilly atoll by a resident, and released:

- in September 1994 (580 turtles, Tags M 26 to M 912),
- in November 1994 (200 turtles, tags L 89 to L 825).

Right now, 2 others turtles have been recaptured :

- M 137 in November 1994 at Maupiti island, near Bora Bora,
- M 820 in Mars 1996 at Tahaa, near Bora Bora.

Thank you very much for your collaboration.

Best regards.



J.P. LANDRET

Copie. geagee Bantz