



## Conservation of Sea Turtles within the Cultural Context of Oceania - What we have learned

Date: 22nd & 23rd November, 2023

Location: [Lower Campus, The University of the South Pacific](#), Suva, Fiji

Fiji standard time zone (GMT+12)

Convened by Ika Bula Consultants (Shritika Prakash) in collaboration with IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group Regional Vice Co-Chairs of Oceania (George Balazs, Thierry Work and Denise Parker); The University of the South Pacific (Satalaka Petaia, Kelly Brown and Salanieta Kitolelei); Ministry of Fisheries (Neomai Ravitu and Saras Sharma) and members and associate colleagues of the Oceania Region.

### AGENDA: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023 – DAY 1

#### ROOM: Marine Lecture Theatre, USP Lower Campus

#### Zoom details for online participants:

Time: 0800hrs to 1700hrs Fiji Standard Time (GMT +12). No daylight-saving time in 2023.

USP ID Room: Talanoa60

Passcode (if prompted): KGr\$!EM2x

Link: [Click here to join](#)

(Users maybe asked to update their Zoom app upon logging-in.)

08:00 AM	Registration Desk Open
09:00 AM	Welcoming Remarks
09:10 AM	Address by Marine Studies Discipline Coordinator: Dr. Satalaka Petaia - USP
09:20 AM	Address by Director for Fisheries: Mrs. Neomai Ravitu – Ministry of Fisheries
09:35 AM	IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG) Oceania Regional Vice Co-Chair Address: Dr. Thierry Work (Pre-recorded) – USGS National Wildlife Health Center
09:50 AM	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Joeli Veitayaki – Blue Prosperity Fiji
10:20 AM	<b>Group Photo</b> & Morning Tea Break Sponsored by Sustainable Ocean Alliance
10:45 AM	1. NOAA collaborations and recovery initiatives within Oceania/SE Asia (Irene Kelly (Online): NOAA Fisheries – Pacific Islands Region)
11:00 AM	2. SPREP's Marine Turtle Programme (Karen Baird – SPREP)
11:15 AM	3. The status of the conservation and management of sea turtles in Fiji -a brief overview (Aisake Batibasaga - Isa Coastal Fisheries Management & Conservation)
11:30 AM	4. 1977-2023: Some Reflections on Fijian and Hawaiian Sea Turtle Populations (George Balazs – Golden Honu Services of Oceania)
11:45 AM	5. WWF's turtle conservation programs in Fiji: current projects and trajectory (Duncan Williams -WWF Pacific)
12:00 PM	6. Solomon Islands National Plan of Action-Turtle work (Stacy Jupiter – Wildlife Conservation Society)
12:15 PM	7. Fiji's Sea Turtle: Current Regulations to Protect Endangered Species (Saras Sharma – Ministry of Fisheries)
12:30 PM	Lunch Break Sponsored by Golden Honu Services of Oceania - <a href="http://www.GeorgeHBalazs.com">www.GeorgeHBalazs.com</a>

Program V.3 (Updated 19/11/2023)

01:30 PM	8. The growing concern about the trajectory of hawksbill turtles in Oceania: science, policy and where to from here? (Christine Hof – WWF International)
01:45 PM	9. Fiji’s sea turtle research and national management – how the Marine Collection at The University of the South Pacific can support these efforts. (Kelly Brown – The University of the South Pacific)
02:00 PM	10. Ringgold Isles Expedition, Fiji (Shritika Prakash – Ika Bula Consultants)
02:15 PM	11. Sea Turtle Conservation Project in Northern Lau, Fiji (Katy Fatiaki – Vatuvara Foundation)
02:30 PM	12. Status of critically endangered loggerhead turtles nesting sites in New Caledonia and conservation challenges (Hugo Bourgogne (Online)– WWF France/IRD)
02:45 PM	13. Telemetry surveys from Northern Lau and bridging the understanding of turtle migration and behaviour patterns from nesters from Lau (Semisi Meo – Conservation International)
03:00 PM	Afternoon Tea Break Sponsored by Vatuvara Foundation
03:10 PM	14. SAT-NC project: connections between New Caledonia marine turtle nesting sites and feeding grounds in the South-West Pacific (Marc Oremus – WWF France)
03:25 PM	15. New genetic stocks and satellite tracking in PNG: new data and insight for management (Christine Hof – WWF International)
03:40 PM	16. ShellBank: marine turtle traceability toolkit and global database of DNA, status, progress and what we have found in Oceania so far (Christine Hof – WWF International)
03:55 PM	17. Sea turtle stranding and salvage programme in Hong Kong waters: the virtopsy approach (Brian Kot (Online)– City University of Hong Kong)
04:10 PM	18. Turtle Cooling Project: what, where, when, why and how marine turtles are feminising in Oceania, and what are the new novel mitigation methods to mitigate. (Elouise Haskin – WWF Australia)
04:25 PM	Wrap up Day 1 presentations
04:30 PM	USP Marine Collection Tour at Discipline of Marine Studies [Led by Kelly Brown] <i>Sign up at registration desk – limited spaces available!</i>
05:30 PM	Bula Networking Event [Led by Wantok Moana Student Association] <i>Venue: Seafood Village, USP Lower Campus</i>
07:00 PM	End of Day 1
<b>AGENDA: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2023 – DAY 2</b>	
<b>ROOM: Marine Lecture Theatre, USP Lower Campus</b>	
<b>Zoom details for online participants:</b> Time: 0800hrs to 1700hrs Fiji Standard Time (GMT +12). No daylight-saving time in 2023. USP ID Room: Talanoa60 Passcode (if prompted): qGG2c&Fnh Link: <a href="#">Click here to join</a> <i>(Users maybe asked to update their Zoom app upon logging-in.)</i>	
08:00 AM	Registration Desk Open
09:00 AM	Opening Remarks
09:10 AM	19. Stewards of the ocean (Loma Mataika -Uto Ni Yalo Trust)
09:25 AM	20. Tackling plastic pollution: Findings from the coastal litter assessments (Suzanne Turaganiwai – Pacific Ocean Litter Youth Project (POLYP) Fiji)

Program V.3 (Updated 19/11/2023)

09:40 AM	21. Turtles in children's drawings of the sea in Fiji and New Caledonia (Elodie Fache – Institute of Research Development)
09:55 AM	22. Traditions and knowledge around sea turtle use in Fiji (Salanieta Kitolelei – The University of the South Pacific)
10:10 AM	23. Turtles, Kastom and Management in Vanuatu (Francis Hickey - Vanuatu Cultural Centre)
10:25 AM	Pacific Ocean Litter Youth Project (POLYP) Fiji Art Display & Morning Tea Break Sponsored by Conservation International
11:00 AM	24. Turtle Use Project: drivers and motivations of turtle use and trade from a community perspective – Fiji (Duncan Williams – WWF Pacific)
11:15 AM	25. Turtle Use Project: drivers and motivations of turtle use and trade from a community perspective – PNG (Elouise Haskin – WWF Australia)
11:30 AM	26. Custom(er) and Consumption, Lore and Law: Pragmatic Practicalities of Protecting Sea Turtle Resources in Papua New Guinea (Jeff Kinch – MTSG Member)
11:45 AM	27. Empowering Dau-ni-vonu for Turtle Conservation: A case Study from Kavewa Island (Karalaini Rereavosa – WWF Pacific)
12:00 PM	28. A case Study from Kavewa Island (Emosi Time – Dau-ni-vonu, Kavewa Island)
12:15 PM	29. Driving Innovation - Integrating and Improving Head Starting as a Conservation Management Strategy (Waseroma Sigavou – Nakelo Treasure Island Resort and Spa)
12:30 PM	30. Harmonizing Tradition and Conservation: Fiji Sea Turtle Recovery (Laitia Tamata – TAMATA's Consultancy)
12:45 PM	Lunch Break Sponsored by IHG Hotels Fiji, Grand Pacific Hotel and Holiday Inn Suva
01:45 PM	<b>31. Panel Discussion</b> Facilitator: Shritika Prakash [IUCN/SSC MTSG Oceania Member & Principal Consultant, Ika Bula Consultants] <u>Panelists:</u> 1. Dr Joeli Veitayaki [Scientific Advisor, Blue Prosperity Fiji] 2. Mr. Aisake Batibasaga [IUCN/SSC MTSG Oceania Member & Consultant, Isa Coastal Fisheries Management & Conservation] 3. Dr. Christine Hof [IUCN/SSC MTSG Australasia Member & Global Marine Turtle Conservation Lead, WWF International] 4. Mr. George Balazs [IUCN/SSC MTSG Regional Vice Co-Chair - Oceania & Independent Global Sea Turtle Scientist, Golden Honu Services of Oceania] 5. Mr. Francis Hickey [IUCN/SSC MTSG Oceania Member & Manager, Vanuatu Cultural Centre]
03:15 PM	Closing remarks Day 2
03:30 PM	Afternoon Tea Sponsored by Ika Bula Consultants
03:45 PM	Tour to Fiji Museum (Pay to Visit – Register Interest at Registration Desk) [Led by Salanieta Kitolelei]
05:00 PM	End of Event

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