

due to erosion have impacted nesting sites, prompting the development of a re-vegetation project using indigenous plant species. This program is part of a larger, over 20-year study conducted by the French Polynesian government. The findings now contribute to seminars, training, and capacity-building efforts across other Polynesian islands, with a focus on sea turtle nesting inventories supported by a dedicated application developed by our teams of veterinarians and biologists.

LOSING LALO: HABITAT DEGRADATION AT THE HONU'S (*CHELONIA MYDAS*) MOST IMPORTANT NESTING GROUNDS IN HAWAII*

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Since the early 1970's, researchers have monitored the Hawaiian green sea turtle (honu) at their primary nesting site. This critically important area hosted 96 percent of the population's nesting and was located on East Island, at Lalo (French Frigate Shoals) within the remote Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. This islet, part of a low-lying atoll, is approximately 700 km from the main Hawaiian Islands. Unexpectedly, in 2018 East Island was destroyed by hurricane Walaka. Nesting subsequently shifted to Tern Island, a mostly manmade islet 12 km north of East Island that is home to a defunct runway, dilapidated structures, crumbling seawalls and entrapment hazards for adult turtles and hatchlings alike. These hazards require field biologists to perform life-saving interventions by helping to redirect or free as many as 325 adult honu in a single field season. Additionally, Tern Island is rapidly eroding with approximately 30 percent of its nesting habitat lost since 2018. Erosion is a major concern for Lalo's longevity. In the last five decades five islets that were known to be used by honu have been lost. Fortunately, East Island has slowly begun to reestablish itself and has built up to approximately 70 percent of its original size, allowing for nesting activity to be monitored from 2023 to 2025. Currently, only 25 percent of East Island is deemed to have favorable substrate for nesting, some of which also erodes throughout the season. It is estimated that up to 20 percent of nests on East Island are lost each year. The rapid degradation of Lalo raises critical questions regarding the honu population's vulnerability and their capacity to persist into the future.

NESTING IN THE DUST: ASSESSING THE LARGEST GREEN TURTLE ROOKERY IN THE RED SEA UNDER SEVERE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

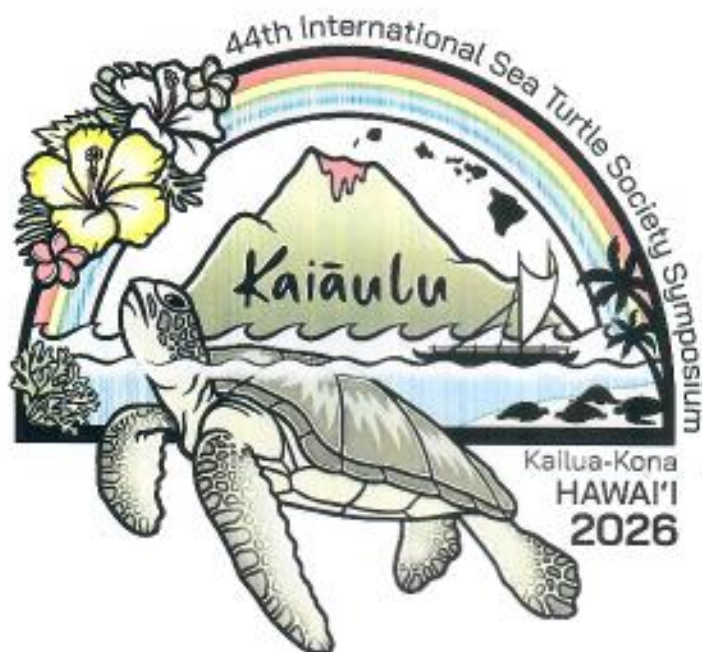
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Ras Baridi, on the Saudi Arabian Red Sea coast, hosts one of the largest and most persistent green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) nesting aggregations in the region. Despite its importance, this rookery is heavily impacted by industrial activity from a nearby cement factory, whose operations have caused chronic

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