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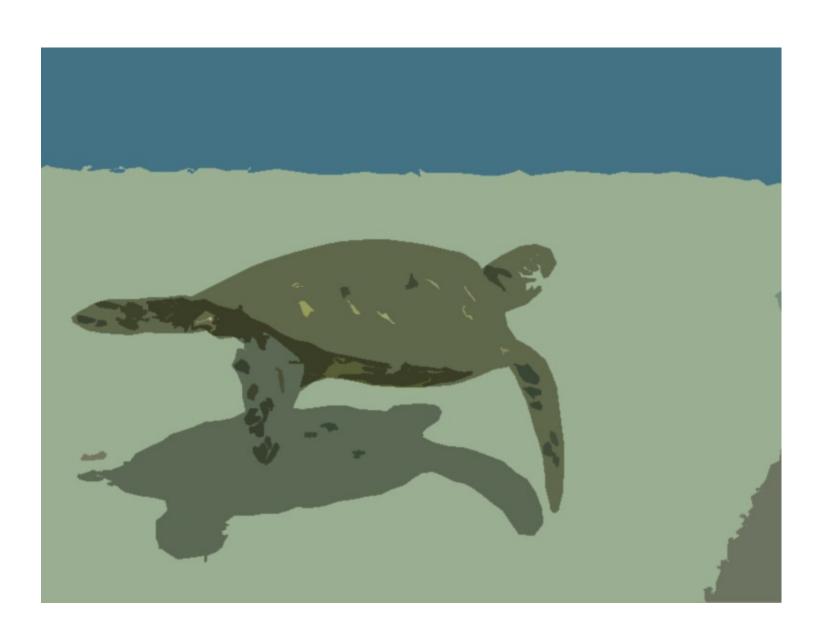
Sea Turtles in Oceania MTSG Annual Regional Report 2020

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The Regional Vice Chairs of MTSG Oceania express their sincere thanks and appreciation to all authors of these 25 chapters for their hard work, perseverance, patience, and accomplishments. The task has been long and at times difficult, but ultimately of high reward. We dedicate this report to our dearly departed MTSG members Lui Bell (1956-2012), George Petro (2013), and Sue Taei (1962-2020). We are also grateful to the people of Oceania in support of their deep cultural and traditional ties to sea turtles in ways that are not always easily understood by others.



Turtle health workshop, Fiji, 2020. Photo: Shritika Prakash

SOLOMON ISLANDS

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- 1 RMU: Chelonia mydas, Southwest Pacific (CM-SW PAC)
- 1.1 Distribution, abundance, trends

1.1.1 Nesting sites

Three major nesting sites have been identified based on the recent available information; they are in Arnavon Islands [1-2], Hakelake Island [1], and Kerihikapa Island [1]. No key biological data is available (Table 1). The ACMCA is the only nesting site in the Solomon Islands with consistent monitoring of nesting activities.

1.1.2 Marine areas

The green turtle feeding areas have been identified in Marovo Lagoon in New Georgia [3], Mbanika and Pavuvu in The Russell islands [3], Tetepare Islands [4] and Kolombangara [5]. A small number of juveniles has also been reported at Arnavon Marine Conservation Area (AMCA) [6]. In addition, SPREP flipper tags and recent satellite tagging have shown that green turtles migrate to forage in Australia and Papua New Guinea [6, 7]. Intentional exploitation of green turtles [4, 8-10], particularly with spear guns [8, 11], have been noted but not quantified.

1.2 Other biological data

The mean curved carapace length of nesting green turtles is 96.5 cm (N =2) [4].

1.3 Threats

1.3.1 Nesting sites

The threats to the nesting sites are illegal harvest of eggs and nesters [4], natural predation which includes crabs, megapodes and iguanas [6], earthquake that impacted the beaches on Tetepare Islands [4], and erosion due to climate change impacts [12].

1.3.2 Marine areas

Green turtles are most commonly used for subsistence purposes, where they are consumed by the family of the fisher that captured the specimen/s [9-10]. Turtle catch/harvest is dominated by immature green turtles [10]. The use of underwater flashlights, spear guns and hooks has resulted in an increase of both catch and bycatch [11].

1.4 Conservation

All sea turtles in the Solomon Islands are currently protected under "The Wildlife Protection and Management Act 1998; Fisheries Regulation LN 43/1993". The main objectives of the Act are to provide for the protection, conservation and management of wildlife in Solomon Islands by regulating the export and import of certain animals and plants [13]. The fisheries regulation ensures protection of nesting turtles, their eggs and nests during the nesting season. The nesting beaches can be declared a protected area under the "Protected Area Act 2010". Solomon Islands has signed several international conventions that have a nexus to conservation of all sea turtle species (Table 3).

1.5 Research

Literature review shows missing key information for green turtles in the Solomon Islands, as little is known about their nesting and foraging activities.

2 RMU: Eretmochelys imbricata, Southwest Pacific (EI-SW PAC)

2.1 Distribution, abundance, trends

2.1.1 Nesting sites

The recent available information reports that the main hawksbill turtle nesting sites are in Arnavon Islands [1, 2, 7], Big Maleivona Island, Kerihikapa Island, Sikopo Island, and Small Maleivona [14,15]. Remigration period is quite broad, ranging from 2 to 7 years [15]. The ACMCA is the only nesting site in the Solomon Islands with consistent monitoring of nesting activities, and a long-term study revealed a growing population [15].

2.1.2 Marine areas

Marovo Lagoon in New Georgia [3] and Kolombangara are known foraging grounds for the hawksbill turtle [4]. Tag recovery has shown that adult hawksbills move between Solomon Islands and PNG, where they forage at Fishermen's Island and Tagula Island, as well as between Solomon Islands and Torres Strait and GBR in Australia. The latter is also a destination used by the juvenile hawksbills [14, 15]. Tag recovery and satellite tracking suggest that hawksbill turtles travel distances of 800 to 1650 km [15].

2.2 Other biological data

On average, each female produces 4 to 5 clutches in the same nesting season [14]. The remigration interval is quite broad, ranging from 2 to 7 years [15].

2.3 Threats

2.3.1 Nesting sites

The threats to the nesting sites are illegal harvest of eggs and adult turtles [9], natural predation which includes crabs, megapodes and iguanas [6], and erosion due to climate change impacts [12].

2.3.2 Marine areas

Hawksbill turtles are most commonly used for subsistence purposes and most likely consumed by the family of the fisher that captured the turtle/s [9-10]. Turtle catch/harvest using spear guns have been estimated in about 26% of the total artisanal fishery catch [10]. Interviewed fishers revealed that hawksbill turtle products are more likely to be illegally sold to local and international markets [10]. In addition, the use of underwater flashlights, spear guns and hooks has resulted in an increase of both catch and bycatch [8, 11].

2.4 Conservation

Same as 1.4.

2.5 Research

The hawksbill turtle has been the focus of several published papers reporting findings from molecular analyses [16, 17, 24], temporal and spatial distribution [15, 16], foraging ecology [18], and population dynamics and survival rates [15]. In particular, it is worth noting an increasing trend at nesting sites [15].

3 RMU: Dermochelys coriacea, West Pacific (DC-W PAC)

3.1 Distribution, abundance, trends

3.1.1 Nesting sites

Three major leatherback nesting sites have been reported; on Sasakalo in Santa Isabel Island, where 27 nesters and 132 nests were recorded in 2000 nesting season [6], Tetepare Island [4, 7], and Zaira beach in Vangunu Island, where 23 nests were reported between 2011 to 2014 nesting season [19].

3.1.2 Marine areas

Satellite tracks shows that the female leatherbacks nesting in Solomon Islands forage at high latitude off Tasman Sea [20], Papua New Guinea, and Fiji [19].

3.2 Other biological data

Adult leatherback females nest 2 to 6 times per season [19]. The mean clutch size of a nest is 95 eggs (ranges 66 -124 eggs) [19]. The hatching success (60%) is available for only one wild nest [21], while in hatchery conditions the mean hatching success was 67% [19].

3.3 Threats

3.3.1 Nesting sites

The threats to the nesting sites include natural predation, e.g. from crabs, megapodes and iguanas [6], and erosion due to climate change impacts [12] .

3.3.2 Marine areas

Driftnets (DN) and gillnets (OTH) fisheries may pose a significant threat to leatherback turtles [22].

3.4 Conservation

In addition to 1.4, which applies to all sea turtle species, the leatherback turtle is further protected under "Protection of certain turtles LN 112/1977" [13].

3.5 Research

Literature review shows limited information for leatherback turtles in Solomon Islands.

4 RMU: Caretta caretta, South Pacific (CC-S PAC)

4.1 Distribution, abundance, trends

4.1.1 Nesting sites

There is no record of the loggerhead sea turtle nesting in Solomon Islands [7,

4.1.2 Marine areas

None available.

4.2 Other biological data

None available.

4.3 Threats

23].

4.3.1 Nesting sites

Not applicable.

4.3.2 Marine areas

None available.

4.4 Conservation

Same as 1.4.

4.5 Research

Literature review shows that virtually no information is available for loggerhead turtles in the Solomon Islands.

5 RMU: Lepidochelys olivacea, West Pacific (W Pac)

5.1 Distribution, abundance, trends

5.1.1 Nesting sites

Limited information is available, whereby one nest, one nesting activity, and two successful hatching events have been reported in total for Wiahau [5], Waihaoru beach in Makira [10], and Shortland Islands [23].

5.1.2 Marine areas

None available.

5.2 Other biological data

The clutch size and emergence success calculated from a single nest are 85 eggs and 48%, respectively [5].

5.3 Threats

5.3.1 Nesting sites

None available.

5.3.2 Marine areas

Intentional killing and exploitation of olive ridley for subsistence purposes in Kaonasugu and Wagina communities was estimated to be 0.5% of the total catch [10].

5.4 Conservation

Same as 1.4.

5.5 Research

Literature review shows that virtually no information is available for olive ridley turtles in the Solomon Islands.

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 Table 1: Key Biological information for sea turtles in the Solomon Islands

RMU (all RMUs of all species occurring in a Country or Region)	CM-SW PAC	Ref#	EI-SW PAC	Ref#	DC-W PAC	Ref#	CC-S PAC	Ref#	LO-W PAC	Ref#
Occurrence										
Nesting sites	Y	[1,2,4,7]	Y	[2,3,6,7, 14,15]	Y	[2,4,6,7, 19,20,2 1]	N	[7,23]	Y	[2,5,10]
Pelagic foraging grounds	Υ	[6,7]	Υ	[15]	Υ	[19,20]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Benthic foraging grounds	Y	[3,4,5,6, 7]	Y	[3,4,5,7, 14,15]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Key biological data										
Nests/yr: recent average (range of years)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nests/yr: recent order of magnitude	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of "major" sites (>20 nests/yr AND >10 nests/km yr)	3	[1,6]	5	[1, 2, 7, 14, 15]	3	[4,6,7,1 9]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of "minor" sites (<20 nests/yr OR <10 nests/km yr)	3	[4,7,14]	5	[7]	8	[4,6,7,1 9,21]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nests/yr at "major" sites: recent average (range of years)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nests/yr at "minor" sites: recent average (range of years)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total length of nesting sites (km)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	N	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nesting females / yr	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	N	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nests / female season (N)	n/a	n/a	4 to 5	[14]	2 to 6	[19]	N	n/a	n/a	n/a
Female remigration interval (yrs) (N)	n/a	n/a	2 to 7	[15]	n/a	n/a	N	n/a	n/a	n/a

(N) Sex ratio: Immatures (F / Tot) (N) Namulation (N) Sex ratio: Adults (F / Tot) (N) Namulation (N) Sex ratio: Adults (F / Tot) (N) Namulation (N) Sex ratio: Adults (F / Tot) (N) Namulation (N) Namulation (N) Sex ratio: Adults (F / Tot) (N) Namulation (N) Namu		Ι		1 .	1 .	Ι.	T .	T	T .	T .	1 .
(N) Sex ratio: Adults (F / Tot) (N)	Sex ratio: Hatchlings (F / Tot) (N)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	N	n/a	n/a	n/a
Min adult size, CCL or SCL (cm) n/a	Sex ratio: Immatures (F / Tot) (N)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	N	n/a	n/a	n/a
Age at maturity (yrs)	Sex ratio: Adults (F / Tot) (N)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	N	n/a	n/a	n/a
Clutch size (n eggs) (N)	Min adult size, CCL or SCL (cm)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	N	n/a	n/a	n/a
Emergence success (hastes of the state of th	Age at maturity (yrs)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	N	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kesting success (Nests/ Tot emergence tracks) (N) n/a	Clutch size (n eggs) (N)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		[19]	N	n/a		[5]
Emergence tracks) (N) Trends Name Na	Emergence success (hatchlings/egg) (N)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	(N=1	[21]	N	n/a	_	[5]
Recent trends (last 20 yrs) at nesting sites (range of years) n/a	Nesting success (Nests/ Tot emergence tracks) (N)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	N	n/a	n/a	n/a
The string sites (range of years) The string sites (range of y	Trends										
Recent trends (last 20 yrs) at foraging grounds (range of years)	Recent trends (last 20 yrs) at nesting sites (range of years)	n/a	n/a	[1991- 2012] Increasi	[15]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
nests/yr (range of years) (1976-1977) (1977-1977) (1977-1977) (1977-1977) (1977-1977) (1977-1977) (1977-1977) (1977-1977) (1977-1977) (1977-1977) (1977-1977) (1977-1977) (1977-1977) (1977-1977) (1977-1977) (1977-1977) (1977-1977) (1977-1977) (1977-1977) (19	Recent trends (last 20 yrs) at foraging grounds (range of years)	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Growth rates N n/a N n/a N n/a N n/a N n/a	Oldest documented abundance: nests/yr (range of years)	(1976-	[24]	(1976-	[24]	(1976-	[24]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Growth rates N n/a N n/a N n/a N n/a N n/a	Published studies										
		N	n/a	N	n/a	N	n/a	N	n/a	N	n/a
	Genetics		· ·				-		-		

Stocks defined by genetic markers	N	n/a	Y	[17, 24]	Υ	[17,20,2 5]	N	n/a	N	n/a
Remote tracking (satellite or other)	N	n/a	Y	[15]	Υ	[19,20]	N	n/a	N	n/a
Survival rates	N	n/a	Υ	[15]	N	n/a	N	n/a	N	n/a
Population dynamics	N	n/a	Υ	[15]	N	n/a	N	n/a	N	n/a
Foraging ecology (diet or isotopes)	N	n/a	Y	[18]	N	n/a	N	n/a	N	n/a
Capture-Mark-Recapture	Υ	[4]	Υ	[15,16]	N	n/a	N	n/a	N	n/a
Threats										
Bycatch: presence of small scale / artisanal fisheries?	Y (OTH)	[8,11]	Y (OTH)	[8]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bycatch: presence of industrial fisheries?	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Y (DN, OTH)	[22]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bycatch: quantified?	N	n/a	N	n/a	N	n/a	N	n/a	N	n/a
Take. Intentional killing or exploitation of turtles	Υ	[8,9,10]	Y	[8,9,10, 23]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Y	[10]
Take. Egg illegal harvest	Υ	n/a	Υ	[9]	n/a	n/a	N	n/a	n/a	n/a
Coastal Development. Nesting habitat degradation	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	N	n/a	n/a	n/a
Coastal Development. Photopollution	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	N	n/a	n/a	n/a
Coastal Development. Boat strikes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Egg predation	Υ	[6]	Υ	[6]	Υ	[6,21]	N	n/a	n/a	n/a
Pollution (debris, chemical)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Pathogens	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Climate change	Υ	[4,12]	Υ	[12]	Υ	[12]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Foraging habitat degradation	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Other	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Long-term projects (>5yrs)										
Monitoring at nesting sites (period: range of years)	Y (1991- ongoing	[2]	Y (1991- ongoing	[2,15]	Y	[4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of index nesting sites	4		4	n/a	3	[4,6,24]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Monitoring at foraging sites (period: range of years)	Y (2004- 2008) (2009- ongoing)	[4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Conservation										
Protection under national law	Υ	[13]	Υ	[13]	Υ	[6]	Υ	[13]	Υ	[13]
Number of protected nesting sites (habitat preservation) (% nests)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	N	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of Marine Areas with mitigation of threats	2	[13]	2	[13,14]	1	[21]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
N of long-term conservation projects (period: range of years)	1	[5]	1	[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
In-situ nest protection (eg cages)	Y	[5]	Υ	[5]	Y	[19]	N	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hatcheries	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Υ	[19]	N	n/a	n/a	n/a
Head-starting	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	N	n/a	n/a	n/a
By-catch: fishing gear modifications (eg, TED, circle hooks)	N	[13]	N	[13]	N	[13]	N	[13]	N	[13]

By-catch: onboard best	n/a									
practices										
By-catch: spatio-temporal closures/reduction	n/a									
Other	n/a									

Table 2. Green, hawksbill, leatherback, and olive ridley turtles nesting sites reported for Solomon Islands in the last twenty years. (Note: central point refers to the island, not the single beach).

RMU / Nesting beach name	Ind ex site	Nests/yr: recent average (range of years)	Crawls/ yr: recent averag e (range of years)	We lim	stern it	Eas limi	stern it	Central	entral point		% Monit ored	Refer ence #	Monito ring Level (1-2)	Monito ring Protoc ol (A-F)
CM-SW PAC				lat	lon g	lat	lon g	lat	long					
Arnavon Islands, Isabel Province	Y	25 (1976- 1977)	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 8.0592 3	159.1447	n/a	n/a	[1,2]	n/a	n/a
Arnavon Islands, Isabel Province	Y	5	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 8.0592 3	159.1447	n/a	n/a	[1,2]	n/a	n/a
Hakelake Island	Y	15 to 20	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 7.8972 2	159.24222	n/a	n/a	[1]	n/a	n/a
Kaife beach,Tete pare Island	N	2 (2006)	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 8.7412 8	157.55893	n/a	n/a	[4]	n/a	n/a
Kerehikapa Island	Y	53	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 745468	158.02241	n/a	n/a	[1]	n/a	n/a
Tetepare Island	N	5	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 8.7412 8	157.55893	n/a	n/a	[7]	n/a	n/a

Tirokofi beach,Tete pare Island	N	2 (2005)	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 8.7412 8	157.55893	n/a	n/a	[4]	n/a	n/a
DC-W PAC				lat	lon g	lat	lon g	lat	long					
Rendova Island	N	1	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 8.5509 3	157.30862	n/a	n/a	[7]	n/a	n/a
Haevo beach, Santa Isabel Island	N	1 (2020)	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	-7.6625	158.6201	n/a	n/a	[21]	n/a	n/a
Lilika Bay,Santa Isabel Island	N	10	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	-7.6625	158.6201	n/a	n/a	[7]	n/a	n/a
Litogahira beach, Santa Isabel Island	N	n/a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	-7.6625	158.6201	n/a	n/a	[21]	n/a	n/a
Marungu beach,Vang unu Island	N	4 (2005- 2006)	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 8.6547 3	158.00005	n/a	n/a	[19]	n/a	n/a
Queru beach,Tete pare Island	N	n/a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 8.7412 8	157.55893	n/a	n/a	[4]	n/a	n/a
Sasakalo beach, Santa	Y	25 (1993)	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	-7.6625	158.6201	n/a	n/a	[6]	n/a	n/a

Isabel Island														
Sasakalo beach, Santa Isabel Island	Y	25(1995)	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	-7.6625	158.6201	n/a	n/a	[6]	n/a	n/a
Sasakalo beach, Santa Isabel Island	Y	27 (2000)	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	-7.6625	158.6201	n/a	n/a	[6]	n/a	n/a
Sasakalo beach, Santa Isabel Island	Y	n/a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	-7.6625	158.6201	n/a	n/a	[21]	n/a	n/a
Sasakalo beach, Santa Isabel Island	Y	59	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	-7.6625	158.6201	n/a	n/a	[7]	n/a	n/a
Tetepare Island	Y	n/a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 8.7412 8	157.55893	n/a	n/a	[4]	n/a	n/a
Tetepare Island	Y	20	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 8.7412 8	157.55893	n/a	n/a	[7]	n/a	n/a
Tofa beach,Tete pare Island	N	n/a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 8.7412 8	157.55893	n/a	n/a	[4]	n/a	n/a

Wanione Bay, San Cristobal Island	N	1	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 10.573 74	161.80969	n/a	n/a	[7]	n/a	n/a
Zaira beach,Vang unu Island	Y	23 (2011- 2014)	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 8.6547 3	158.00005	n/a	n/a	[19]	n/a	n/a
EI-SW PAC				lat	lon g	lat	lon g	lat	long					
Arnavon Islands, Isabel Province	Y	630 (1976- 1977)	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 8.0592 3	159.1447	n/a	n/a	[1]	n/a	n/a
Arnavon Islands, Isabel Province	Y	149	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 8.0592 3	159.1447	n/a	n/a	[7]	n/a	n/a
Big Maleivona Island	Y	131 (1979- 2000) (1991- 2012)	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 7.4836 1	158.05055	2.544	n/a	[14,15	n/a	n/a
Choiseul Island	N	1	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 7.0501 4	156.95114	n/a	n/a	[7]	n/a	n/a
Kerehikapa Island	Y	518 (1979- 2000) (1991- 2012)	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 7.4546 8	158.02241	1.484	n/a	[14,15	n/a	n/a

Kia, Santa Isabel Island	N	1	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 7.5666 9	158.44657	n/a	n/a	[7]	n/a	n/a
Nelua, Santa Cruz Island	N	1	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 10.956 54	166.36213	n/a	n/a	[7]	n/a	n/a
Obeani Island	N	18	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 6.8502 7	156.18416	n/a	n/a	[7]	n/a	n/a
Sikopo Island	Y	321 (1979- 2000) (1991- 2012)	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 7.4474 4	157.98068	5.042	n/a	[14,15	n/a	n/a
Small Maleivona Island	Y	20(1979- 2000) (1991- 2012)	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.346	n/a	[14,15	n/a	n/a
Wagina Island	N	2	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 7.4454 9	157.77352	n/a	n/a	[7]	n/a	n/a
LO-W PAC				lat	lon g	lat	lon g	lat	long					
Shortland Islands	N	n/a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 7.0452 2	155.73717	n/a	n/a	[23]	n/a	n/a
Waihaoru beach, San Cristobal Island	N	n/a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	n/ a	n/a	- 10.573 74	161.80969	n/a	n/a	[10,23	n/a	n/a

Waihau,	N	n/a	n/a	n/	n/a	n/	n/a	-	160.90712	n/a	n/a	[10]	n/a	n/a
Malaita				а		а		8.9446						
Island								1						

Table 3. International conventions that have a nexus to sea turtle conservation.

International Conventions	Signed	Binding	Compliance measured and reported	Species	Conservation actions	Relevance to sea turtles
Convention on Migratory Species	Y	N	n/a	ALL	Protection of all the migratory species in Solomon waters.	Sea Turtles are one of the migratory species that CMS ensures is protected by different range states as well.
Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species	Y	Y	n/a	ALL	The Wildlife Protection and Management Act, 1998; Fisheries Regulatin LN 43/1993 prohibits take of eggs/nesting turtles/management area or trade. Protection of certain turtles LN 112/1977 low population of leatherback ensures the species is protected.	Sea turtles are listed under the Act, thus trade was is not allowed for commercial purposes.
Convention on Biological Diversity	Y	Y	n/a	ALL	Fisheries Act(No. 6 of 1998) for protection and managing in a sustainable manner. However does not accommodate for protection of turtle at foraging ground. The fishing gears and methods should be	Five species of sea turtles have been reported within the Solomon waters. There is very minimal protection for these species.

					prohibited using appropriate provisions.	
Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPF Convention)	Y	Y	n/a	ALL	Regulatory measures in place such as the use of specific types of gears that ensures, effective management and the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean.	Sea turtles as by- catch species.
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	Y	Y	n/a	ALL	The Convention looks at reducing the emission of harmful gasses by nations that alters the composition of the global atmosphere in a destructive manner, which is aimed at reducing temperatures and sea level rise.	The rise in beach temperature, which is nesting grounds for sea turtles, will affect the gender of the hatchlings that are produced causing an imbalance. The rise in sea temperatures might also affect the seagrass production which is green turtle diet.
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea	Y	Y	n/a	ALL	UNCLOS looks at defining boundaries for national countries to	In the Solomon, sea turtles are generally considered a marine resource

		govern and manage their marine resources	

 Table 4. Projects and Databases.

# RMU	Cou	Regio	Proje	Ke	St	En	Leadi	Public	Collaboration	Reports / Information	Curre	Primary	Oth
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													ail)

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-	Pacif		are	are	90	goi	are	е	Ecosystem	org/tetepare-	ally	
	ic	s	Island	Cons	S	ng	Desc	_	Partnership	research-and-	Ecosy	
	West		S	ervati		9	enda		Fund (CEPF);	monitoring.html	stem	
				on			nts		Solomon	<u></u>	Partn	
				Proje			Assoc		Islands		ership	
				ct			iation		Community		Fund	
							(TDA)		Conservation		(CEP	
							,		Partnership		F);	
									(SICCP);		Solo	
									European		mon	
									Union(EU);		Island	
									WWF; AusAID;		s	
									the American		Com	
									Museum of		munit	
									Natural History;		y	
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									Leadership		P)	
									Foundation;			
									NOAA;			
									Canadian			
									University			
									Services			
									Overseas			
									(CUSO)			

2	Pacific Southwe st; Ei Pacific Southwe st		Kolom banga ra	Com munit y Base d Turtle Monit oring	20 13	20 14	Ruffor d Foun dation	Privat e	Birdlife International/C onservation/Fa una & Flora International/W ildlife Conservation Society	https://www.rufford.or g/projects/ferguson_v aghi		
	Pacif ic Sout hwe st	Solo mon	Arnav on Island s	Arnav on Com munit y Marin e Park (form erly Arnav ons Com munit y Marin e Cons ervati on Area)	19 91	on goi ng	The Natur e Cons ervan cy	Privat e	Communities Kia, Wagina and Katupika; TNC; The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM); Isabel and Chiousel Provincial government	https://www.nature.or g/en-us/about- us/where-we- work/asia-pacific/the- pacific- islands/stories-in-the- pacific- islands/communities- supporting-sea- turtles/ https://www.nature.or g/en-us/about- us/where-we- work/asia- pacific/asia-and-the- pacific-women-in- conservation/kawaki- women-s-group/	The Natur e Cons ervan cy	

			Proje ct								
Ei Pacif ic Sout hwe st	Solo mon	Malaul alo	Malau lalo Cons ervati on Initiati ve	20 10	20 16	Ruffor d Foun dation	Privat e	https://www.rufford.or g/projects/dennis ma rita		Dennis Marta (dennismarit a@gmail.co m)	
Dc Pacif ic West	Solo	Malait a	Capa city buildi ng in the Solo mon Island s to enha nce leathe rback sea turtle conse rvatio n	20	20 15	Marin e Rese arch Foun dation		https://www.mrf-asia.org/project/capacity-building-in-the-solomon-islands-to-enhance-leatherback-sea-turtle-conservation-2014-2015/	This projec t was funde d via a NOA A-PIRO Grant along with additional funds from the Ruffor		

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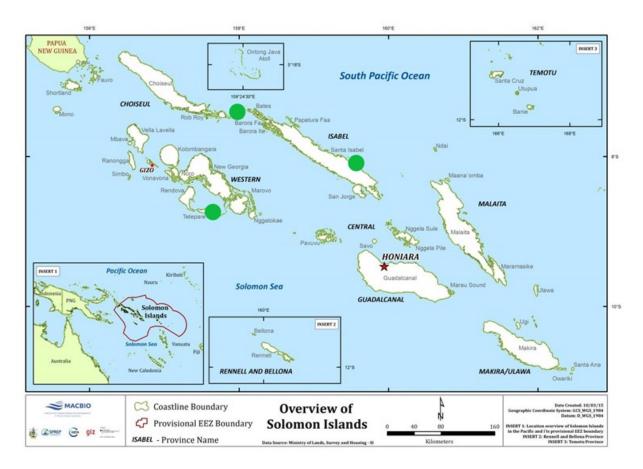


Figure 1. Green turtle active nesting sites, as per literature review. (Map of Solomon Islands from MACBIO project).

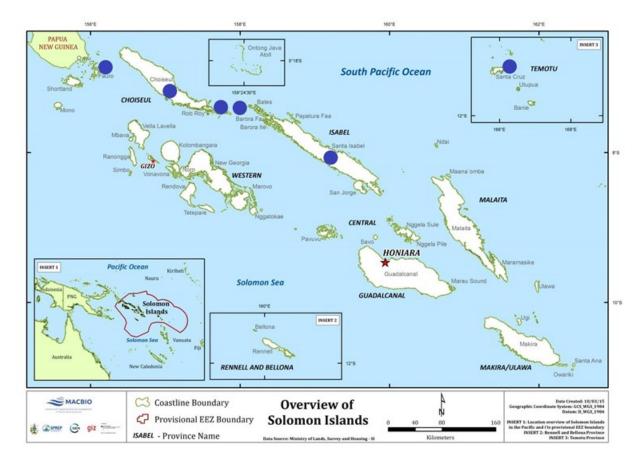


Figure 2. Hawksbill turtle active nesting sites, as per literature review. (Map of Solomon Islands from MACBIO project).

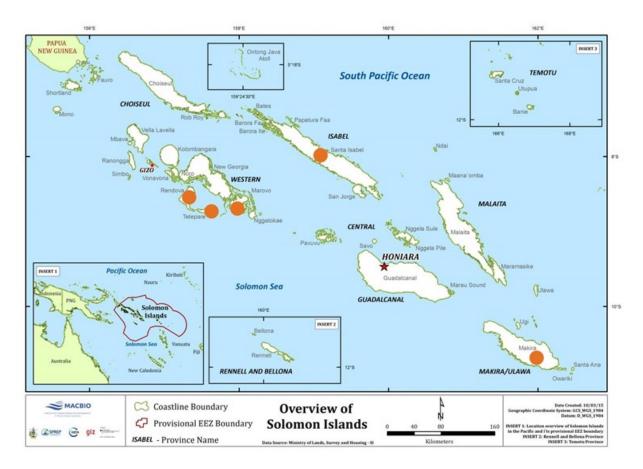


Figure 3. Leatherback turtle active nesting sites, as per literature review. (Map of Solomon Islands from MACBIO project).

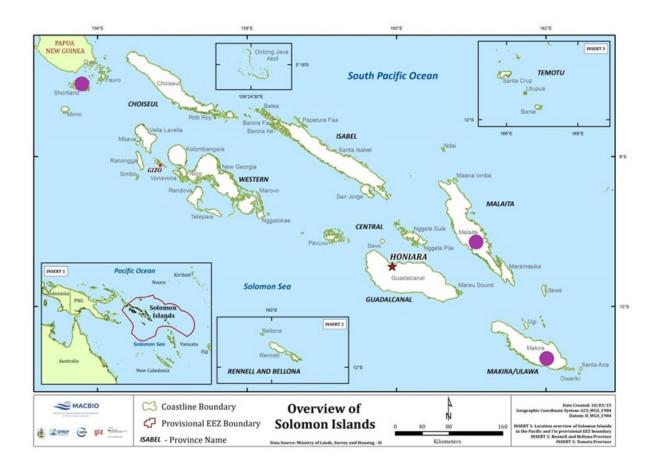


Figure 4. Olive ridley turtle active nesting sites, as per literature review. (Map of Solomon Islands from MACBIO project).