

# VANUATU TREDS REPORT FOR 2017 - 2018

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of tagging and nesting information that has been submitted to SPREP for incorporation into the regional Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDS).

This report also aims to provide information that can be used to assist turtle conservation work carried out in Vanuatu.

The data held in TREDS is from fieldwork carried out in Vanuatu by the Wan Smolbag's Vanua Tai Turtle Monitors Network and Tranquility Resort. This report provides all data in TREDS received for 2017 - 2018 period.

## 2. TAG INVENTORY

The tag inventory for Vanuatu records all tags received from SPREP and details of damage and distribution of tags. The tag inventory records all flipper tags used for turtle monitoring in Vanuatu.

### 2.1. Tags distributed by SPREP to Vanuatu

Tags distributed to WSB, Environment Unit, Fisheries, Ngun Pele MPA and Tranquility Resort by SPREP now total up to 15,712 (Annex 1).

### 2.2 Tags distributed by other agencies to Vanuatu

There are no records of tags distributed by other agencies for Vanuatu in TREDS.

## 3. SPECIES NUMBERS BY SITE FOR VANUATU

Hawksbill turtle (n=1,550) is the species with the highest record in TREDS for Vanuatu. This is followed by green (n=777), unidentified marine turtle species (n=144), leatherback (n = 17), loggerhead (n=7) and olive ridley turtles (n=5). The details of turtles encountered for this reported period are as follows:

- **2017:** A total of 144 hawksbill turtles and 71 green turtles were reported to be tagged and released from Tranquility Island Resort (134 head starting hawksbill turtles), Malekula Island (51 green turtles, 5 hawksbill), Epi Island (2 green), Futuna Island (2 hawksbill), Vanu Lava Island (3 hawksbill, 16 green) and Aniwa Island (1 green).
- **2018:** A total of 144 hawksbill turtles and 9 green turtles were reported to be tagged and released from Tranquility Island Resort (134 head starting hawksbill turtles), Malekula Island (3 green, 1 hawksbill) and Vanu Lava Island (6 green, 9 hawksbill).

## 4. TAG RECOVERY

### 4.1. Turtles tagged and recovered within Vanuatu (2017 – 2018)

Out of 368 turtles that were tagged for the reported period, 8 turtles were recovered within Vanuatu (Annex 2). Four were initially tagged from Bamboo Bay village on Malekula Island, three nesting green turtles were remigrant nesters with 8 – 13 years of remigration intervals while the one hawksbill turtle was a remigrant nester with 9 years of remigration interval. The other four turtles were tagged from Moso village on Malekula Island, three nesting green turtles and one hawksbill turtles were recovered within nesting seasons.

### 4.2 Turtles tagged outside and recovered within Vanuatu

Three green turtles tag recoveries were from turtles that were reported as nesting and tagged in

South Great Barrier Reef - Australia, French Polynesia and American Samoa. Two additional green turtles were tagged in Australia and French Polynesia, of which the initial tagging record for Australia was unknown, while the green turtle in French Polynesia was released from captivity from Scilly Atoll. The two hawksbill turtle tag recoveries were of turtles that were tagged and released as sub-adults in Australia and Samoa and recovered in Vanuatu (Trevor, 2009) (Table 1). There are no new updates for turtles tagged outside and recovered in Vanuatu for this reporting period (2017 - 2018).

#### **4.3 Turtle tagged in Vanuatu and recaptured outside**

A hawksbill turtle tagged in Vanuatu on Malekula Island in Bamboo Bay village was recovered stranded in Australia at Lake Arrangan beach (Table 2). There are no updates for this reporting period (2017 - 2018).

**Table 1: Tag recovery of turtles tagged outside and recaptured in Vanuatu**

Tag No.	Species	Sex	Initial Encounter			Other Encounter			Fate
			Date	Location	Activity	Date	Location		
K21864	Green	Female	09/Dec/2000	Lady Elliot Island, SGBR, QLD, Australia	Nesting	02/Feb/2002	Lutes Village, Malekula Island	Killed	
K625	Green	Female	05/Nov/1993	Rose Atoll, American Samoa	Nesting	01/Apr/1994	Ambrym Island, Vanuatu	Dead	
K8415	Hawksbill	Female	21/Oct/1997	Unname reef, NGBR near Lizard Island, QLD, Australia	Foraging	?/10/2006	Vaipei village, NW Santo, Vanuatu	Killed	
R16708/R16707	Hawksbill	Indeterminate	29/Apr/2006	Malua Theological College, Upolu Island, Samoa	In captivity	18/Aug/2007	Wasaga Village, Vanua Lava,	RA?	
S111/S112/S113	Green	Female	22/Oct/1991	Scilly Atoll, French Polynesia	Nesting	10/Feb/1995	Aneityum Island, Vanuatu	?	
K34661	Green	Female	?/?/1992	Australia	unknown	17/Dec/2008	Wiawia village, Malekula Island	Nesting	
39	Green	Female	30/Apr/1972	Scilly Atoll, French Polynesia	In Captivity	14/Sep/1973	Maskelyne Island, Vanuatu	unknown	

**Table 2: Turtle tagged in Vanuatu and recovered outside**

Tag No.	Species	Sex	Initial Encounter			Other Encounter			Activity
			Date	Location	Activity	Date	Location		
R41825/R41825	Hawksbill	Female	09/Dec/2009	Bamboo bay village	Nesting	20/Oct/2010	Lake Arrangan Beach, Brooms head NSW, Australia	Stranded, Dead	

## **8. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Trevor, A. 2009. TREDS report for Vanuatu. Report prepared by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program Apia, Samoa.

Siota, C. 2010. TREDS report for Vanuatu. Report prepared by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program Apia, Samoa.

Siota, C. 2011-2012. TREDS report for Vanuatu. Report prepared by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program Apia, Samoa.

Siota, C. 2013-2014. TREDS report for Vanuatu. Report prepared by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program Apia, Samoa.

**ANNEX 1:** Tags series distributed by SPREP

Date	Tag Series		No. of Tags	No. of Tags in TREDS	Receiving Agency
	From	To			
23/10/1991	R1401	R1700	300	16	ENVIRONMENT UNIT
6/02/1996	R10026	R10098	73	53	FISHERIES DEPT
6/02/1996	R10401	R10424	24	-	FISHERIES DEPT
6/02/1996	R10651	R10700	50	40	WSB
6/02/1996	R10801	R10826	26	19	FISHERIES DEPT
6/02/1996	R10828	R10850	23	9	FISHERIES DEPT
6/02/1996	R11001	R11050	50	26	FISHERIES DEPT
6/02/1996	R11101	R11125	25	17	SPREP
6/02/1996	R11201	R11223	23	13	SPREP
6/02/1996	R11226	R11249	24	6	SPREP
6/02/1996	R9283	R9283	1	1	SPREP
6/02/1996	R9876	R9898	23	-	FISHERIES DEPT
31/05/1996	R10153	R10170	18	-	WSB
31/05/1996	R10227	R10249	23	9	WSB
31/05/1996	R10251	R10275	25	-	WSB
31/05/1996	R10378	R10400	23	-	WSB
31/05/1996	R10578	R10589	12	12	WSB
31/05/1996	R10714	R10718	5	3	SPREP
31/05/1996	R10724	R10747	24	13	SPREP
31/05/1996	R10927	R10963	37	26	WSB
30/08/1997	R13126	R13350	225	110	WSB
30/08/1997	R13451	R13650	200	52	WSB
30/08/1997	R13551	R13650	100	-	WSB
16/07/1998	R13951	R14450	500	132	WSB
18/11/1998	R15751	R16350	600	179	WSB
20/04/1999	R21651	R21750	100	40	SPREP
20/01/2000	R20973	R21150	178	77	SPREP
21/01/2000	R23251	R23650	400	141	SPREP
1/01/2002	R19051	R19100	50	10	WSB
1/01/2002	R19201	R19300	100	12	WSB
1/01/2002	R19401	R19926	526	158	WSB
15/08/2002	R18559	R18950	392	111	SPREP
20/10/2003	R25101	R25250	150	74	SPREP
20/10/2003	R25451	R25650	200	114	SPREP
30/06/2004	R28051	R28150	100	34	SPREP
29/10/2004	R31501	R31900	400	237	SPREP
1/02/2005	R29901	R30500	600	261	SPREP
24/03/2005	R35001	R35800	800	121	SPREP
12/01/2006	R1045	R1046	2	2	WSB
18/08/2006	R37651	R38200	550	303	WSB
18/08/2006	R41601	R41650	50	20	WSB
7/12/2006	R40001	R40400	400	97	SPREP
19/03/2007	R40601	R41100	500	104	SPREP
30/04/2007	R41651	R42000	350	171	SPREP
30/04/2007	R43601	R43650	50	10	SPREP
27/07/2007	RI00301	RI00500	200	2	WSB
18/11/2007	R42801	R43200	400	123	WSB
18/11/2007	RI00001	RI00100	100	46	Tranquility Resort
25/11/2007	R27534	R27535	2	2	WSB
4/05/2008	R44201	R44300	100	-	WSB
7/06/2008	R44401	R44500	100	5	WSB

7/06/2008	RI00301	RI00400	100	-	WSB
7/06/2008	RI00601	RI00700	100	-	WSB

Date	Tag Series		No. of Tags	No. of Tags in TREDS	Receiving Agency
	From	To			
6/10/2008	RI00901	RI01200	300	25	WSB
19/05/2009	R45951	R46350	400	219	WSB
19/05/2009	RI02001	RI02200	200	20	WSB
22/07/2009	RI00301	RI00324	24	2-	WSB
22/07/2009	RI00325	RI00350	26	-	WSB
22/07/2009	RI00801	RI00824	24	-	WSB
22/07/2009	RI00825	RI00850	26	-	WSB
26/11/2009	R47451	R47650	200	97	WSB
26/04/2010	RI04401	RI04500	100	94	Tranquility Resort
26/04/2010	RI04501	RI04600	100	90	Tranquility Resort
1/11/2010	RI04601	RI04700	100	4	WSB
1/11/2010	RI04701	RI04800	100	96	WSB
1/11/2010	RI04801	RI04900	100	6	WSB
19/11/2010	RI04601	RI04900	300	106	WSB
7/12/2010	R46176	R46200	25	9	WSB
7/12/2010	R46201	R46225	25	16	WSB
7/12/2010	R46226	R46250	25	19	WSB
5/07/2010	R43917	R43917	2	2	WSB
4/03/2011	RI04701	RI04800	100	96	WSB
2/05/2011	R40108	R40109	2	-	WSB
3/08/2011	RI03301	RI03399	99	98	Tranquility Resort
01/01/2012	R75214	R75215	2	2	
23/01/2012	R49251	R49350	100	14	WSB
23/01/2012	RI05001	RI05100	100	-	WSB
23/01/2012	RI05101	RI05200	100	-	WSB
3/03/2012	RI06801	RI06900	100	98	Tranquility Resort
14/06/2012	RI06301	RI06400	100	-	Tranquility Resort
24/07/2012	RI08001	RI08200	200	200	Tranquility Resort
1/01/2013	RI09301	RI09800	500	-	WSB
11/02/2013	RI09001	RI09300	300	272	Tranquility Resort
14/01/2014	RI11501	RI11800	300	111	Tranquility Resort
12/02/2013	R51551	R51625	75	-	WSB
17/03/2014	R53551	R53650	100	-	WSB
17/03/2014	R52651	R52750	100	-	WSB
10/03/2015	RI07501	RI07600	100	-	WSB
23/10/2015	RI02803	RI02900	73	-	Nguna/Pele MPA
23/Oct/2015	RI11001	RI13000	300		
05/01/2017	R56151	R56350	200	-	Tranquility Resort
05/01/2017	RI13301	RI13500	200	-	Tranquility Resort
16/02/2018	R56451	R56550	100	-	Tranquility Resort
12/04/2018	RI16501	RI17000	500	-	Tranquility Resort
06/06/2018	R56351	R56400	50	-	WSB
06/06/2018	RI14001	RI14100	100	-	WSB
26/10/2018	RI14701	RI15000	300	-	Tranquility Resort
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>15,712</b>	<b>4,705</b>	

**ANNEX 2: Turtles tagged within Vanuatu and also recovered in Vanuatu.**

Tag No.	Species	Sex	Initial Encounter			Other Encounter			Activit y
			Date	Locati on	Activit y	Date	Locati on	Activit y	
R31855/R31856	Green	Female	04/12/2006	Malekula Island, Bamboo	Nesting	29/03/2017	?		?
R31896/R31897	Green	Female	02/02/2005	Malekula Island, Bamboo	Nesting	06/11/2017	Malekula Island, Bamboo	Nesting	
R53581/R53580	Green	Female	06/11/2017	Malekula Island, Moso	Nesting	07/11/2017	Malekula Island, Bamboo	Nesting	
R53556/R53565	Green	Female	11/11/2017	Malekula Island, Bamboo	Nesting	08/12/2017	Malekula Island, Bamboo	Nesting	
R53574/R53573	Green	Female	31/10/2017	Malekula Island, Moso	Nesting	17/11/2017	Malekula Island, Bamboo	Nesting	
R37890/R37891	Green	Female	16/12/2009	Malekula Island, Bamboo	Nesting	27/11/2017	Malekula Island, Bamboo	Nesting	
R53561/R53560	Hawksbill	Female	20/11/2017	Malekula Island, Moso	Nesting	27/11/2017	Malekula Island, Bamboo	Nesting	
R38043/R38044	Hawksbill	Female	16/12/2008	Malekula Island, Bamboo	Nesting	26/12/2017	Malekula Island, Bamboo	Nesting	