



Arnavon Community Marine Park

Arnavon Community Marine Park (ACMP)

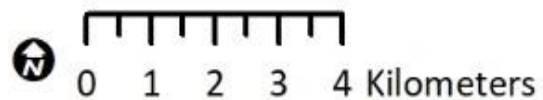
Sikipo

Kerehikapa

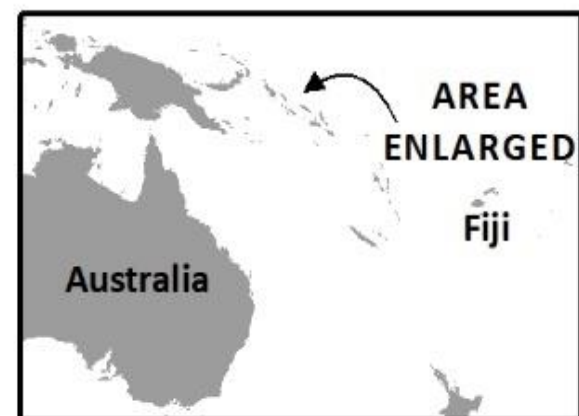
Big
Maleivona

Legend

— Turtle nesting beaches



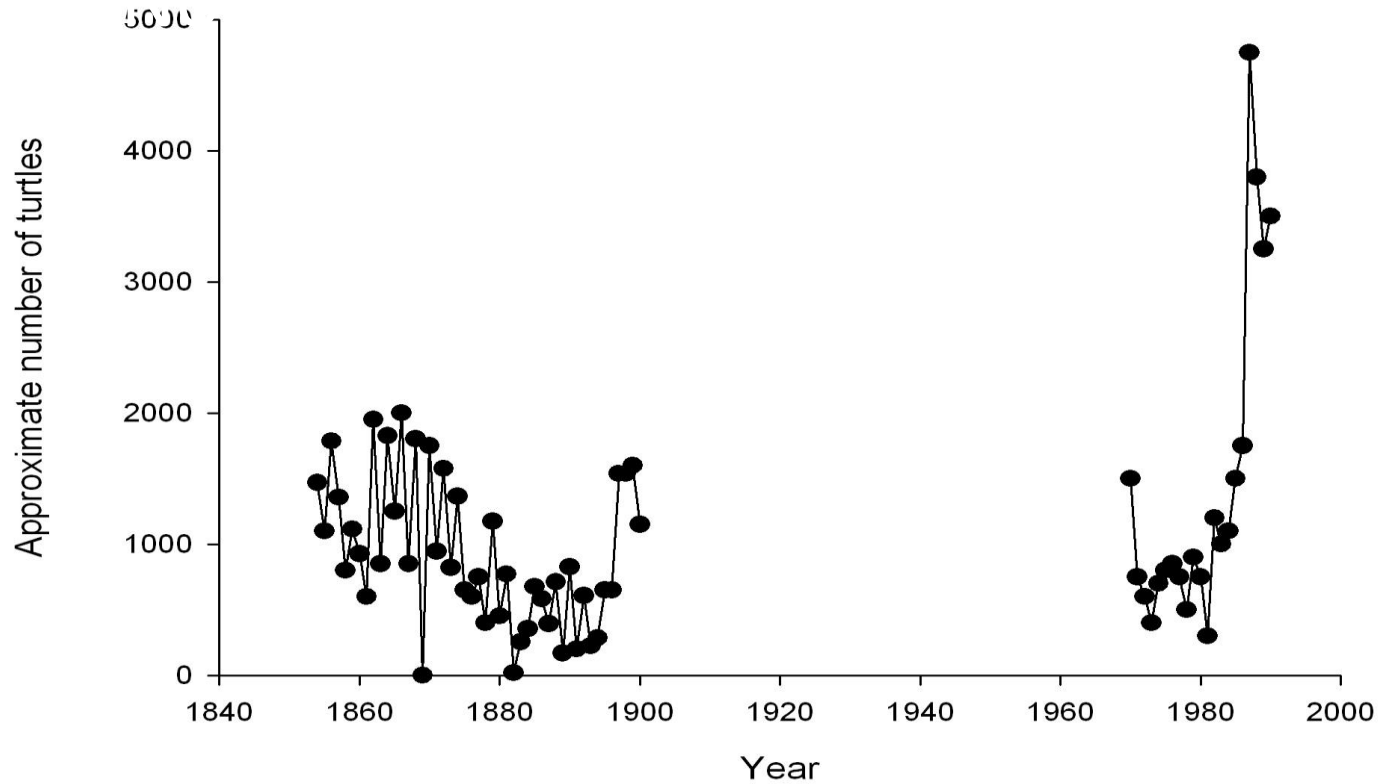
npeterson@tnc.org
22 April 2020



Turtle harvesting commenced over 700 years ago



Radclyffe, C. J. T., Summerhayes, G., & Walter, R. (2019). Discovery of Talasea obsidian in a post-Lapita deposit in Arnavon Islands, Solomon Islands. *Journal of Pacific Archaeology*, 10(2), 73-79.



Bennett JA (1987) *Wealth of the Solomons. A history of a Pacific archipelago, 1800–1978*. University of Hawaii Press.

Limpus, C.J., Miller, J.D., Guinea, M. and Whiting, S., 2008. *Australian hawksbill turtle population dynamics project (p. 140)*. Queensland: Environmental Protection Agency.

25 years of conservation



Hamilton, R.J., Bird, T., Gereniu, C., Pita, J., Ramohia, P., Walter, R., Goerlich, C., and Limpus, C. (2015). Solomon Islands largest hawksbill turtle rookery shows signs of recovery after 150 years of excessive exploitation. *PLoS ONE* 10(4): e0121435.

SATELLITE TRACKING



Satellite tracking Findings

- None of the 30 tracked turtles laid clutches outside of the ACMP
- 98.5% of all inter-nesting days spent within the ACMP
- Most nesting occurring at Sikopo Island which had a significant poaching problem



Hamilton, R.J., Desbiens, A., Pita, J., Brown, C.J., Vuto, S., Atu, W., James, R., Waldie, P. and Limpus, C. (2021). Satellite tracking improves conservation outcomes for nesting hawksbill turtles in Solomon Islands. *Biological Conservation*, 261, p.109240.

Conservation Outcomes

- Findings helped get ACMP registered as Solomon Islands first national park in May 2017.



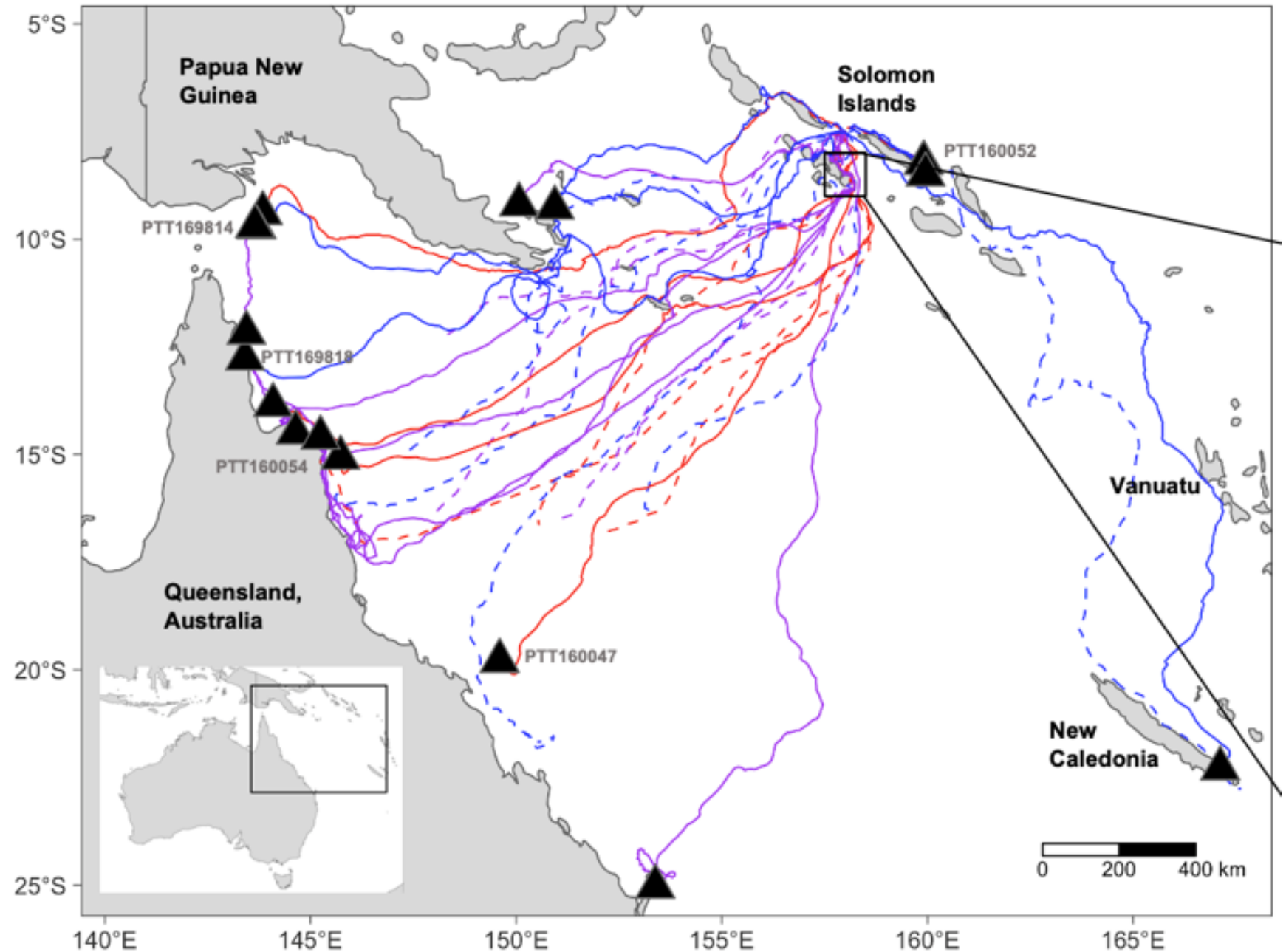
Conservation Outcomes

- Built and staffed a second ranger station on Sikopo



Shared resources

Most turtles returned to distant foraging grounds in Australia, New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea



Next chapter for Arnavons



- Support local women's group KAWAKI to establish Arnavon Islands as an important education/research and tourism destination for Solomon Islands
- Work with stakeholders to ensure better enforcement of park regulations