

# Sustainable harvesting of Seabirds in Vanuatu – update.

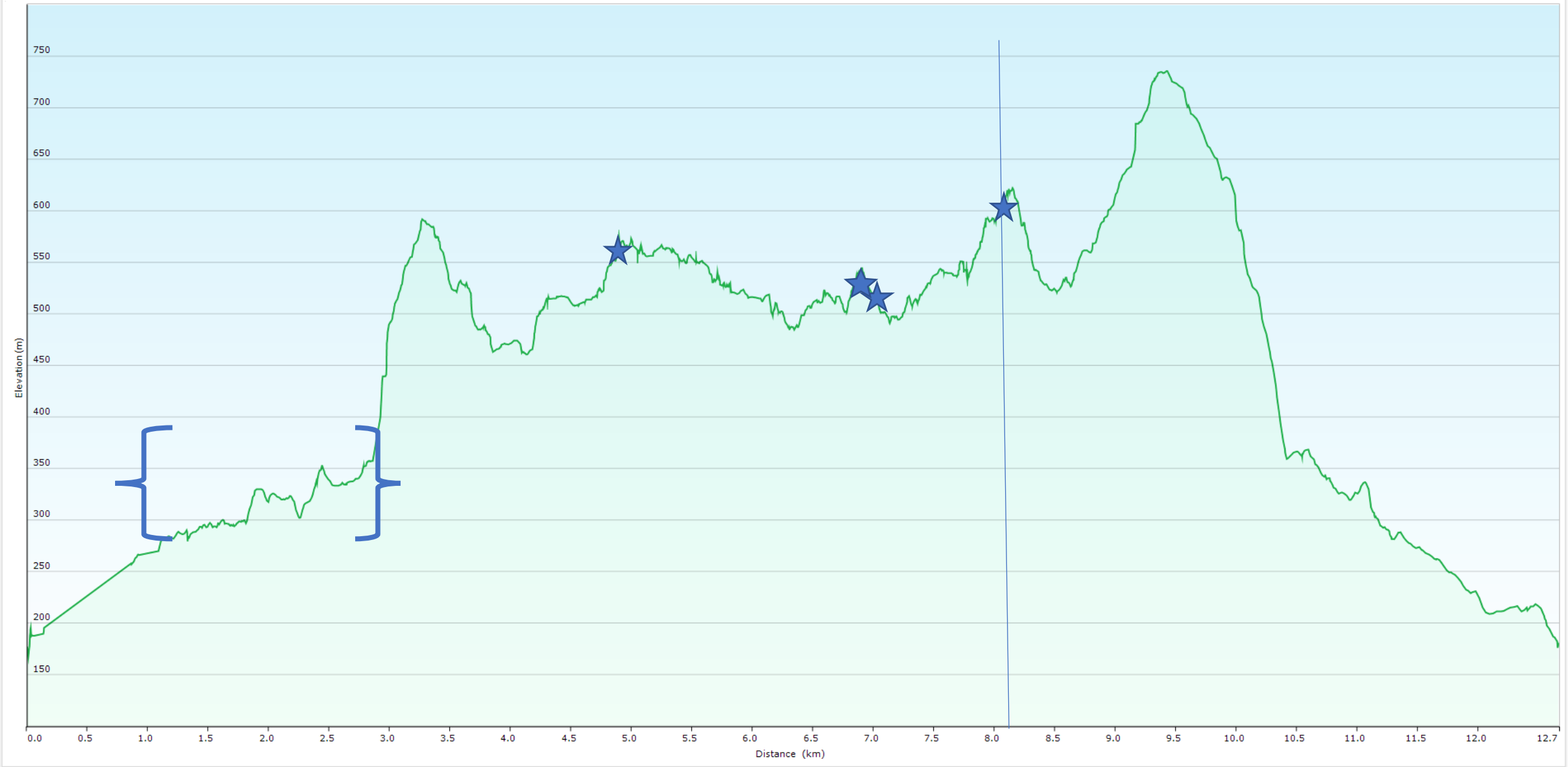


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# Harvesting of Collared Petrel chicks on Tanna.

- In 2019 we obtained information on harvesting levels from 7 villages along the Eastern slopes of Mt Tukuamera.
- The villagers harvested 202 chicks from the mountain range - all harvested in June or July, 2019.
- We understand that another 5 villages on the eastern slopes also harvest.
- We understand that each village has its own patch of mountain area from within which it harvests.





# Predators of Tekarkak in their breeding area.



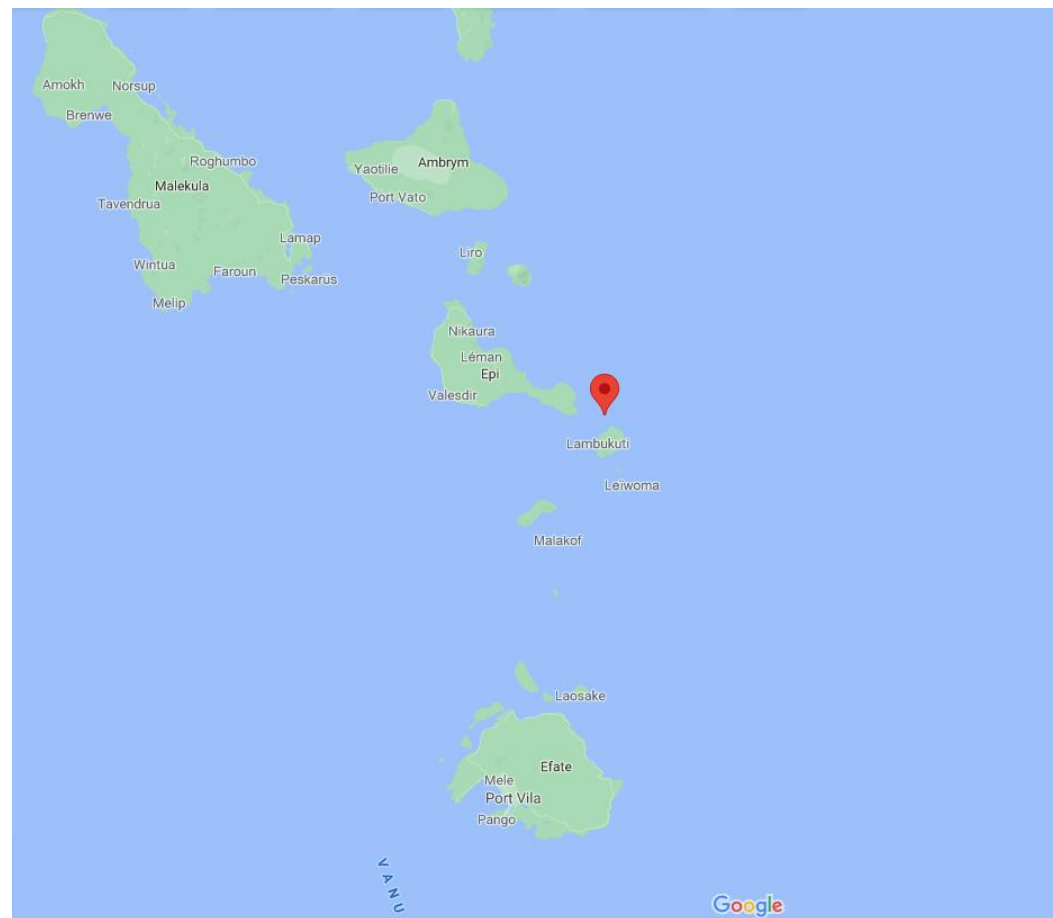
# Updates on Tanna in 2020.

- In 2020 many fewer chicks (29) were reported harvested – although the Pandemic meant that we were restricted in how much active encouragement we could give to collect this information.
- The community at Yenmilen agreed to establish a protected area around the colony that they generally harvest, and no more than 1 or 2 chicks per year for ceremonial purposes, would be taken.
- The community are working with VEAN to establish an alternative protein source – and we are investigating whether they can provide some form of protection for the species when breeding.



# Koroliko (wedge-tailed shearwaters) on Laika.

- There is a regularly harvested colony of Koroliko on Laika.
- Community considers the colony to be increasing – despite c3-5,000 birds being harvested a year.
- Our main objective was to ensure that this colony was sustainably harvested – and that we could set an upper limit on the take.
- We made the first visit, to estimate colony size, in April this year. If our density estimates are correct then we are looking at a burrow estimate well in excess of 100,000.
- We need to revisit during the earlier part of the breeding season (October/November) to determine the occupancy rate of burrows at that stage – and assess failure rate of burrows through the breeding season.



# Fate of chicks harvested on Laika in 2021.



- Shearwater chicks are harvested on the island of Laika, plucked and left to dry in the sun.
- 10% of chicks harvested are consumed on the island.
- The remaining chicks are shipped back to Tongoa, where some 60% are distributed among the local community.
- The remaining 30% are exported, via a freezer, to market in Port Vila for sale (at cUS\$2.28/bird).
- Overall, c5,000 chicks were harvested in 2021.

Many thanks for listening.



Any questions?