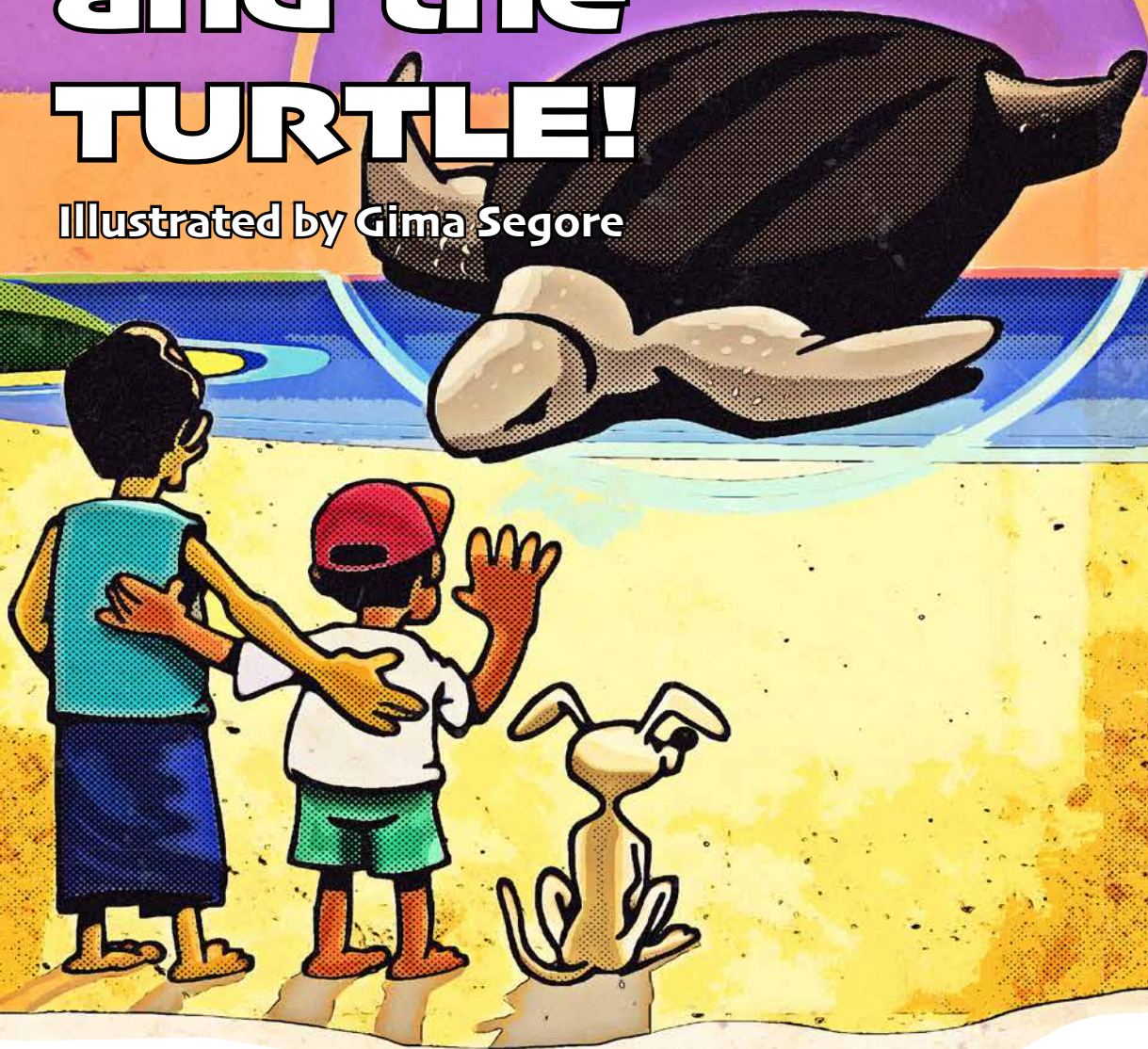


SPREP presents...

TUKI and the TURTLE!

Illustrated by Gima Segore



The Pacific BioScapes Programme is a European Union (EU) funded action, managed and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The Programme contributes to the sustainable development of Pacific Small Island Developing States through the implementation of 30 focused activities taking place across a diversity of ecosystems in 11 countries that will address critical issues concerning coastal and marine biodiversity, and ecosystem-based responses to climate change adaptation.

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council has generously allowed the adaptation of its original black and white comic book 'Come Back Leatherback' (illustrated by Gima Segore and written by Nicolas Pilcher). It has been coloured, rewritten and renamed 'Tuki and the Turtle' by Carlo Iacovino at SPREP in this new edition for the Pacific BioScapes Programme.

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Our vision: A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.





LET'S GO TUKI!



WE DON'T WANT TO MISS THE SUNRISE.



A GLORIOUS MORNING GREETED THEM AS THEY STEPPED FROM THE SHADE OF THE TREES AND WALKED ALONG THE SHORE.



THE SAND CRUNCHED UNDER THEIR FEET.



WHILE THE FAMILY DOGS RAN AND BARKED AMONG THE TREES.



UP AHEAD THEY COULD SEE THE DISTURBED SAND FROM A LEATHERBACK TURTLE THAT HAD NESTED LAST NIGHT.



THEY LEAVE TRACKS AS BIG AS A TRACTOR!



THEY CRAWL UP ON TO THE SAND TO LAY EGGS FOUR OR FIVE TIMES EACH SEASON.



CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW TIRING IT MUST BE FOR THEM?!



WHY DO WE ONLY FIND TRACKS LEFT BY THE TURTLES AFTER CHRISTMAS?



WELL, IN REALITY THE TURTLES NEST FROM OCTOBER UNTIL MARCH OR APRIL.....



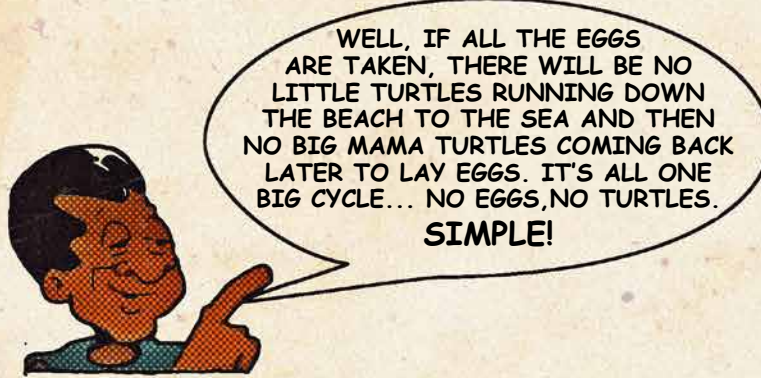
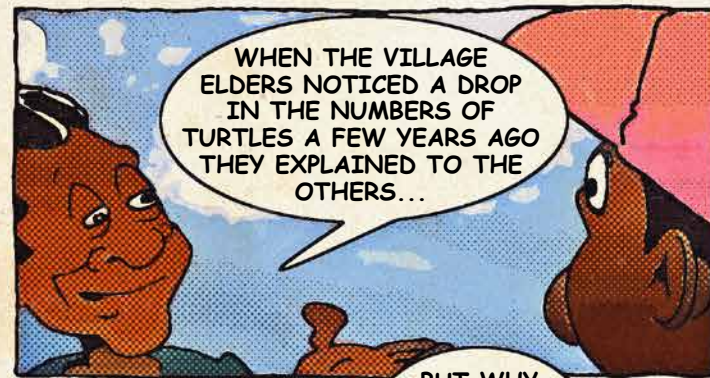
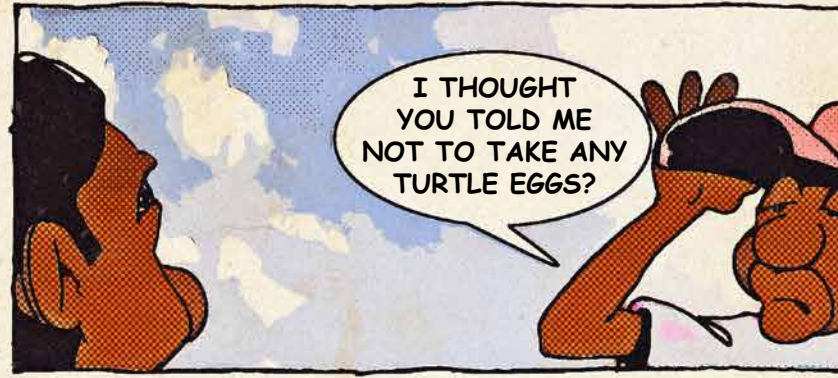
BUT WE SEE MORE OF THEIR TRACKS IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY....

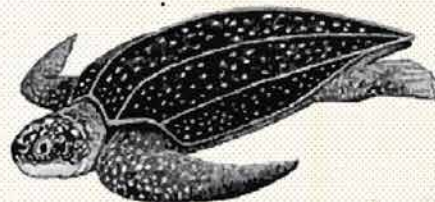
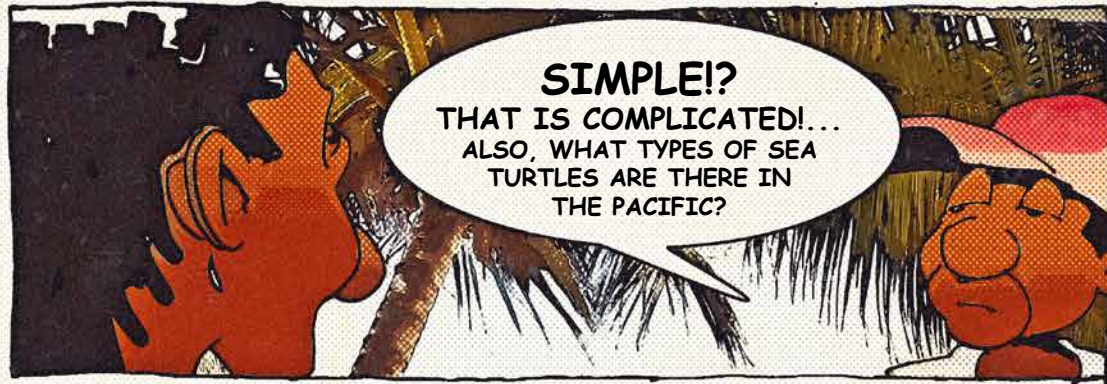


SO THAT MUST BE WHEN MOST OF THEM NEST, AND WHY WE NOTICE THEM MORE.



THERE ARE SO MANY NESTS!





THE LEATHERBACK IS THE LARGEST LIVING SPECIES OF SEA TURTLE IN THE WORLD! IT CAN WEIGH UP TO 500 KILOGRAMS.



THERE IS THE GREEN TURTLE. IT BECOMES GREEN BECAUSE IT EATS LOTS AND LOTS OF SEA GRASS!



THE HAWKSBILL TURTLE GETS ITS NAME BECAUSE IT HAS A HOOKED BEAK, LIKE A HAWK. THE MEAT CAN BE POISONOUS IF PEOPLE EAT IT!



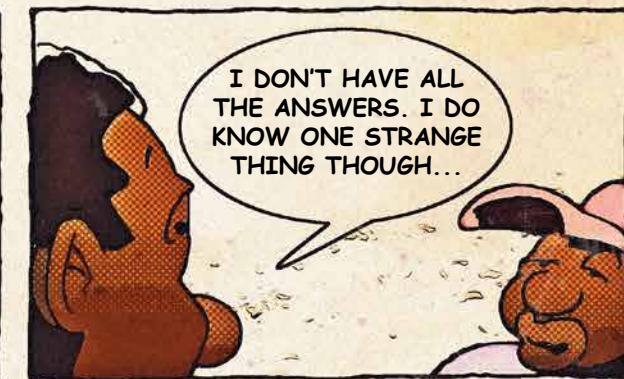
THE LOGGERHEAD TURTLE WHICH HAS A LARGE HEAD WITH A BIG THICK NECK.

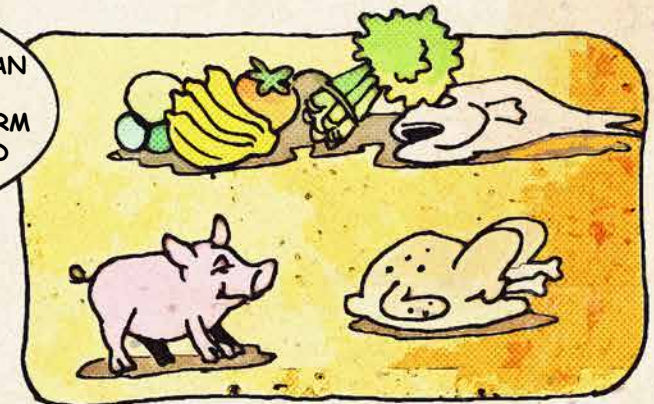
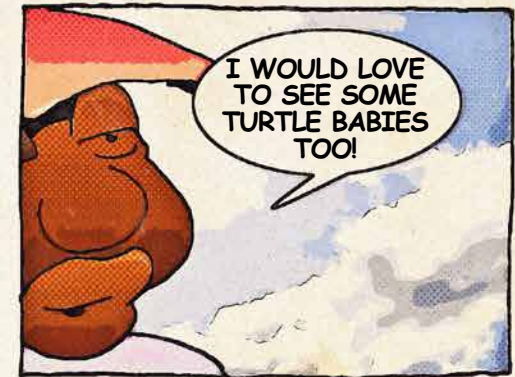


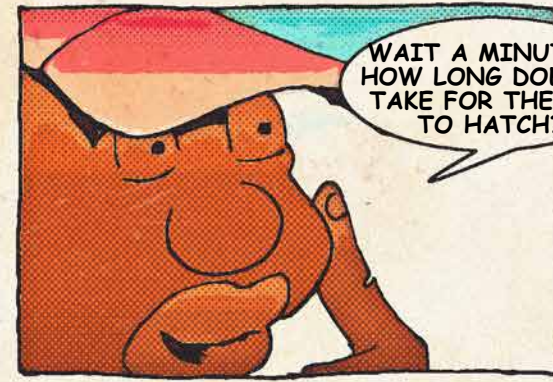
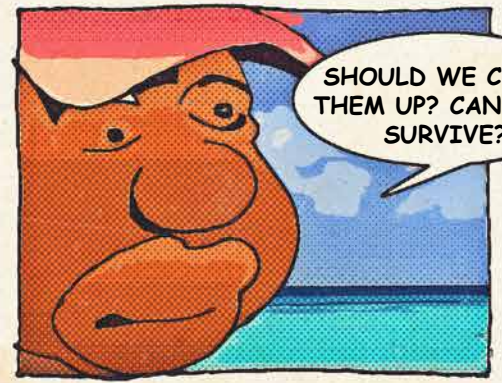
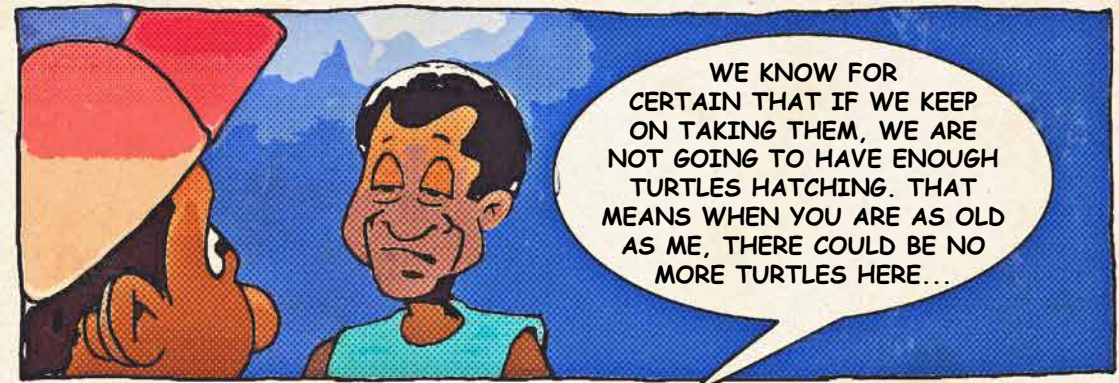
THE FLATACK TURTLE WHICH IS ONLY AROUND NORTHERN AUSTRALIA, SOUTHERN PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND INDONESIA.



...AND THE OLIVE RIDLEY, THAT IS THE SMALLEST ONE OF THEM ALL.







LET'S COVER THIS NEST NOW AND HOPE THESE EGGS ARE STILL OK.



THEY LEFT A MARKER IN THE BEACH TO HELP TUKI FIND THE NEST AGAIN, THEY CONTINUED ON THEIR WALK, PASSING LOTS OF NESTING TRACKS ALONG THE WAY.



MANY OF THE NESTS HAD BEEN DUG UP AND THE EGGS HAD BEEN REMOVED.



IT IS SUCH A PITY PEOPLE TAKE SO MANY EGGS...

MAYBE WE CAN TALK TO THE VILLAGE TODAY AND TELL THEM HOW YOU FEEL?



YOU TELL THEM THAT YOU CARE AND THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



THEY WILL LISTEN TO YOU. JUST BE BRAVE!



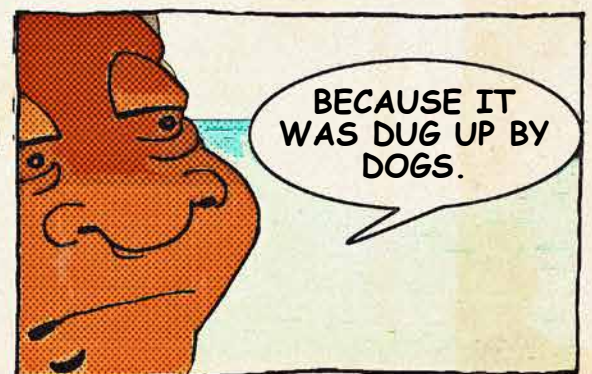
THE NEXT NEST THEY REACHED HAD BROKEN EGGS SCATTERED ALL AROUND.



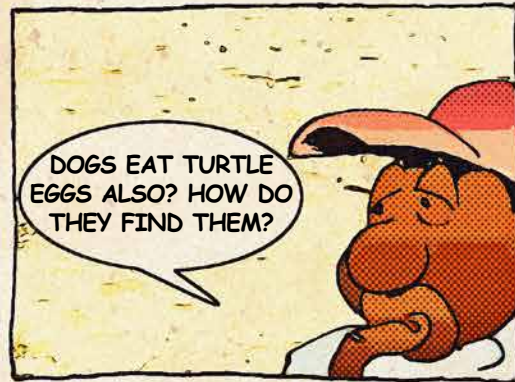
WHY WOULD SOMEONE BREAK THE EGGS AND LEAVE THEM HERE?



BECAUSE IT WAS DUG UP BY DOGS.

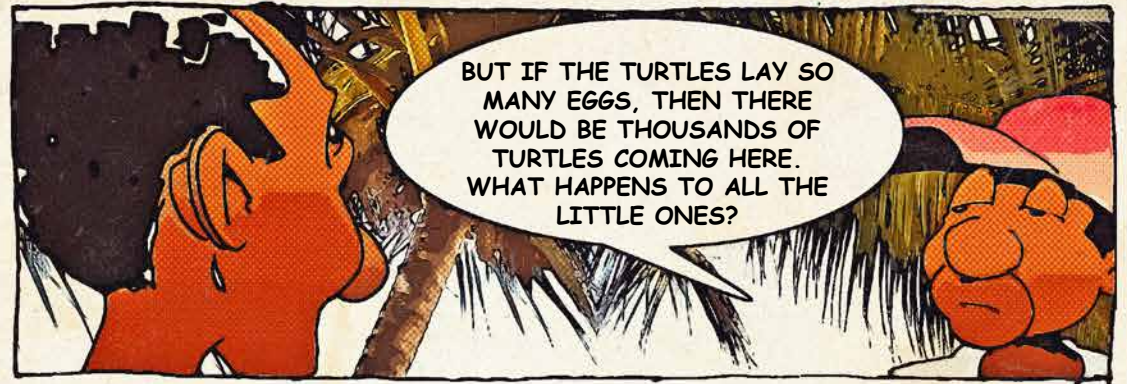
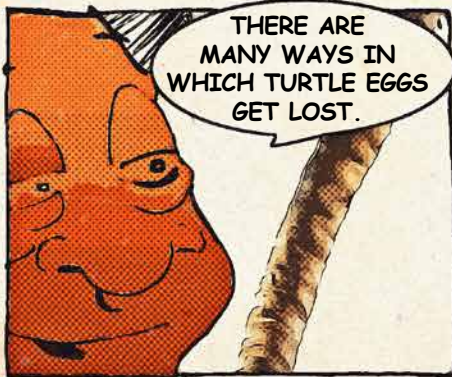


DOGS EAT TURTLE EGGS ALSO? HOW DO THEY FIND THEM?

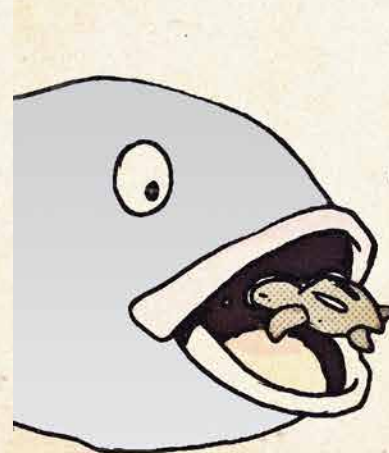


DOGS HAVE A VERY GOOD SENSE OF SMELL, MUCH BETTER THAN PEOPLE DO.



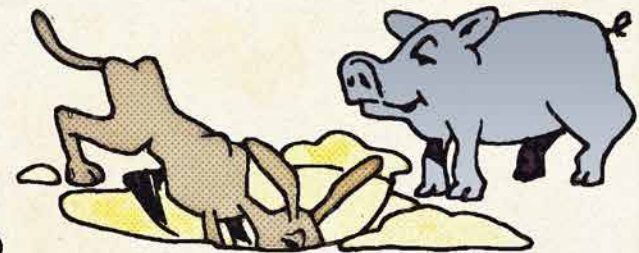


SEABIRDS CAN CATCH THEM WHEN THEY ARE CRAWLING ON THE SAND.

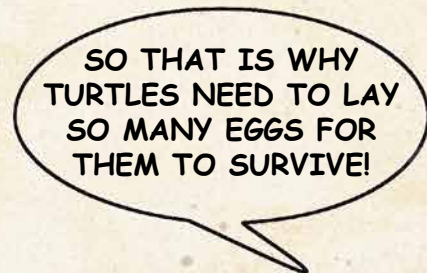


LARGE FISH EAT THEM IN THE SEA.

POSSIBLY HALF OF ALL THE HATCHLINGS CAN BE EATEN BY FISH!

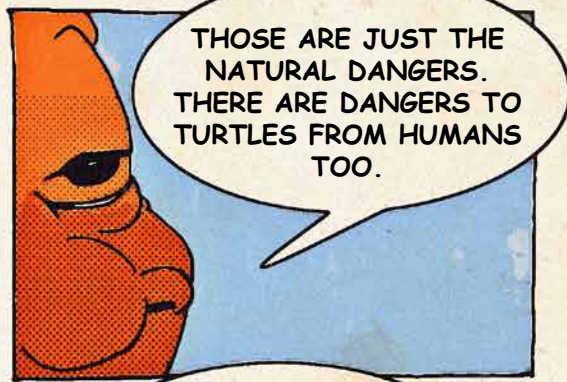


DOGS AND PIGS CAN DIG UP THE NESTS.





THAT STILL DOES NOT SOUND LIKE EVERY LITTLE TURTLE WOULD DIE?



THOSE ARE JUST THE NATURAL DANGERS. THERE ARE DANGERS TO TURTLES FROM HUMANS TOO.



LIKE IF PEOPLE THROW PLASTIC BAGS AWAY THEY LOOK LIKE A JELLYFISH. THEN A BIG LEATHERBACK TURTLE COULD EAT IT.



ANY PLASTIC THROWN IN A DRAIN OR A RIVER USUALLY ENDS UP IN THE SEA...

THEN WHAT HAPPENS?



IF A PLASTIC BAG GETS STUCK IN THE MOUTH OR STOMACH OF A TURTLE THEN IT CANNOT EAT ANYTHING. IT WILL STARVE TO DEATH.



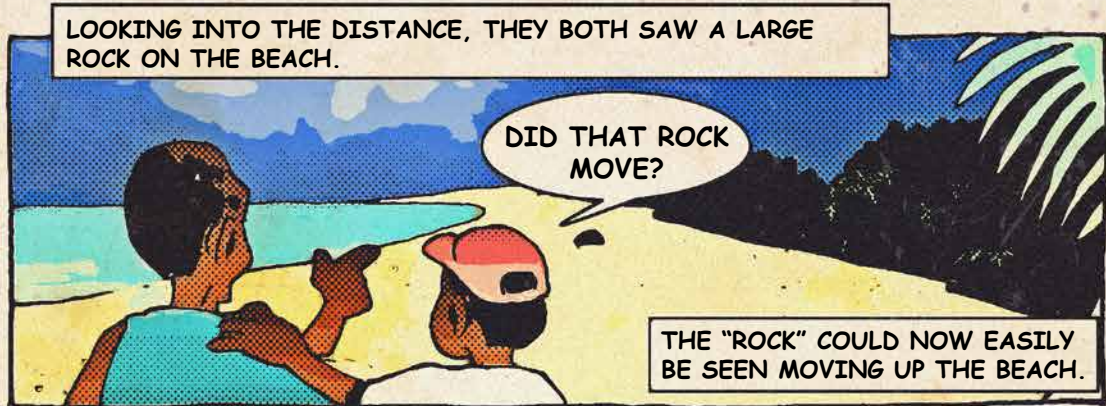
FISHING BOATS AND FISHING GEAR ARE A DANGER TO TURTLES ALSO.



HOW?



BECAUSE TURTLES CAN GET WRAPPED UP IN FISHING LINES AND OTHERS CAN DROWN IN THE NETS.



LOOKING INTO THE DISTANCE, THEY BOTH SAW A LARGE ROCK ON THE BEACH.

DID THAT ROCK MOVE?

THE "ROCK" COULD NOW EASILY BE SEEN MOVING UP THE BEACH.



THAT'S NOT A ROCK TUKI! IT IS A LEATHERBACK COMING TO NEST ON THE BEACH.



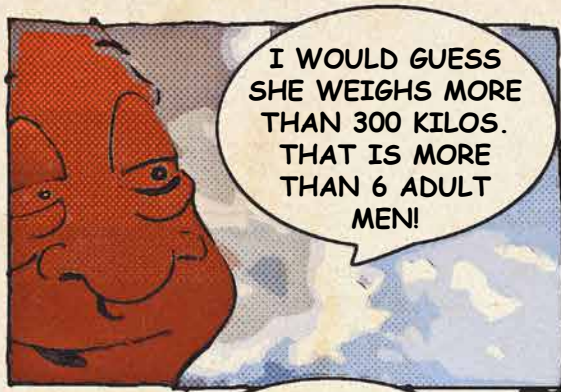
I THOUGHT THEY ONLY CAME AT NIGHT?



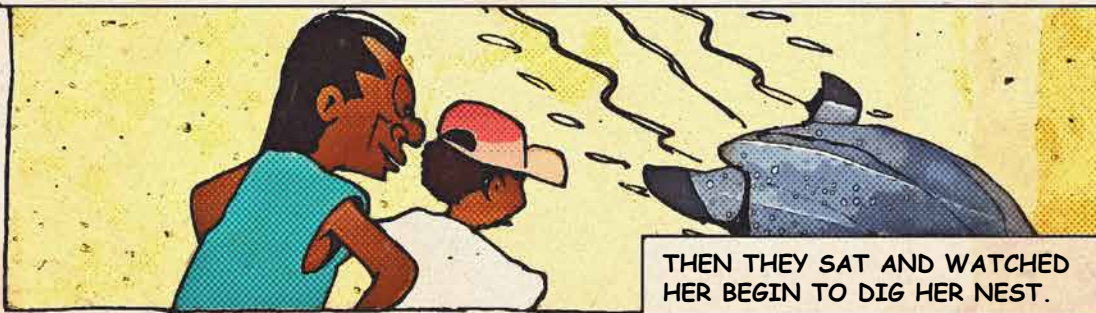
MOST OF THE TIME, BUT EVERY NOW AND THEN ONE COMES UP LATE IN THE AFTERNOON, OR EARLY IN THE MORNING.



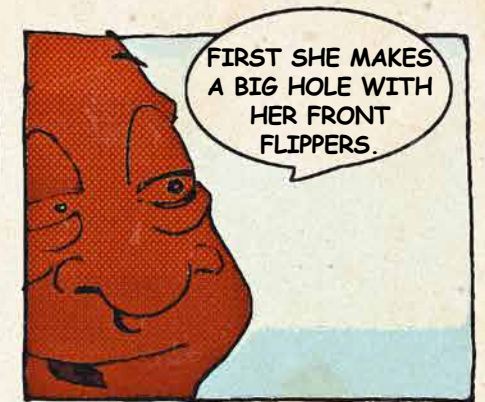
WOW! SHE IS HUGE!



TUKI AND ANDO WATCHED SILENTLY AS SHE MADE HER WAY UP THE BEACH, CAREFUL NOT TO DISTURB HER.

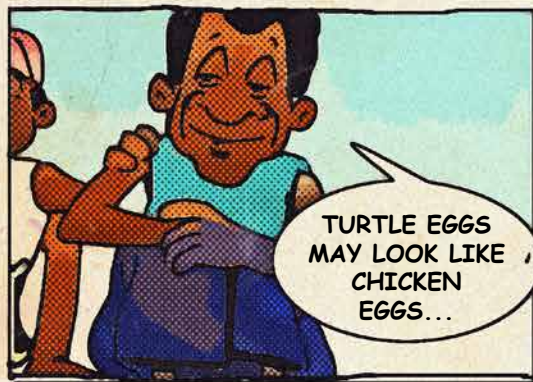


THE TURTLE DUG DEEP AND SCOOPED SAND BACKWARDS WITH HER FLIPPERS. SAND FLEW ALL OVER TUKI AND ANDO. THEY LAUGHED AND LAUGHED!





PLOP! PLOP! PLOP!
WHY DON'T THE EGGS
BREAK WHEN THEY FALL
SO FAR DOWN?



TURTLE EGGS
MAY LOOK LIKE
CHICKEN
EGGS...



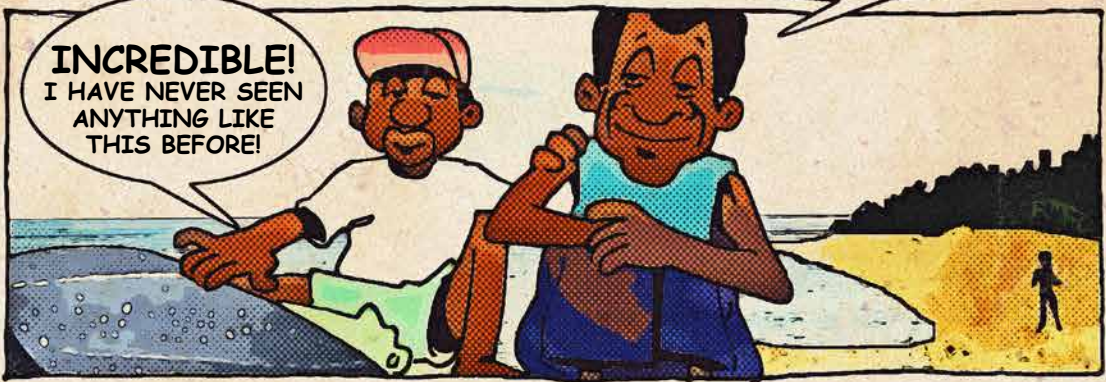
BUT THEY HAVE
A SOFT SHELL THAT
DOES NOT BREAK SO
EASILY.

AS THE TURTLE FINISHED LAYING HER EGGS,
A FARAWAY FIGURE WAS APPROACHING...



NOW SHE IS USING
HER BACK FLIPPERS TO
COVER THE EGGS.

SHE SCOOPS SAND AND
PATS IT DOWN, VERY
CAREFULLY BECAUSE SHE
IS SO HEAVY.



INCREDIBLE!
I HAVE NEVER SEEN
ANYTHING LIKE
THIS BEFORE!



THEN THE TURTLE STARTED COVERING HER EGGS AGAIN!



NOW SHE
IS COVERING THE
NEST WITH ALL THE
SAND SHE DUG AWAY
BEFORE.



THIS PROTECTS
THEM FROM THE
HEAT OF THE SUN.

PETER, THE MAN WHO WAS APPROACHING, CAME AND SAT DOWN.



DID YOU
MEET A
TURTLE?



COME TO THE
BEACH AT
NIGHT AND YOU
WILL SEE MANY
MORE!



DID YOU SEE
MORE ALONG THE
BEACH PETER?

NO, MOST OF
THE PLACES THEY
NESTED HAVE BEEN
DUG UP AND THE
EGGS ARE
MISSING.



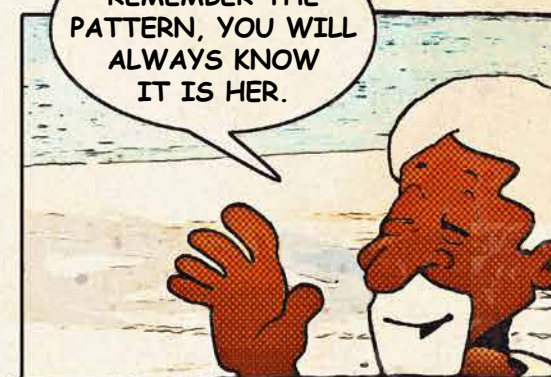
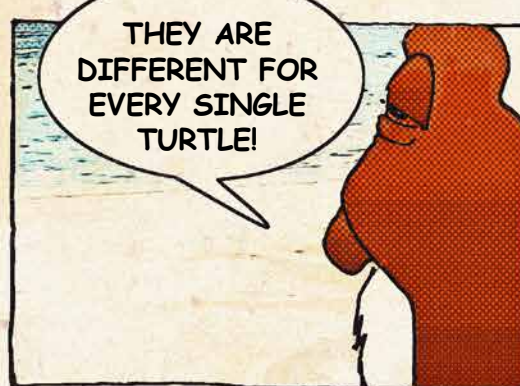
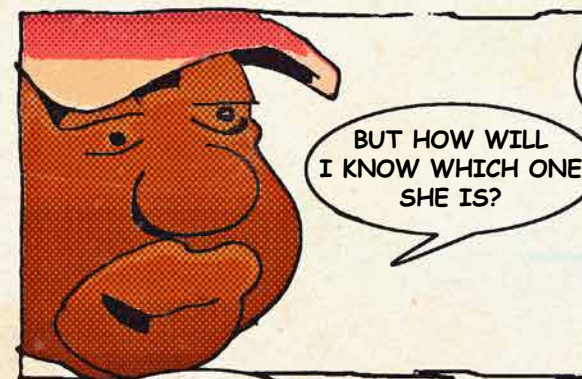
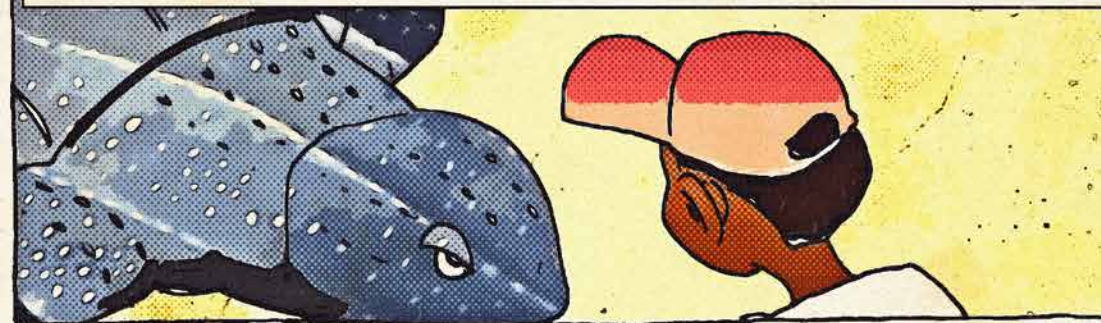
PETER, TUKI AND ANDO STAYED WITH THE TURTLE UNTIL SHE HAD FINISHED COVERING HER EGGS. THEN SHE CRAWLED BACK DOWN TO THE SEA.



HER HUGE FRONT FLIPPERS PULLING HER FORWARD, WHILE HER BACK FLIPPERS PUSHED HER ALONG.

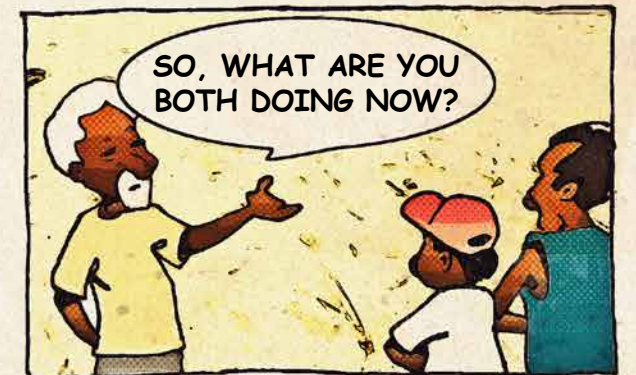
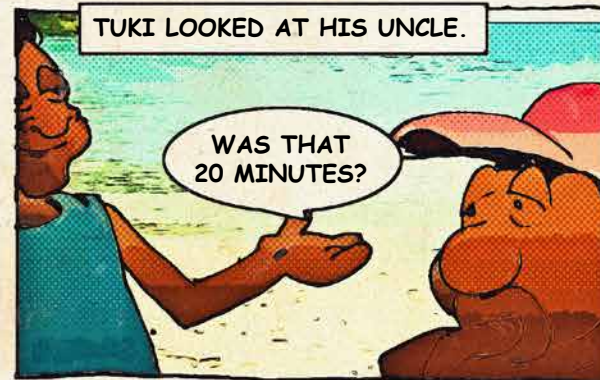
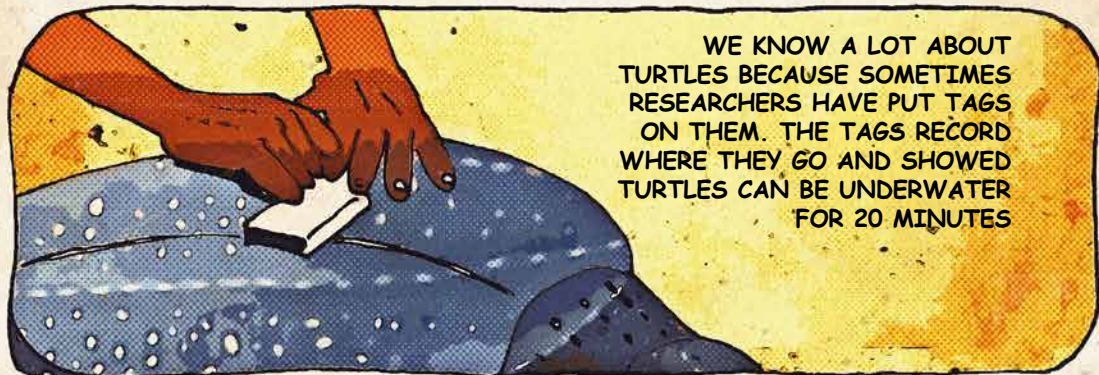


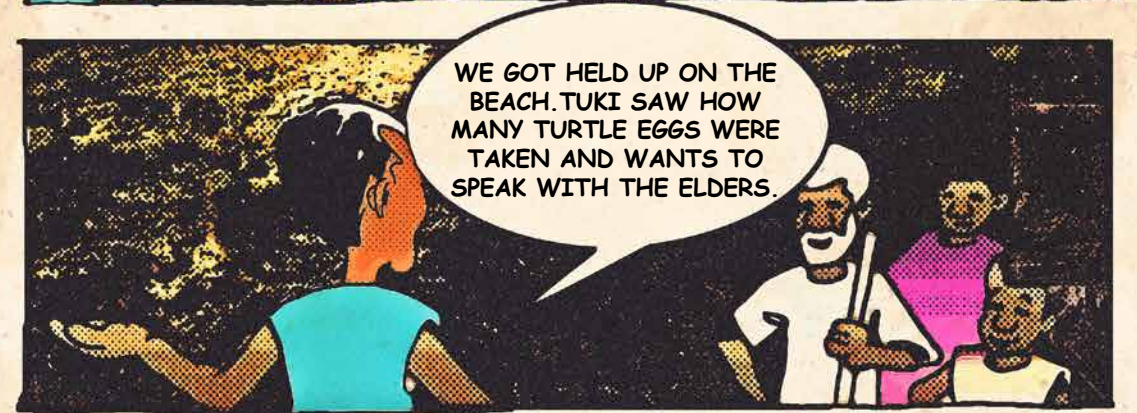
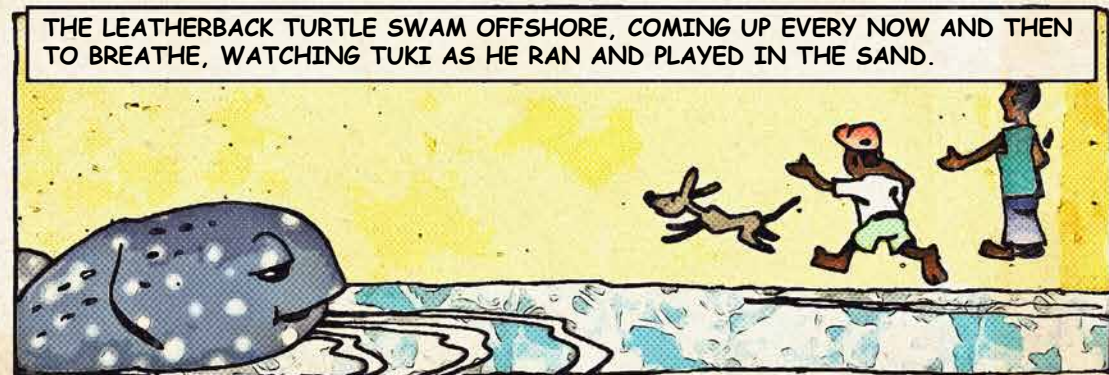
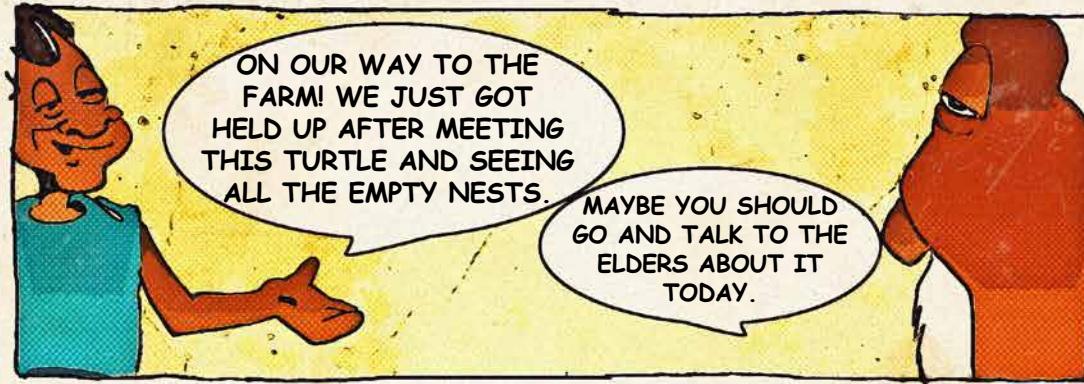
THE TURTLE STOPPED FOR A BREATH, MAKING A LONG, DEEP GURGLING SOUND, THEN SHE NOTICED TUKI STARING AT HER FOR THE FIRST TIME.

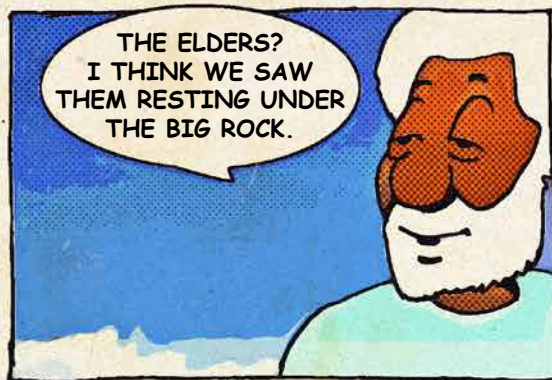




THE GIANT LEATHERBACK TURTLE CRAWLED THROUGH THE WAVES AND TOOK HERSELF BACK INTO THE SEA, SINKING UNDERWATER AND OUT OF SIGHT FASTER THAN THE BLINK OF AN EYE. SHE CAME UP A BIT FURTHER OUT TO TAKE A BREATH, AND ONCE AGAIN WAS GONE UNDER THE SEA.



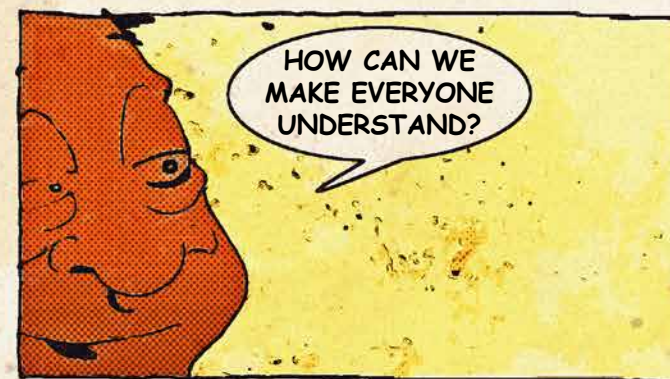
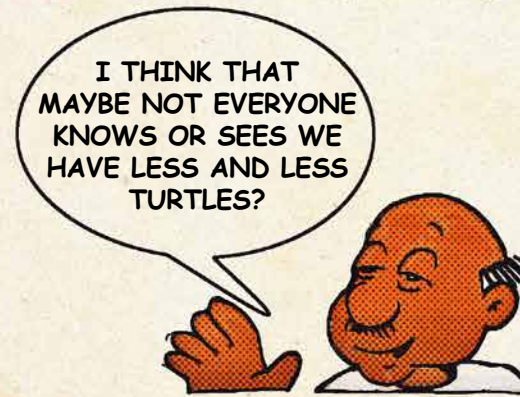
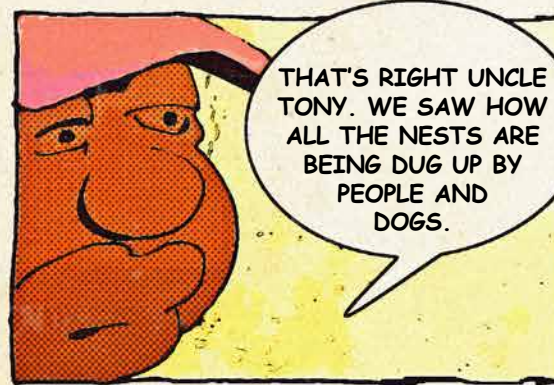




SO TUKI AND ANDO MADE THEIR WAY DOWN TO THE BEACH AND TOWARDS THE BIG ROCK.



THE ELDERS WERE INDEED SITTING THERE IN THE SHADE.

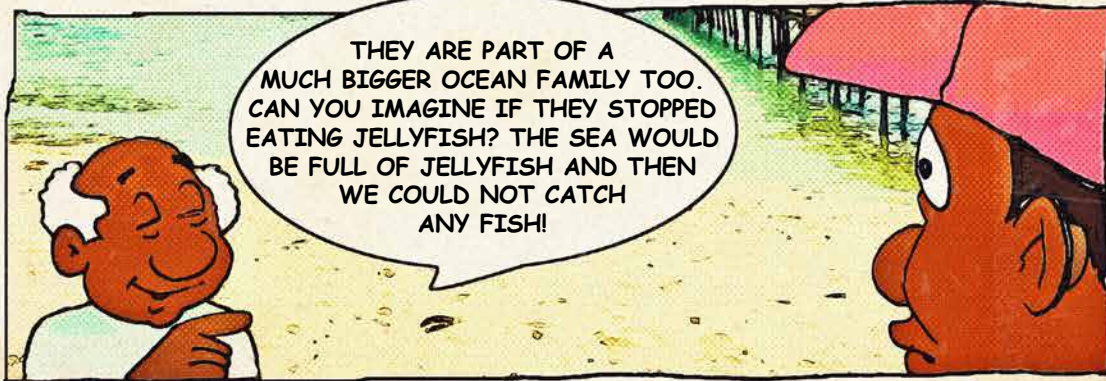
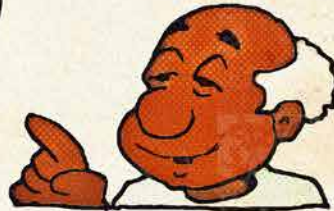




LOOK, WE KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THE TURTLES ARE FOR US ALL.



THEY HAVE BEEN PART OF OUR BEACH AND OUR CULTURE FOR SO MANY YEARS. THEY FEEL LIKE FAMILY TO US.



THEY ARE PART OF OUR SONGS AND DANCES TOO. OUR HISTORY.



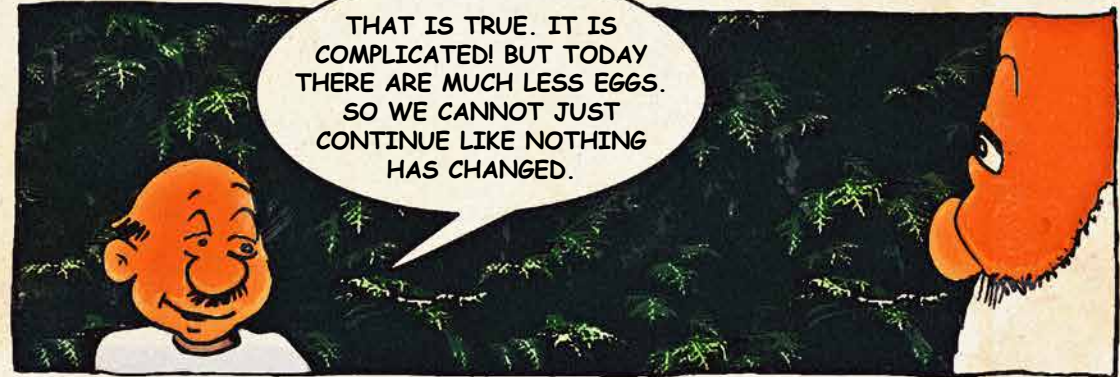
THEY ARE IN MANY OF THE STORIES I HEARD FROM MY GREAT GRANDFATHER.



I HAVE SEEN LESS AND LESS COMING TO THE BEACH. WE JUST CANNOT KEEP KILLING THEM OR TAKING THE EGGS.



THAT IS TRUE. IT IS COMPLICATED! BUT TODAY THERE ARE MUCH LESS EGGS. SO WE CANNOT JUST CONTINUE LIKE NOTHING HAS CHANGED.

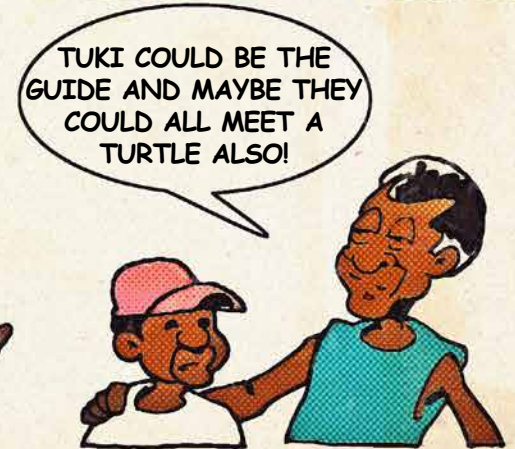
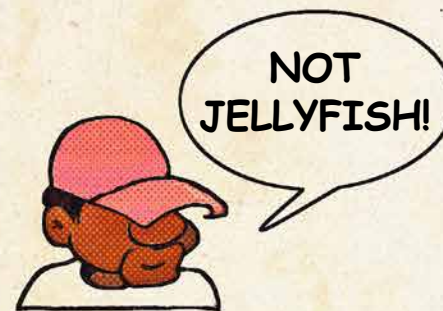
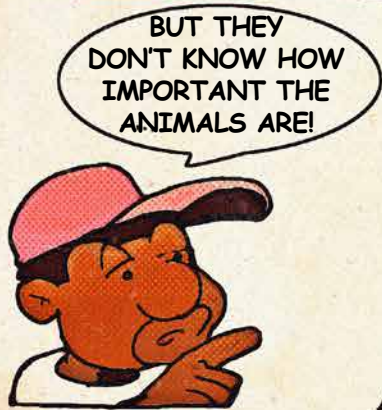
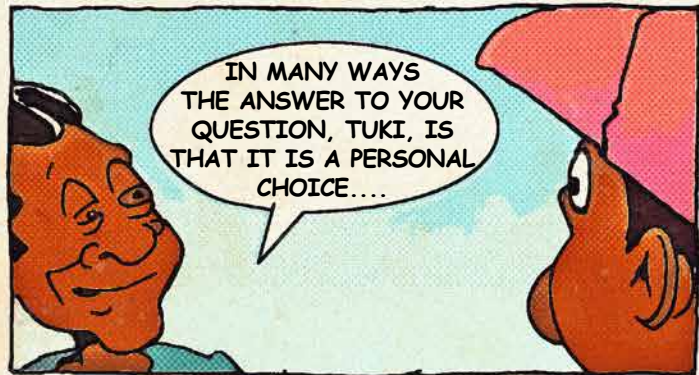
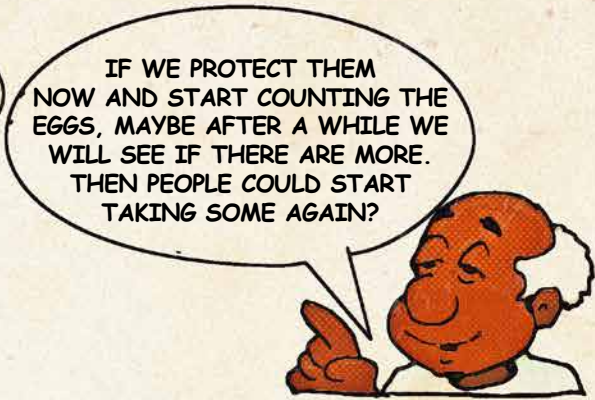


THE VILLAGE HAS ALSO GROWN AND THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE NOW. IF EVERYONE TOOK EGGS, THERE WOULD BE NONE LEFT!



SO WHAT CAN WE DO? I DON'T WANT TO SEE THEM DISAPPEAR. NOW I NEVER WANT TO EAT ONE, OR ANY OF THEIR EGGS!





TUKI SPENT THE REST OF THE DAY HELPING IN THE GARDENS.



THEN AFTER A LONG HOT DAY, HE MET UP AGAIN WITH ANDO AT THE BEACH. AS THE SUN STARTED TO SET, HE JUMPED UP AND DOWN IN THE COOL WAVES ROLLING INTO THE SHORE...



OFFSHORE, THE BIG MAMMA TURTLE WAS WATCHING OVER HIM.



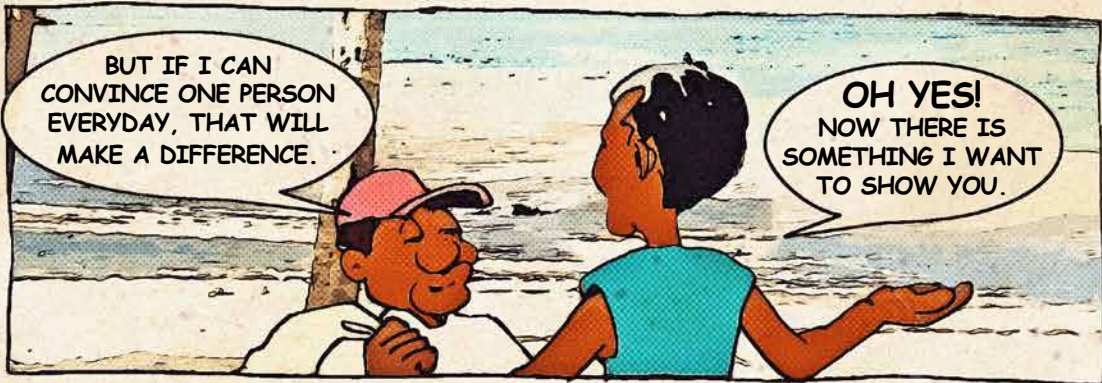
TODAY HAS BEEN A REALLY AMAZING DAY. I AM EXCITED NOW THAT WE CAN REALLY SAVE OUR TURTLES!



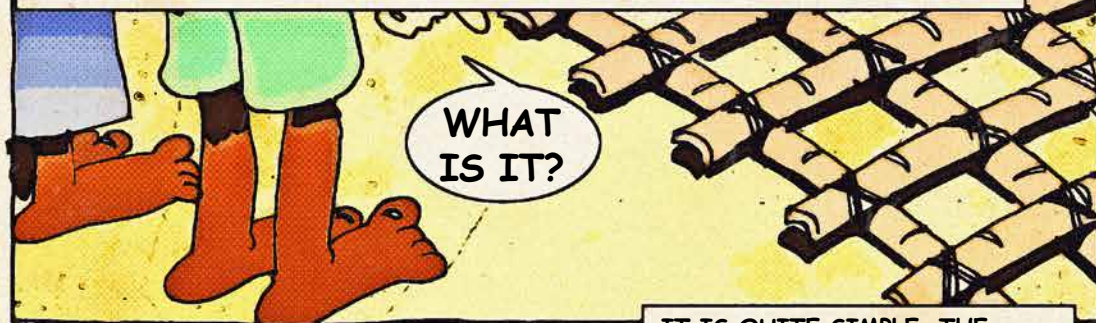
WELL, JUST REMEMBER IT IS GOING TO BE HARD TO CONVINCE THE WHOLE VILLAGE OF THE THINGS YOU BELIEVE IN.



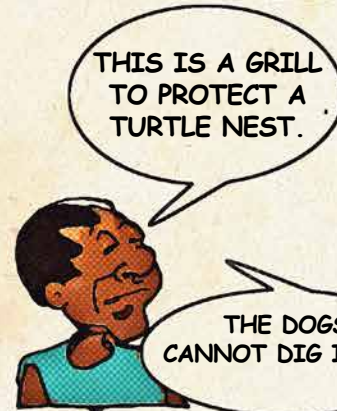
BUT IF I CAN CONVINCE ONE PERSON EVERYDAY, THAT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



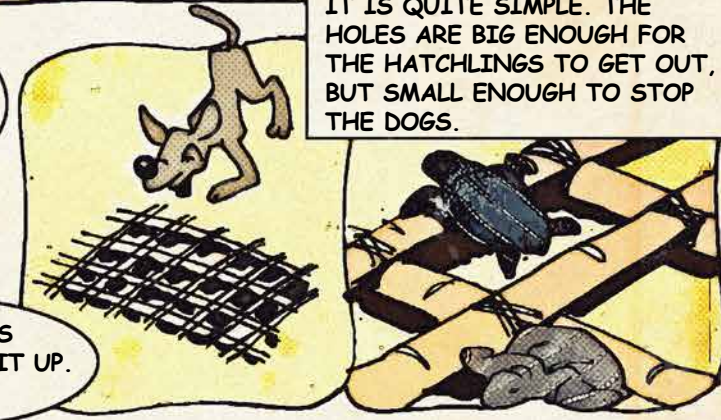
THEY CAME TO A BIG GRILL MADE OF SPLIT BAMBOO. THE BAMBOO WAS CRISS-CROSSED TO MAKE A WOODEN MAT ON THE BEACH.



THIS IS A GRILL TO PROTECT A TURTLE NEST.



IT IS QUITE SIMPLE. THE HOLES ARE BIG ENOUGH FOR THE HATCHLINGS TO GET OUT, BUT SMALL ENOUGH TO STOP THE DOGS.

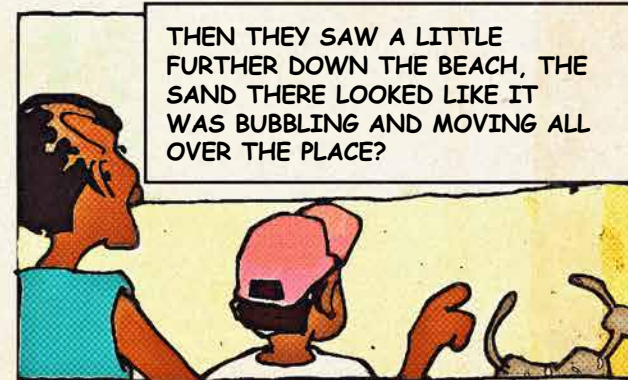


THE DOGS CANNOT DIG IT UP.

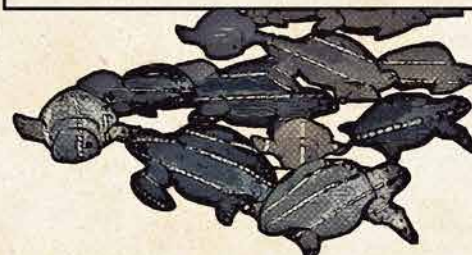
WOW!
I HOPE IT WORKS!



THEN THEY SAW A LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE BEACH, THE SAND THERE LOOKED LIKE IT WAS BUBBLING AND MOVING ALL OVER THE PLACE?



THEN THEY SAW WHAT IT WAS. LOTS OF HATCHLINGS WERE RUNNING DOWN THE BEACH!



LOOK!
THE HATCHLINGS ARE COMING OUT!





I SEE THEM! IT MUST BE COOLER NOW BECAUSE THE SUN IS GOING DOWN.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



THE LITTLE ONES DON'T LIKE TO RUN ACROSS HOT SAND.



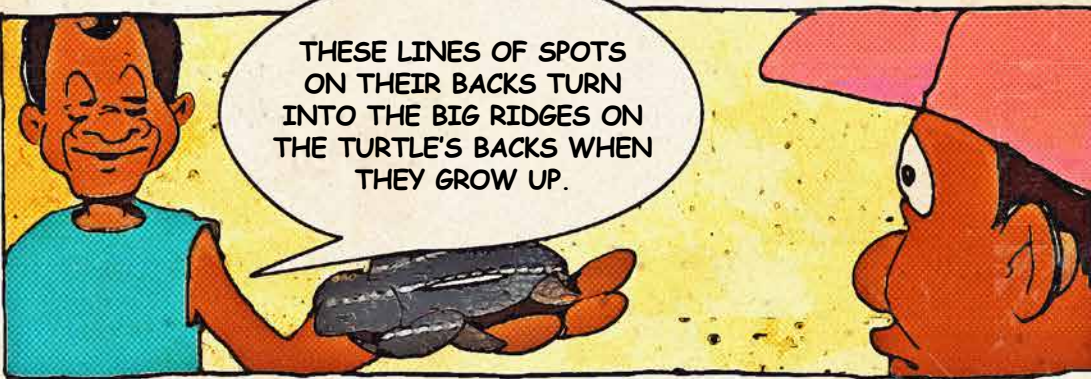
SO WHEN THEY FEEL THE SAND COOLING DOWN IN THE EVENING OR NIGHT, THEN THEY CLIMB OUT AND RUN TO THE SEA.

OK! I KNOW THE SAND CAN GET REALLY HOT!



THEY CAN BURN THEIR LITTLE FLIPPERS IF IT IS TOO HOT.

THEY LOOK SO CUTE WHEN THEY ARE SMALL.



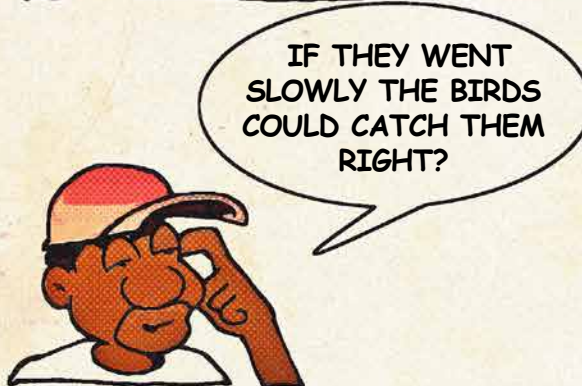
THESE LINES OF SPOTS ON THEIR BACKS TURN INTO THE BIG RIDGES ON THE TURTLE'S BACKS WHEN THEY GROW UP.



HERE THEY GO NOW! HOW DO THEY KNOW HOW TO FIND THE SEA?



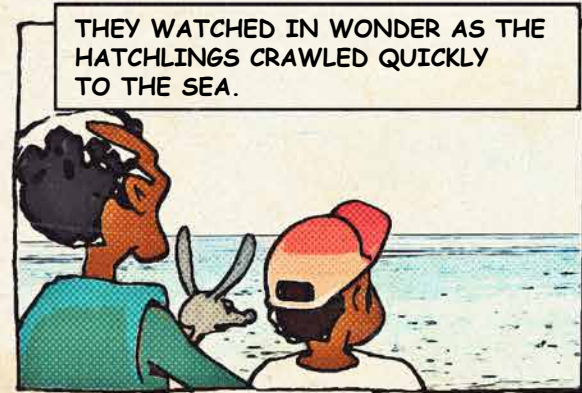
THEY USE THE LIGHT AND RUN AWAY FROM SHADOWS TO FIND THE WATER.



IF THEY WENT SLOWLY THE BIRDS COULD CATCH THEM RIGHT?



YES! THAT'S RIGHT! YOU ARE A FAST LEARNER TUKI!



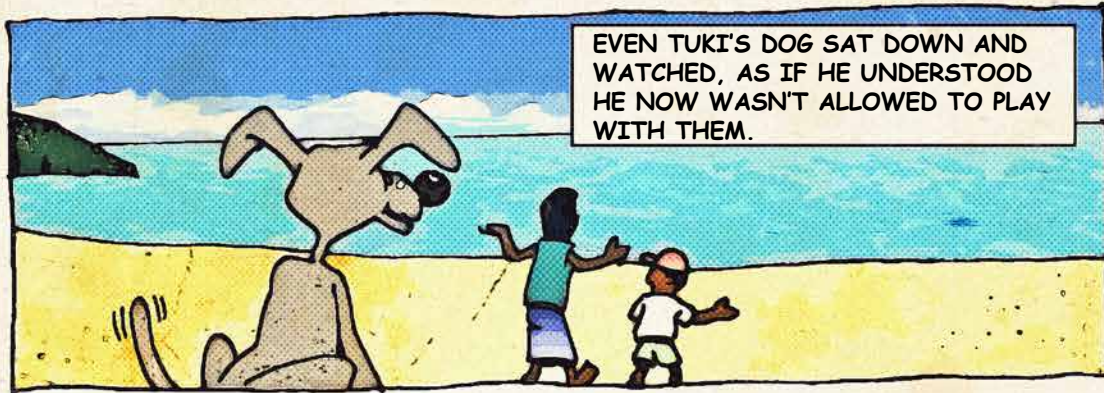
THEY WATCHED IN WONDER AS THE HATCHLINGS CRAWLED QUICKLY TO THE SEA.



THE LAST FEW CAME OUT OF THE NEST.



TUKI MADE SURE THEY MADE IT TO THE WATER SAFELY.



EVEN TUKI'S DOG SAT DOWN AND WATCHED, AS IF HE UNDERSTOOD HE NOW WASN'T ALLOWED TO PLAY WITH THEM.



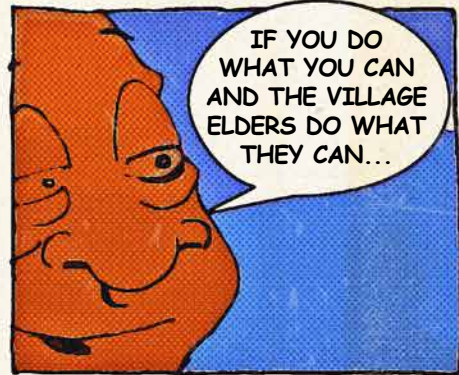
I HOPE THIS LITTLE ONE MAKES IT...



IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO THINK WE MIGHT NOT SEE HER AGAIN.



WELL, LET'S LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE.



IF YOU DO WHAT YOU CAN AND THE VILLAGE ELDERS DO WHAT THEY CAN...



...THEN I THINK THIS LITTLE ONE HAS A MUCH BETTER CHANCE THAN EVER BEFORE!



TUKI WATCHED THE LAST ONE CRASH INTO THE WAVES.

I REALLY HOPE SO!

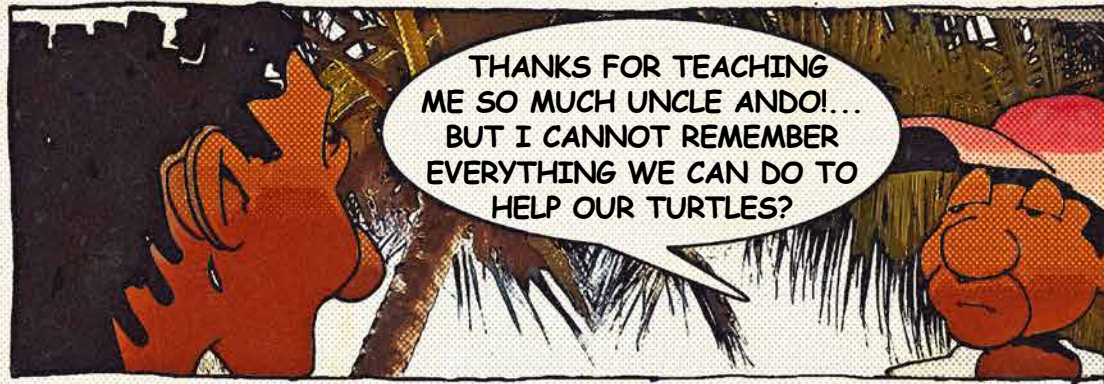


WHEN YOU WANT A BEACH TO NEST ON,

COME BACK, I WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU!













PLEASE COME BACK LEATHERBACK.



Six of the seven known species of sea turtle live in the Pacific Ocean; the Green, Hawksbill, Loggerhead, Leatherback, Olive Ridley and the Flatback.

Sadly, five of these species are threatened with extinction: Green (Endangered), Hawksbill (Critically Endangered), Leatherback (Critically Endangered), Loggerhead (Vulnerable) and Olive Ridley (Vulnerable).

By following the simple steps below we can all play a part in preserving our endangered Pacific sea turtles. With your help, their future can be protected.

-  DO NOT DISTURB TURTLES IF YOU SEE THEM ON THE BEACH
-  DO NOT DIG UP EGGS OR KEEP LITTLE TURTLES AS PETS
-  DO NOT EAT TURTLE MEAT
-  ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO KNOW AND OBEY NATIONAL LAWS THAT CONSERVE TURTLES
-  REDUCE LIGHTS ON BEACHES DURING NESTING SEASON
-  TAKE YOUR OWN REUSABLE BAG TO THE SHOP
-  SAY NO TO PLASTIC BAGS!
-  DISPOSE OF RUBBISH PROPERLY
-  ORGANISE A RUBBISH COLLECTION ON YOUR LOCAL BEACH
-  TALK TO YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS ABOUT SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION AND HOW TO HELP AND SAVE THEM!

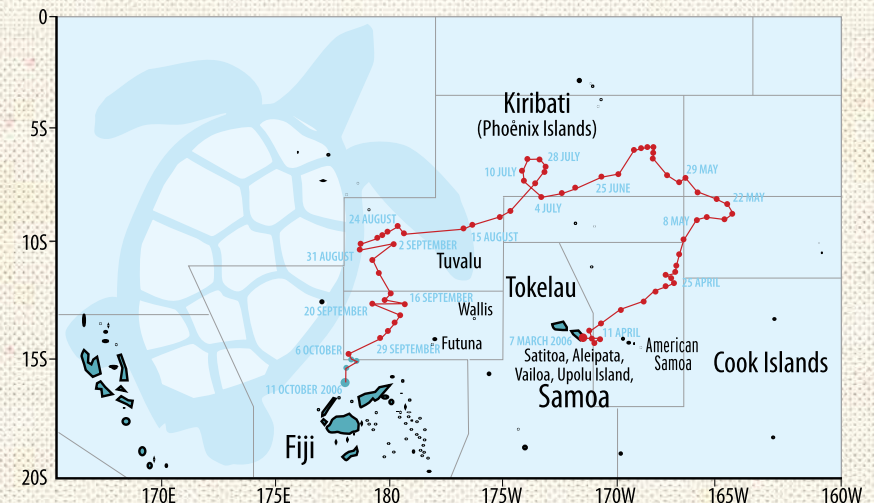
BONUS TRUE STORY!

Lady Vini's Big Pacific Adventure

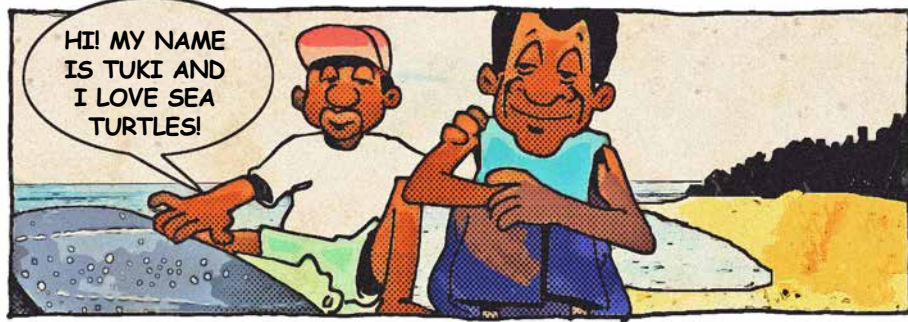
Turtles are the ocean's great travellers. From the moment they hatch, sea turtles spend their entire lives navigating through the sea, stopping to feed and nest in their preferred spots.

A nesting hawksbill turtle named Lady Vini was attached with a special tag, called a satellite tag, to help us follow her journey through the ocean. The tag relays signals to a satellite which helps pinpoint her exact location in the ocean.

She was released from Satitoo Aleipata on the island of Upolu in Samoa by a team of people from different organisations working together to save sea turtles in the Pacific.



The team watched Lady Vini travel 4,500km through the waters of seven different Pacific countries and territories including Samoa, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Wallis & Futuna, finally arriving in Fiji 7 months later!



Join Tuki and his uncle as they learn about sea turtles in the Pacific!

In one day they find turtle nests, meet a large adult female turtle and watch hatchlings take their first steps into the ocean.

You will also learn how to take care of turtles. Together we can make sure that current and future generations can continue to live alongside these magnificent creatures.

The Pacific BioScapes Programme is a European Union (EU) funded action, managed and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The Programme contributes to the sustainable development of Pacific Small Island Developing States through the implementation of 30 focused activities taking place across a diversity of ecosystems in 11 countries that will address critical issues concerning coastal and marine biodiversity, and ecosystem-based responses to climate change adaptation.



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