

# Training Workshop Report

Strengthening Community Based Marine Turtle Conservation in Madang,  
Papua New Guinea

October 2009  
Makata Inc.



**Training Workshop Report**  
**Strengthening Community Based Marine Turtle Conservation in Madang,**  
**Papua New Guinea**

**21<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September**

**Madang, PNG**

**Report Prepared by Job Opu for Makata Inc.**

## **Acknowledgements**

We have started slowly to save the iconic mariner, the great leatherback turtle and other marine turtles, along the nesting coasts of Madang. Despite numerous obstacles, the message on the endangered species and many threats it faces throughout its life is slowly getting across along the Madang Coastal Communities. And for this we thank the communities of Karkum, Mirap, Tokain, Gildipasi, Murukanam and Pepaur who have taken the initiative to do something to save this endangered species. We are very grateful that you had time to attend the training workshop.

We also sincerely thank the mothers of Karkum who made sure our stomachs were full for the whole week that we were there. You have a beautiful undisturbed beach. May you save it for your future generations and may your traditions and customs stay alive.

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## 1. Introduction

Sea turtles of today have changed little from their ancient reptilian ancestors that appeared on earth millions of years ago before humans. For many years, humans have been exploiting turtles for food and decorative ornaments. In the last 200 years or so, the uncontrollable harvests of adults and juveniles and turtle eggs have caused sea turtle population worldwide to drastically decline. The remaining population are critically endangered and very close to extinction.

Of the seven of world's marine turtles, six occur in the PNG marine waters. These include the Flatback, the Green Turtle, the hawksbill, leatherback turtle, the loggerhead and Olive Ridley. Of these six, Hawksbill, Green turtle and the leatherback turtle are most common. From previous survey results and anecdotal information, PNG has some of the largest remaining populations of hawksbill, green turtle and Leatherback turtle in the world today. However these populations and especially the leatherback turtle have rapidly declined.

Marine turtles have lived over 100 millions of years. They grow slowly and take between 30-50years to reach sexual maturity. Some live to be over a 100years old.

All marine turtle species are experiencing serious threats to their survival. The main threats are pollution can change to environment – especially reefs and nesting areas. Marine turtles are also killed by entanglement in marine debris, incidental catch in active fishing gear, predation by feral animals, changes to habitat and food sources and indigenous hunting.

Marine turtles migrate long distances of up to 3000 km between nesting beaches and home foraging grounds so that impact on animals in one region have far-reaching implications for populations that spun local, regional and national boundaries.

Marine turtles have traditionally had strong cultural linkages to local communities along the coastal areas of PNG. To maintain these cultures drastic decline in turtle populations must be able to be put to a stop.

Many beaches and near shore reefs along the coastal areas of PNG are home to the marine turtles. While turtle conservation programs have been initiated in a few parts of PNG, large areas although significant in nature lack turtle conservation programs. It is in these areas that local consumption of turtle for eggs and meat go on without saving some of these turtles and eggs.

In 2006 STRP carried out an awareness campaign to save the turtles on the Madang beaches. This was followed in 2007 by STRP and the community of Karkum getting together to set up conservation areas along the beaches to save the nesting marine turtles and other marine resources and habitats under various degrees of threats.

This training workshop is the first of its kind and a follow-up of the activities and interests generated so far in turtle conservation and management with the Madang Community. The Communities have indicated that they wish to go one step further in turtle conservation and begin to develop action plans to tag and monitor nesting turtles during the nesting season. Hence this training workshop was carried out to meet their requirement.

The workshop was organised by the Makata Inc and hosted by the Karkum Community of Madang. The workshop ran from the September 19<sup>th</sup> – September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009 and the target audience of the workshop included Madang community members and representatives from Community based organisation. There were 40 participants at this course. For a full list of workshop participants including village names, refer to participants list on **Annex 2**.

### **1.1 Aims and objectives**

The objectives of the training workshop were as outlined:

- Exposing participants to turtle biology and conservation
- Instructing participants on turtle tagging and monitoring protocols. Theory and Practical
- Developing a simple action strategy and management plan for turtle conservation and management
- Exposing the participants to laws protecting endangered marine species
- Exposing the participants to the use of awareness campaigns to educated communities on the turtle conservation.
- Networking communities with each other and in country turtle specialists so as to progress sustainable management of marine turtles.

The training workshop intended to enhance the capacity of Madang communities' members who are developing a turtle management program in Turtle Conservation and Management. It specifically introduced participants to turtle tagging, data recording and compiling of basic information to monitor turtles that frequent their shores and near shore marine turtles habitats.

### **1.2 Expected Outcomes**

Expected outcomes of the workshop are as listed below.

- Participants have been exposed to turtle tagging and monitoring protocols and are comfortable to begin turtle monitoring including tagging and documentation of nesting data on their nesting beaches.
- Participants are well versed with turtle and marine issues and are able to articulate through awareness campaigns to the coastal communities of the Madang coasts.

- A turtle conservation and management network is established and information flow and exchange is initiated and maintained.
- Participants of the training workshop complete the training and are awarded training certificate.

## 2. Course Contents.

The training workshop was divided into 6 sessions and presentations and discussions were centred on this. The sessions are as listed below.

**Session 1:** To introduce marine turtle ecology to the participants that will include:

- Marine environment
- Marine turtle biology / life cycle
- Marine turtle nesting ecology

**Session 2:** To introduce Marine turtle Species found in PNG waters

- Marine Turtles species in PNG waters
- Marine turtle Distribution in PNG waters
- Status of Marine Turtles in PNG
- Current Turtle programs in PNG

**Session 3:** To introduce turtle tagging and data collection protocols

- Marine turtle tagging
- Various tags used
- Data sheets
- Satellite tracking
- Databases
- Practical application to turtle tagging and data collecting

**Session 4.** Developing a turtle Conservation Management Plan

- Strategic planning and workplan
- Management planning

**Session 5.** Marine Turtle Protection under PNG legislation

- Fauna Protection and Control Act (1978)

**Session 6.** Education and Awareness on Marine Turtle Conservation Programs

- Education and awareness .....WHY???
- Methods/ Avenues

The training workshop program is outlined in **Annex 1**.



### 3. Outcomes of the Workshop.

Participants began arriving on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Registration was brought forward to Sunday evening and most of the participants registered on Sunday evening. Those who came later on Monday registered in the morning.

#### Day 1. Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2009

An opening ceremony was done at 9.00am to open the workshop. Pastor Mark made a few remarks on the importance of creation and followed this with a prayer. This was followed by a few remarks by Wenceslaus Magun, the PNG coordinator for the STRP.

Following the opening ceremony, participants were asked to introduce themselves. Participants' number at the workshop was about 40 and this included about 10 female participants allowing for gender balance at the workshop.

The training proper began at 9.00am. The participants were introduced to the marine environment. These included the major habitats such as mangroves forests, seagrass beds, the coral reefs and the pelagic or deep waters. Examples of organisms on each habitat were given. There was great emphasis on the "connectivity" of the marine systems and the need to consider this connectivity when designing a management regime for these systems. Water currents playing a major role in disbursement of larvae etc of marine organisms was also highlighted. Turtle migration and feeding was also linked to marine connectivity.

Marine turtle biology was introduced next. The participants were introduced to the life cycle of the marine turtles. From the nesting behaviour to hatchling going into the sea, growing up on the sea and the migration to feeding sites and returning to nesting beaches as matured adults. Marine Turtle nesting ecology was presented to the participants highlighting nesting behaviours and beaches.

Marine Turtle species of the oceans were introduced and all seven species of marine turtles were introduced briefly. The common 3 species (hawksbill, green turtles and the leatherback turtle) were discussed thoroughly as more time were spend on these 3 species and also the fact that they were very common in PNG marine waters. Current turtle programs in PNG were also presented. This included the Huon Coast Leatherback program and the Milne Bay tagging program.

Marine Turtle Species in PNG waters and their distribution were then presented to the participants. The participants were informed that there has been no systematic update on the distribution of the turtle species in the PNG waters since the last distribution survey done by Sylvia Spring<sup>1</sup> in 1978. Information from Sylvia's survey indicated that Greens and Hawkbills were common throughout PNG

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<sup>1</sup> Sylvia Spring worked for the Wildlife Branch of the Lands Department during the early post colonial days and carried out a program on marine turtle conservation throughout PNG.

waters while Leatherback was restricted to the northern coast of PNG mainland and occasionally were found in the New Britain's, New Ireland and Manus Islands beaches during nesting seasons. For each presentation, discussion time was set aside for questions and comments. There were a good number of discussions and comments. Traditional knowledge was also highlighted by the participants on their knowledge of the marine environment and especially on the marine turtles.

Towards the end of the day there was a recap and a brief evaluation of the presentations and the workshop ended for day at 4.30pm. All in all the participants understood and grasped the presentation well

## **Day2. Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

Day two began at 8.30am with a recap of the previous day's presentation. This was followed by a couple of presentations on turtle tagging and monitoring protocols throughout the day.

Presentations under this session included: Turtle tagging protocols, various tags that are used, turtle monitoring datasheets, and various turtle databases and turtle management programs in PNG and the region. Under turtle tagging protocols, participants were instructed on the proper application of various tags used including the metal tags, the PIT tags and the satellite tracking systems. Advantages and disadvantages of this various tags were highlighted. Various data sheets were also introduced to the participants including: "turtle encounter and nesting turtle datasheet", "nest "datasheet, Nesting Beach ground survey" ..etc. The participants were informed that the Turtle Encounter and Nesting Turtle Datasheet" was ideal for the purpose of the turtle tagging program that is being initiated along the Madang coast.

The participants were also introduced to the 2 main database in the region including the SPREP database, The Queensland Parks and Wildlife marine turtle database (Col Limpus) . It was rather unfortunate that samples of the two databases were not available at the time of the workshop and so could not be demonstrated to the participants.

Later in the afternoon, participants had a practical demonstration session on the handling and tagging of marine turtles and the recording of data. The session went very well and the participants were able to grasp the practical application of tags and documentation of data.

Time was also set aside for questions, comments, and clarifications on the presentations. In general, the session was very constructive and also a lot of information not covered under the formal presentations was covered under this session.

After an evaluation of the day's sessions, the workshop wrapped up at 5.00pm.

### **Day3. Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009**

Day 3 began with a recap of the previous day's presentation. This was followed by the session set for the day.

Day 3 session was basically introducing the participants to strategic planning of various programs and especially developing a Turtle Management Plan for the marine turtle program for their respective communities.

The following topics were covered under this session:

- Strategic planning (vision, mission...etc)
- Work planning
- Issues
- Thematic mapping of issues
- Developing a Mgt Plan

The participants were introduced to basic strategic planning and then taken through a strategic planning exercise using their community oriented turtle program to develop Workplan for their community programs. For most of the participants it was a first time to go through a strategic planning process but they were very enthusiastic and had no problems coping with the exercise.

The strategic planning exercise took the whole day and had to continue on to early part of day 4.

Day 3 ended at 5.30pm.

### **Day4. Thursday 22<sup>st</sup> September 2009**

Day 4 began at 8.30am with a recap of day 3. Participants were then allocated time to continue completing their community Workplans. Participants divided into 4 main communities to undertake this exercise. They were then recalled back to do presentations on their draft workplans. It should be noted here that even given the fact that they had no previous experience in developing workplans they did come up with workable plans. Refer to Annex 4 for draft Workplan.

A couple of video presentations on turtle management were then shown to the participants. At the end of these sessions, questions and comments were invited from the participants. As usual with comments from other previous sessions, comments provided in this session were very constructive and lessons and experiences were shared in this session.

The final two sessions were squeezed in to the afternoon session. This included the relevant laws and legislation protecting turtles and how to go about developing an effective awareness campaign on turtle conservation.

Under the PNG laws on wildlife protection, participants were introduced to the Fauna Protection and Control Act (1978), relevant Policies and the Wildlife Management Areas concept under the

Fauna (and Flora) protection and Control Act. Various sections under the Act were introduced. Discussion centred on the issue of enforcement. Enforcement and/or rather lack of enforcement of this Act under the Department of Environment and Conservation have been an ongoing issue. It was also noted that regulations under this Act pertaining to endangered, restricted take, and/or protection of endangered species were not very specific in terms local take or harvest of these resources. All in all the discussions and comments brought forward under this session went very well and opened up minds of the participants.

Under the session on “Effective Awareness Campaign”, participants were introduced to Education and Awareness as an effective mechanism or tool that is currently utilised to drive home information and also increase communities and general public knowledge on the issues associated with conservation management. Topics under this session included: why education and awareness?, methodologies, getting the message across, target audiences and effective awareness campaigns. Most participants at the workshop has had previous and varying experiences in undertaking awareness campaigns on environmental and conservation issues out to the general public and communities and are well versed. This session strengthened and somewhat enhanced their capacity to undertake more awareness campaigns. Discussions under this session went well and were again very informative.

An evaluation was undertaken following the session on Education and Awareness followed by a final evaluation of the training workshop.

The training workshop was officially closed at 5.30pm on Thursday 23rd October 2009. A small official ceremony was undertaken to close the workshop followed by refreshments.



#### **4. Evaluation of the Training Workshop.**

There were no formal questionnaires nor systematic methodologies used in evaluating the training workshop. Daily evaluations were done at end of each day and a final evaluation was done at the end of the last day of the training workshop. Evaluation was done through verbal communication by means of questions and answers (both ways) and comments and observations.

In terms of attendance, there was full Level of participants from the host community and fair representation from other 3 participating communities. There was adequate gender balance of participants. All participants had some form of formal education and hence were comfortable with the language, methods, and level of presentations. The workshop was run in Tok Pisin and English.

In terms of the course content, the organisers attempted to provide an over view of the marine environment, distinguishing from the terrestrial, describing the main habitats in the marine environment, emphasizing on the nature of “connectivity” in the marine environment and species, and narrowing down to endangered marine species and in particular touching on the marine turtle species. Under marine turtles, species distribution and status were introduced, common species in PNG waters was highlighted and tagging and monitoring protocols were presented. Community Marine turtle monitoring and tagging and management action plans were firstly presented and discussed then developed for each community. Through daily evaluation and final evaluation, conclusions were drawn in that the course content was adequate given that this was the first kind of training offered to these communities, the presentation covered a very wide range of marine topics in a very limited time, the course/information were presented in a very easily understood and simplified way, and that the participants expectations of the workshop was met. The participants felt that training workshops of this sort should be done more often.

In terms of turtle marine turtle information especially on turtle tagging and monitoring, 2 days were spend on this and the topic adequately covered. Whatever issues raised under this session was also adequate addressed through answers and question time and in specific comments.

All in the entire training workshop was timely, very informative, and addressed marine turtle issues and information gaps that were identified from initial consultations by the STRP/Makata team.

## 5. Follow-up

There were several activities that needed to be done as identified through the course and closing of the workshop. These are listed below:

### ❖ **Printing and awarding of course certificates.**

- Awarding of certificate of course completion was scheduled to be undertaken during the closing ceremony. However certificates were not ready in time for the awarding ceremony. This is currently being looked into by the workshop logistics person and a later date in November 2009 will be scheduled for the awarding of the certificate.

### ❖ **Distribution of training workshop documents**

- Details of presentations are contained in documents. This will be also printed, bind and distributed to course participants. Makata and STRP will be responsible for this.

### ❖ **Mobilising of distribution of awareness materials**

- All workshop participants mentioned the need to have awareness materials with them when they are talking to the community and school children in their communities. The first point of contact will be the SPREP marine turtle program. Request will be made to the SPREP marine officer(s) for posters, brochures, Turtle DVD to be send to an established NGO in Madang who will in turn make sure that awareness materials mobilised will be send to appropriate community members to be distributed during their awareness campaigns.
- Other marine turtle programs throughout especially in Australia, the Asia and the Hawaii turtle projects will also be approached to supply the Madang community with awareness materials.

### ❖ **Further Training Workshops on Marine Turtles (and other marine related issues)**

- The training workshop was the first of its kind along the Madang coastal communities and has generated alot of interest among different communities. Informal requests have been provided to the workshop organisers to run similar kind of workshops in the near future to continue raising awareness along the coastal communities.
- Makata and STRP will look into this and develop proposals etc to mobilise funds to continue the training to other communities along the Madang coastal areas.

## Annex 1. The Training Workshop Program.

### 1. LOGISTICS

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1.1 Venue:

1.2 Logistics

Wence

STRP – PNG Focal Point

Port Moresby

Ph:

Wence is the Program Manager for Turtle Program and will be responsible for all logistics and coordination. Wence will put in fulltime for this training program taking care of all logistics and support.

1.3 Participation

- Selected Community Members of Madang
- Local NGO representatives

1.4 Key Personnel / Trainer

**Job Opu**

Marine Species Specialist

Port Moresby

Ph: (675) 71668746

Email: [j\\_opu@hotmail.com](mailto:j_opu@hotmail.com)

Job has been involved in marine species program in PNG and the pacific region and is well versed in community based turtles conservation and management.

Job's input into this program will be i) Developing the training program, ii) preparation of course material, iii) running the course itself and iv) writing up the final report.

### 2. Training Workshop Goals

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The training workshop seeks to enhance the capacity of Madang communities' members who are developing a turtle management program in Turtle Conservation and Management. Its specifically seeks to train the community members in turtle tagging, data recording and compiling of basic information to monitor turtles that frequent their shores and near shore marine turtles habitats.

The expected outcomes for the training workshop are:

**Session 1:** To introduce marine turtle ecology to the participants that will include:

- Marine environment
- Marine turtle biology / life cycle
- Marine turtle nesting ecology

**Session 2:** To introduce Marine turtle Species found in PNG waters

- Marine Turtles species in PNG waters
- Marine turtle Distribution in PNG waters
- Status of Marine Turtles in PNG
- Current Turtle programs in PNG

**Session 3:** To introduce turtle tagging and data collection protocols

- Marine turtle tagging
- Various tags used
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- Satellite tracking
- Databases
- Practical application to turtle tagging and data collecting

**Session 4.** Developing a turtle Conservation Management Plan

- Strategic planning and Workplan
- Management planning

**Session 5.** Marine Turtle Protection under PNG legislation

- Fauna Protection and Control Act (1978)

**Session 6.** Education and Awareness on Marine Turtle Conservation Programs

- Education and awareness .....WHY???
- Methods/ Avenues

**3. Training Workshop Program**

Time	Program	Key Person(s)
<b>Day1.</b>		
8.30 – 9.00am	Registration	Wences
9.00 – 9.30am	<b>Opening and Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Prayer</li> <li>• Opening Remarks (Wences)</li> <li>• Address by Community Rep</li> <li>• Opening of workshop</li> </ul>	Wences/Community Chairman



10.00-10.30am Refreshments

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10.30am – 12.00noon **Session 1: Introduction** Job

- **Marine Turtle Ecology**
  - *Marine environment*
  - *Marine turtle biology / life cycle*
  - *Marine turtle nesting ecology*

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12.00 – 1.00pm LUNCH BREAK

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1.00pm – 1.30pm Review of Session 1. Job

1.30pm – 3.00pm **Session 2: Marine Turtles' species in PNG Waters** Job

- Marine Turtle Species in PNG waters
- Marine turtle Distribution (nesting..etc)

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3.00 – 3.30pm TEA BREAK

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3.30 – 4.30pm Session 2. *Continued*

- Status of Marine Turtles in PNG
- Current Turtle Programs in PNG

4.30pm Wrap up. / Evaluation Job/Wences  
5.00pm **End of Day 1.**

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Time	Program	Key Person(s)
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**Day 2.**

8.30 – 9.00am	Review of day 1	Job
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9.00 – 10.30am	<b>Session 3. Turtle Monitoring Protocols</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marine Turtle Tagging Protocols</li><li>• Various Tags Used</li></ul>	Job
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10.30- 11.00am TEABREAK

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11.00 – 12.30pm	Session 3 Continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Turtle monitoring datasheets</li><li>• Turtle databases</li></ul>	
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12.30 – 1.30pm LUNCH BREAK

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1.30 – 3.00pm Session 3 Continued

- Practical Application to tagging
- Data collecting and documentation

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3.00pm TEABREAK

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3.30 – 4.30pm Session 3 Continued

5.00pm WRAP UP / Evaluation – end of day 2 Job/Wence

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Time	Program	Key Person(s)
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**Day 3**

8.30-9.00am	Review if day 2	Job
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9.00 – 10.30am	<b>Session 4. Turtle Conservation Mgt Plan</b>	<b>Job</b>
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- Strategic planning (vision, mission...etc)
  - Work planning
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10.30 – 11.00am TEABREAK

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11.00 – 12.30pm Session 4 Continued – Mgt Planning

- Issues
- Thematic mapping of issues

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12.30 – 1.30pm LUNCH BREAK

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1.30 – 3.00pm Session 4 Continued –

- Developing a Mgt Plan

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3.00 – 3.30pm TEABREAK

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3.30 – 4.30pm	<b>Video Session on Turtle Cons &amp; Mgt</b>	<b>Job</b>
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4.30pm.	Wrap up and evaluation	Wences/Job
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5.00pm	End of Day	
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Time	Program	Key Person(s)
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**Day 4**

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8.30 – 9.00am Recap of day 3

9.30 – 10.30am **Session 5: Wildlife Legislation** Job

- Fauna Protection and Control Act (1978)
- Relevant Policies
- WMAs

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10.30 – 11.00am TEABREAK

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11.00 – 12.30pm ***Session 5 Continued***

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12.30 – 1.30pm LUNCH BREAK

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1.30 – 3.00pm **Session 6. Education and Awareness**

- Education and Awareness – Why??
- Getting the message across
- Methods

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3.00 – 3.30pm TEA BREAK

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3.30 – 4.30pm *Session 6 Continued*

4.30pm Evaluation and Wrap up

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<b>Time</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Key Person(s)</b>
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**Day 5**

8.30 – 10.00am Review of Weeks Session

***Next Steps***

11.00-12.00noon Closing Ceremony

- Speeches
- Awarding of certificates
- Closing speech

12.00 Noon LUNCH /Departure

## Annex II. Participants List

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. ADOLF LILAI Karkum Village	2. ALISONG MAYANG	3. ALPHONSE UNUNG
4. AMICK SAILAS	5. BETTILA TULEM	6. BETTY PAREK
7. BOB KHON (Driver)	8. CHRISTINA IBILO (Cook)	9. CLETUS KILA
10. DICK AKASKI	11. ELLIS LABI	12. FELIX KASAP
13. GABRIEL DIDOL	14. HONORLETTE TAPING	15. JOE LABI
16. JULIET YAPEN	17. JUSTINE MABO	18. JOHN RAYMOND
19. KENNETH LILAI	20. KHON BEN	21. LEONIE KALIK
22. LENNON MULOM	23. PALAK DELILAH	24. PAREK BERNARD
25. PATRICIA ALUNG	26. RICHARD BUNAM	27. THADEIUS TULEM
28. VINCENT NANAI	29. WILLIE MULOM	30. WILLIE MAYANG
31. SIMPORIAN BUNAM	32. FIDEISH NANAI	33. ELIZAH INIA
34. BENADETTE LILAI	35. CATHY YAPEN	36. BRAIN FIAWO
37. AUGUSTINE YAMBEL	38. GODFREY SEDOP	39. DORISH NAIR
40. JOSEPH MUDINEP	41. JOSEPH LAMMEY	42. ADRIAN ARONGI
43. FOGER SUMBIE	44. JUDE AWOK	45. THADEUS KANIPE
46. PAUL LAKI	47. DAMIEN PESSAM	48. MELCHIOR PESSAM
49. JOEL ZORRO	50. GABRIEL PESSAM	51. TOBIAS PUNURU
52. BASIL PHILIP	53. ROGER SUAK	54. NIGEL KOKEMUA
55. SYLVESTER WULUK	56. MEVIN AKEM	57. MAX SEBIA
58. DANIEL NAMULA	59. PETER GABU	60. CHABRINI GATAGOL
61. LEERAY ROBIN	62. MARK KOHN	

## Annex III. Draft Actions Plans for the Madang Communities.

# Marine Turtle Conservation Action Plan. 2010 – 2013

## Madang Coast Turtle Network

### Introduction

The Madang Province is a major tourist destination. Most are attracted to the crystal clear diving of the near shore reefs and the tranquility it offers. Perhaps one of Madang's hidden asset is the turtle nesting beaches that stretches along the northern coast of Madang.

The nesting beaches are famous locally for leatherback turtle, green turtle and hawksbill turtle nesting grounds. While each species utilize the beach at different times of the year for nesting, there have been cases of members of each species nesting at the same time as recalled by older members of the coastal communities.

Hawksbill and Green Turtles are common in the near shore reefs and females utilize the stretch of beach to nest. These species are generally long lived and have low survival rates.

### Threats.

There are two major local threats that are faced by the nesting turtles of the Madang Coast.

#### 1. Nesting habitat destruction/obstruction

- The increasing population of the Madang coastal communities has resulted in some families moving from village boundaries into clearing up local vegetation directly behind beach dunes and putting up houses etc. This has cause disturbances along the beaches and has affected the turtle nesting population through increase beach alteration, increased noise pollution, and increased open fires and lightings at night time.

#### 2. 100% Take of eggs from nest / 100% slaughtering of nesting turtles

- Whenever turtle nests on the beaches, there is 100% harvest of eggs with no consideration for saving some nests for hatchlings to go out to replenish population.
- All female turtles nesting on the beaches, if discovered by local hunting parties. End up slaughtered and shred among the community to eat.

To address the above issues a local NGO, The Makata Inc has been carrying out programs along the Madang coasts. These programs include education and awareness and setting up conservation deeds among the communities to help set up conservation beaches to protect nesting mother turtles.

These set of actions are put together by 4 Madang Costal Communities to save the marine turtles in their areas.

## MIRAP Community Action Plan

### Themes, Objectives and Priority Actions

Theme	Objectives	Actions
1. Networking/strengthening relationships	A. To address internal landownership / village politics and Community differences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. A Leaders Meetings</li> <li>II. Community Meetings</li> <li>III. Clan meeting</li> </ul>
	B. Addressing External landownership differences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Community leaders meeting/discussions</li> </ul>
2. Awareness and Education	A. To make communities know and increase their awareness on threats (light, fire, feral/domestic animal disturbances)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Awareness on beach vegetation disturbances</li> <li>II. beach Pollution</li> <li>III. Noise Pollution</li> </ul>
3. Law and Enforcement	A. To address and stop Illegal Fishing and hunting of nesting turtles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Community meetings to address issues</li> <li>II. Village court attention</li> </ul>
4. Turtle Research and Monitoring	A. To built and enhance the capacity of local community technical team in turtle research and monitoring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Carry out 2 trainings in 2010</li> <li>II. Request Makata, SPREP etc to carry out the training.</li> </ul>

## Karkum Community Action Plan

### Themes, Objectives and Priority Actions

Themes	Objectives	Actions
1. Research and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish an effective turtle tagging and monitoring program</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of program</li> <li>Source funding and especially resources (tags, applicators...etc) to carry out program</li> <li>Establish turtle breeding tanks/nursery to ensure lower mortality rate for hatchlings.</li> </ol>
2. Law Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective enforcement of regulations / laws under the new Deeds of the Madang Community</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate and prosecute offenders</li> <li>Paralegal Training conducted for village court officials, councillors and community reps.</li> </ol>
3. Alternative protein Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish alternative protein source to reduce pressure from turtle eggs etc..</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approach provincial fisheries to look into fish ponds and farm establishment</li> <li>Look into piggery and poultry projects</li> <li>Feasibility studies...etc</li> <li>Establish projects</li> </ol>
4. Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase /enhance turtle conservation and management capacity</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turtle Conservation and Management Training for communities</li> <li>Establish and maintain turtle Networking with and outside the Madang turtle network</li> </ol>
5. Education and Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase awareness on all thematic programs as identifies by Karkum community conservation committees</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop awareness programs</li> <li>Source funding</li> <li>Execute awareness programs</li> </ol>

## Pepaur Community Action Plan

### Themes, Objectives and Priority Actions

Themes	Objectives	Actions
1. Awareness	A. Community are made aware that Politics will interfere will all development projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community and leaders awareness campaign on community politics</li> </ul>
	B. Fires must not be lit on nesting beaches at night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness Campaign on prohibition of beach fires</li> </ul>
	C. Restrict fishing nets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness on restriction of fishing nets</li> </ul>
	D. Stop settlers from Killing turtles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness on “not to kill” turtles</li> </ul>
	E. Stop night fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness on night fishing and effects on fish</li> <li>Rules in Deed to stop/ban night fishing</li> <li>Policing beaches at night</li> </ul>
	F. Control feral animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness on feral predation on turtle nests</li> <li>Fence pigs and build protection grids on turtle nests</li> </ul>
2. Law Enforcement	A. To strengthen deed/laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness o laws</li> <li>Community youths networking together to enforce conservation laws</li> </ul>
	B. Ban turtle meat sales in local market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen law in the deed</li> <li>Awareness on the deed and the Fauna Protection Act.</li> </ul>
3. Research and monitoring	A. Establish turtle tagging and monitoring program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop program</li> <li>Mobilise equipment and funds..etc</li> <li>Execute program. (November December/ on annual basis)</li> </ul>



## Gildipasi Community Action Plan

### Themes, Objectives and Priority Actions

Themes	Objectives	Actions
1. NETWORKING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish networking among communities, leaders and youths to address boundary and other relevant issues</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal boundary review by clans with communities</li> <li>External boundary reviews with communities concern – Mirap and Murukanam</li> </ol>
2. RESEARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen Research on marine turtles of Madang Coast</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research and monitoring capacity building (information) training</li> <li>Monitoring and tagging (theory and practical)</li> <li>Information storage and retrieval (SPREP – TREDIS)</li> <li>Information exchange and sharing</li> </ol>
3. AWARENESS and EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase community awareness on issues etc affecting the marine turtles and the Conservation Deed</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing and executing awareness program</li> <li>Resources mobilisation to assist in the awareness program</li> </ol>
4. LAW and ENFORCEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen local court systems to effective enforce conservation areas rules</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>empower conservation committees</li> <li>paralegal Training</li> <li>set days for conservation cases</li> <li>networking court systems</li> </ol>