

Turtle harvest and Trade in Solomon Islands

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The Nature Conservancy

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Background on Marine Turtles

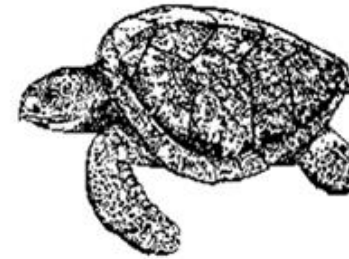
- Important culturally and Socially
- All marine turtles are endangered



Background on Marine Turtles

- Protected under Solomon Law
- Continue to be harvested legally and illegally
- We have no idea if current harvest rates are sustainable

ALL TURTLE SPECIES (including NEST & EGGS)

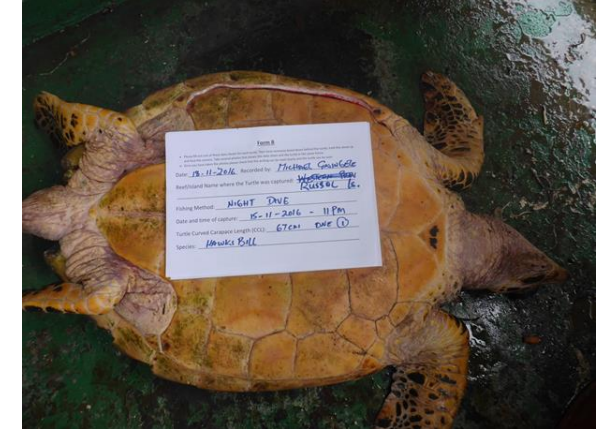


- It is illegal to sell or expose for sale or buy or export any turtle or part of any turtle or the product thereof.
- It is illegal to take turtles or eggs or destroy turtle nest or eggs during breeding seasons which is June, July & August and November, December & January.

*Penalty: for both offences -
\$100 fine or 3 months
imprisonment or both*

Objectives of the study

1. Provide an estimate on the national turtle harvest rates
2. Understand the market chain for the illegal turtle trade in Solomon Island and
3. Raise awareness on the issues facing turtle conservation in Solomon Islands



Workshop on documenting turtle harvest & trade



Species Identification, Carapace measurement & DNA sample collection.



Training on how to use cameras



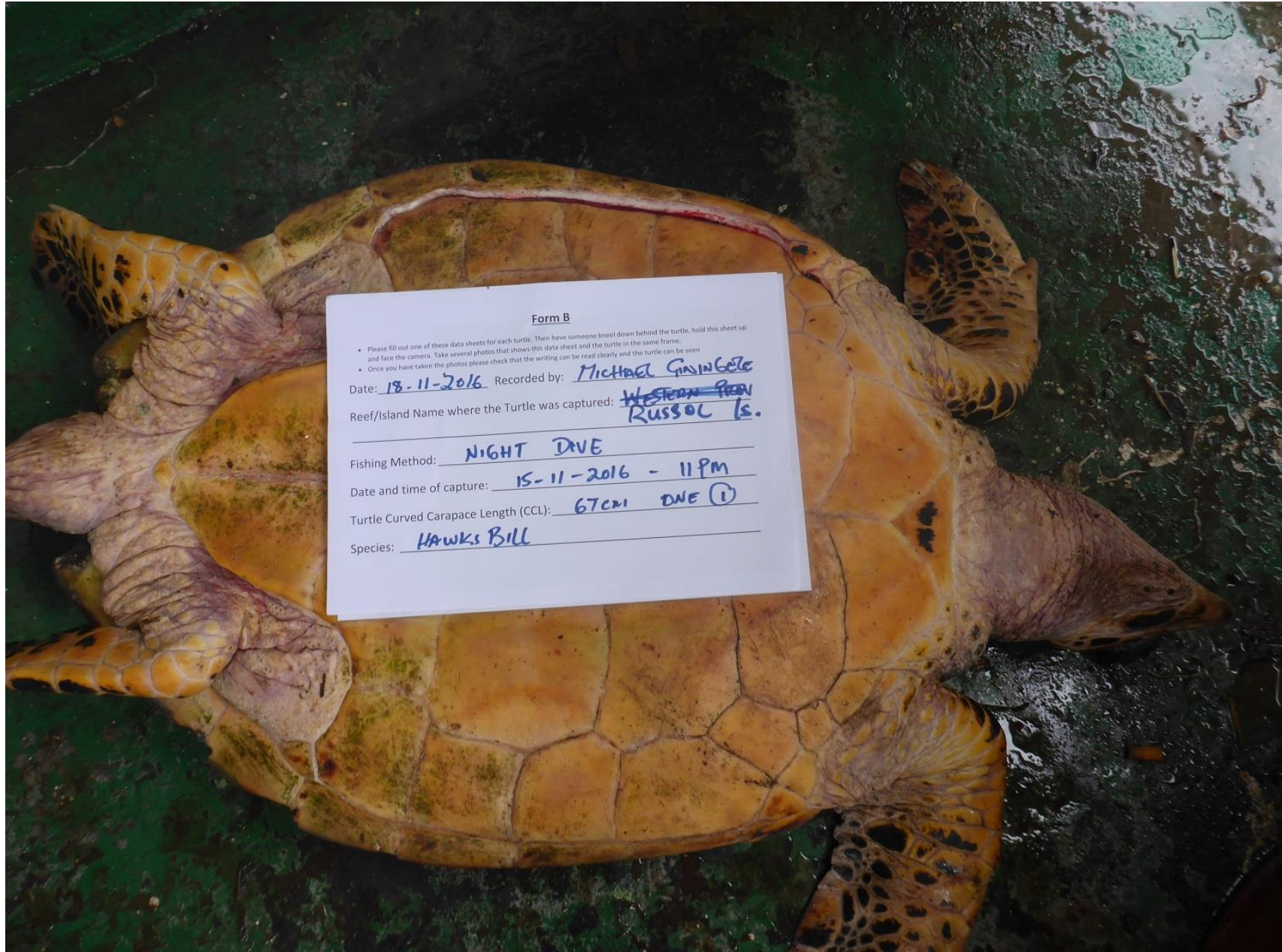
Participatory mapping of the local reefs



Role Play



DATA FORMS

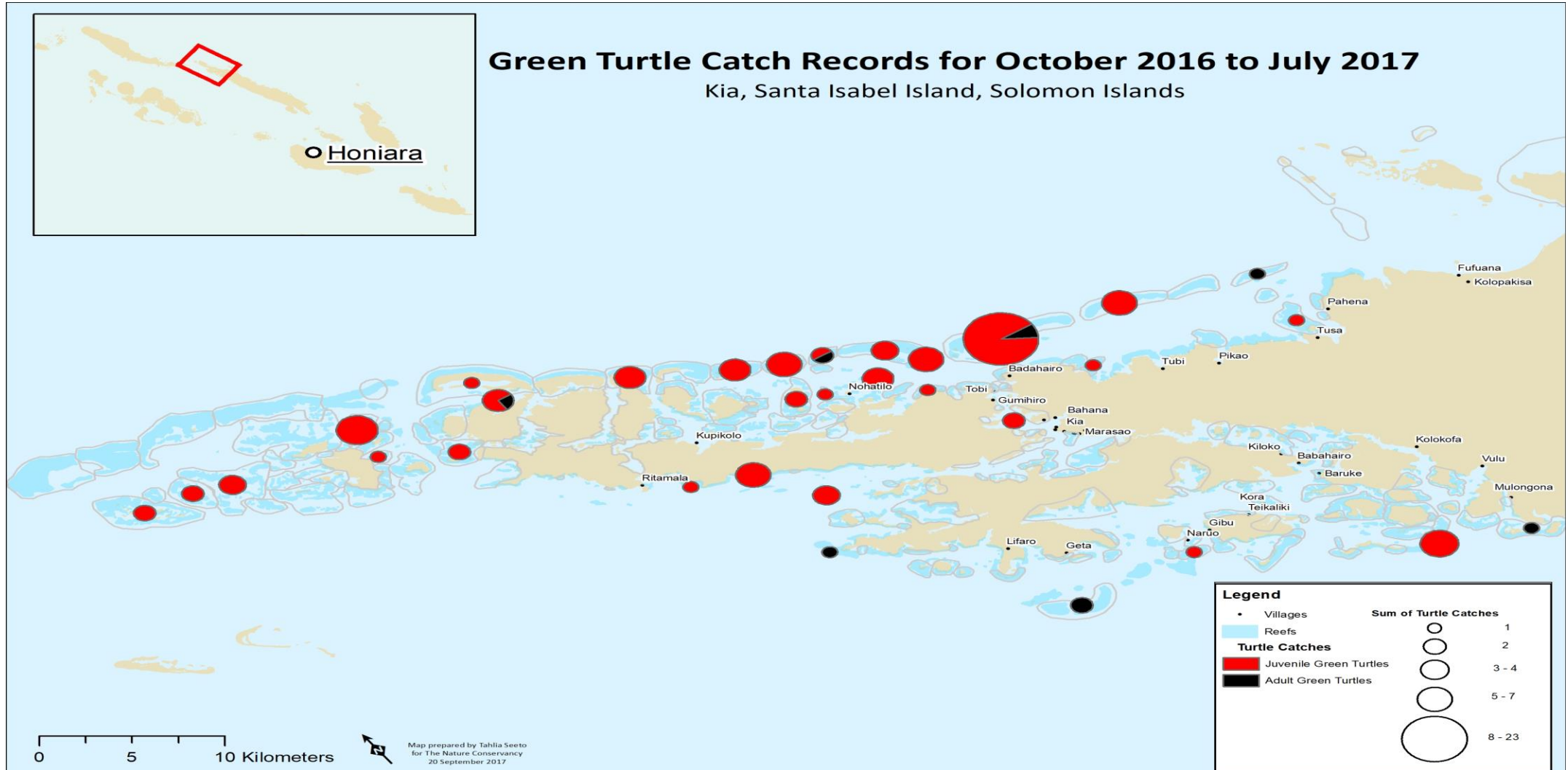


Form B

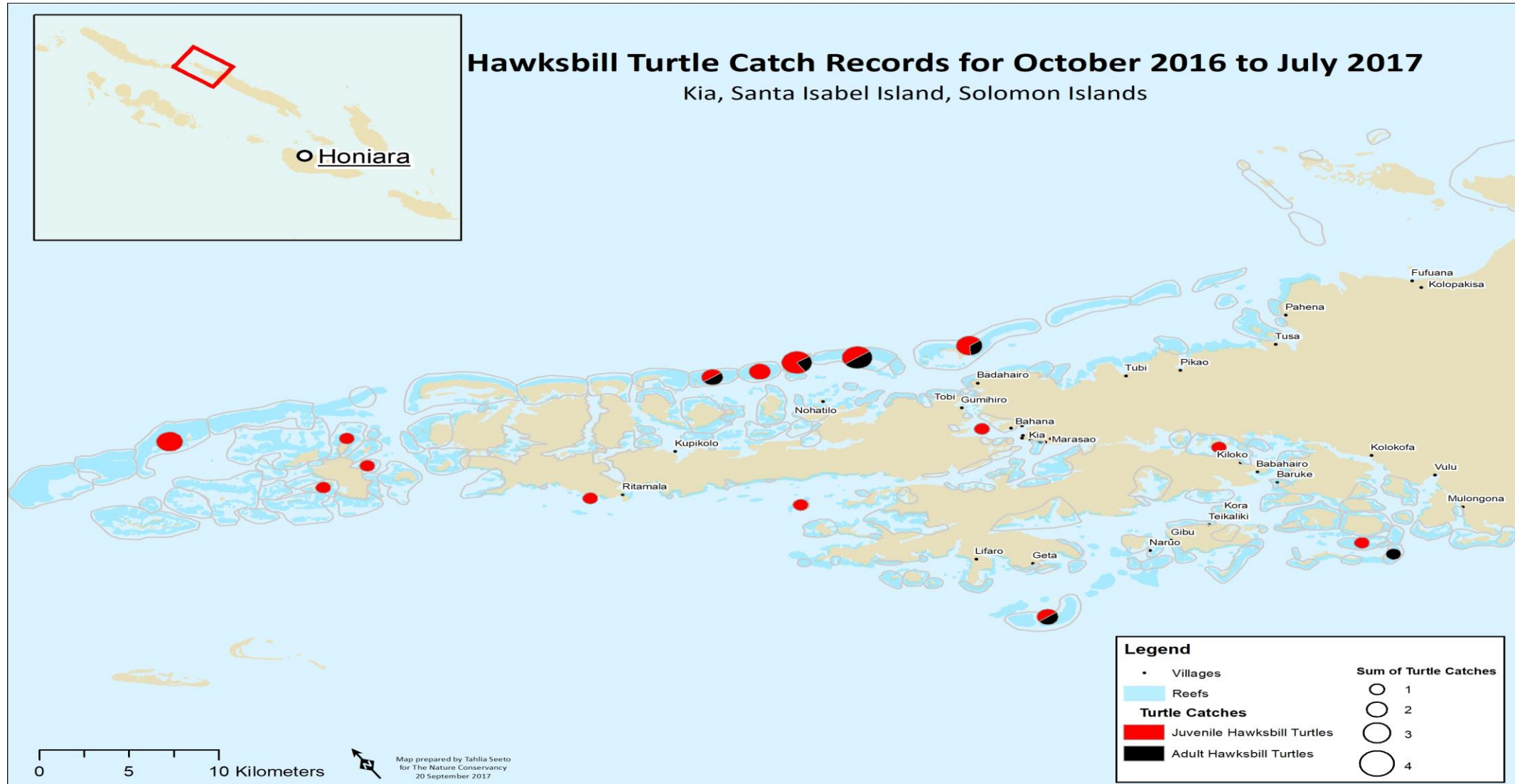
- Please fill out one of these data sheets for each turtle. Then have someone kneel down behind the turtle, hold this sheet up and face the camera. Take several photos that show this data sheet and the turtle in the same frame.
- Once you have taken the photos please check that the writing can be read clearly and the turtle can be seen

Date: 18-11-2016 Recorded by: MICHAEL GININGELE
Reef/Island Name where the Turtle was captured: ~~WESTERN PEARL~~
RUSSOL IS.
Fishing Method: NIGHT DIVE
Date and time of capture: 15-11-2016 - 11 PM
Turtle Curved Carapace Length (CCL): 67CM DNE (L)
Species: HAWKS BILL

Green turtle Harvest: Adult vs Juvenile



Hawksbill turtle Harvest: Adult vs Juvenile

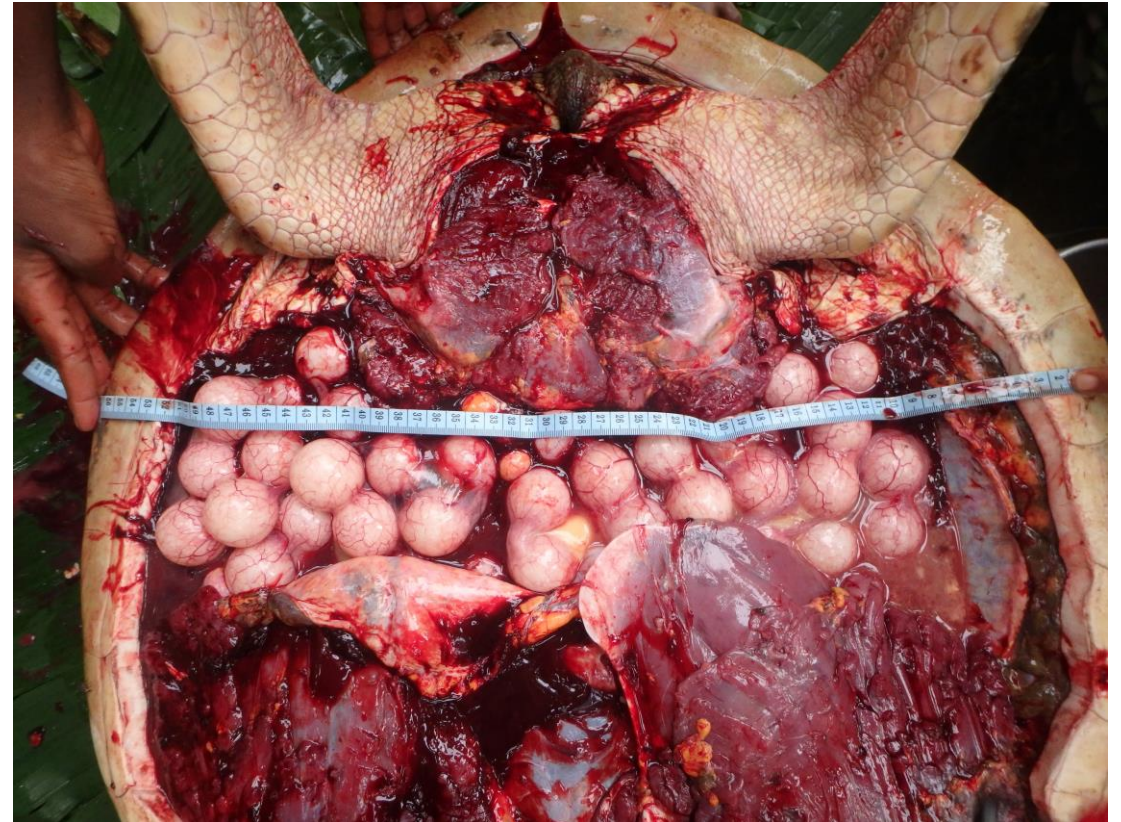


Preliminary Results

- Turtle eggs were harvested, and even adult turtles were killed on nesting Beaches.



TURTLE EGGS HARVESTED FOR CONSUMPTION DURING NESTING PERIOD



FEMALE TURTLE KILLED WHILE NESTING

Preliminary Results

- Turtle products continue to be sold both in the provinces and in Honiara, and some turtle shell are sold to international markets.

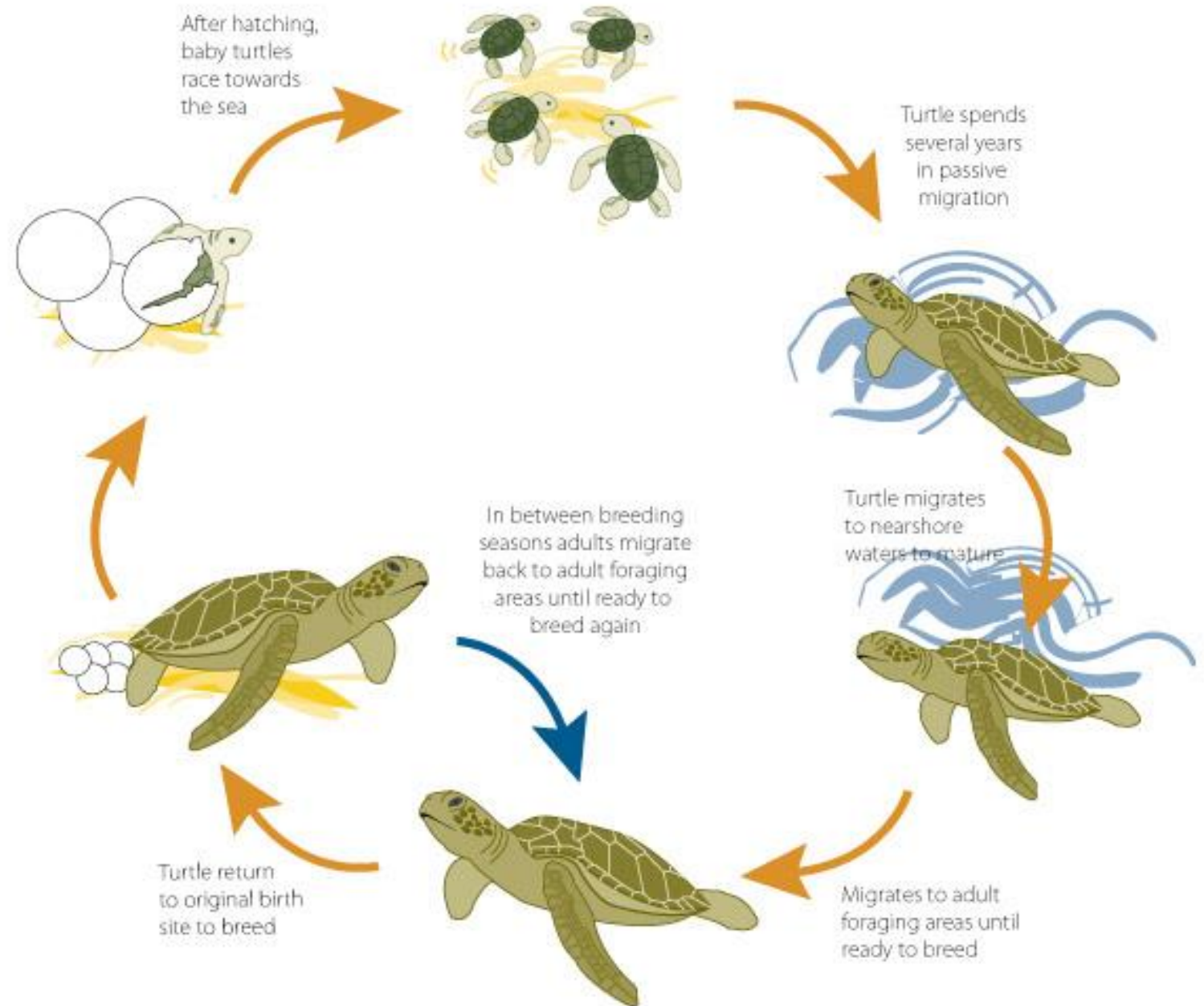


Preliminary Results



TURTLES TRANSPORTED IN INTER – ISLAND VESSELS TO BE SOLD IN HONIARA

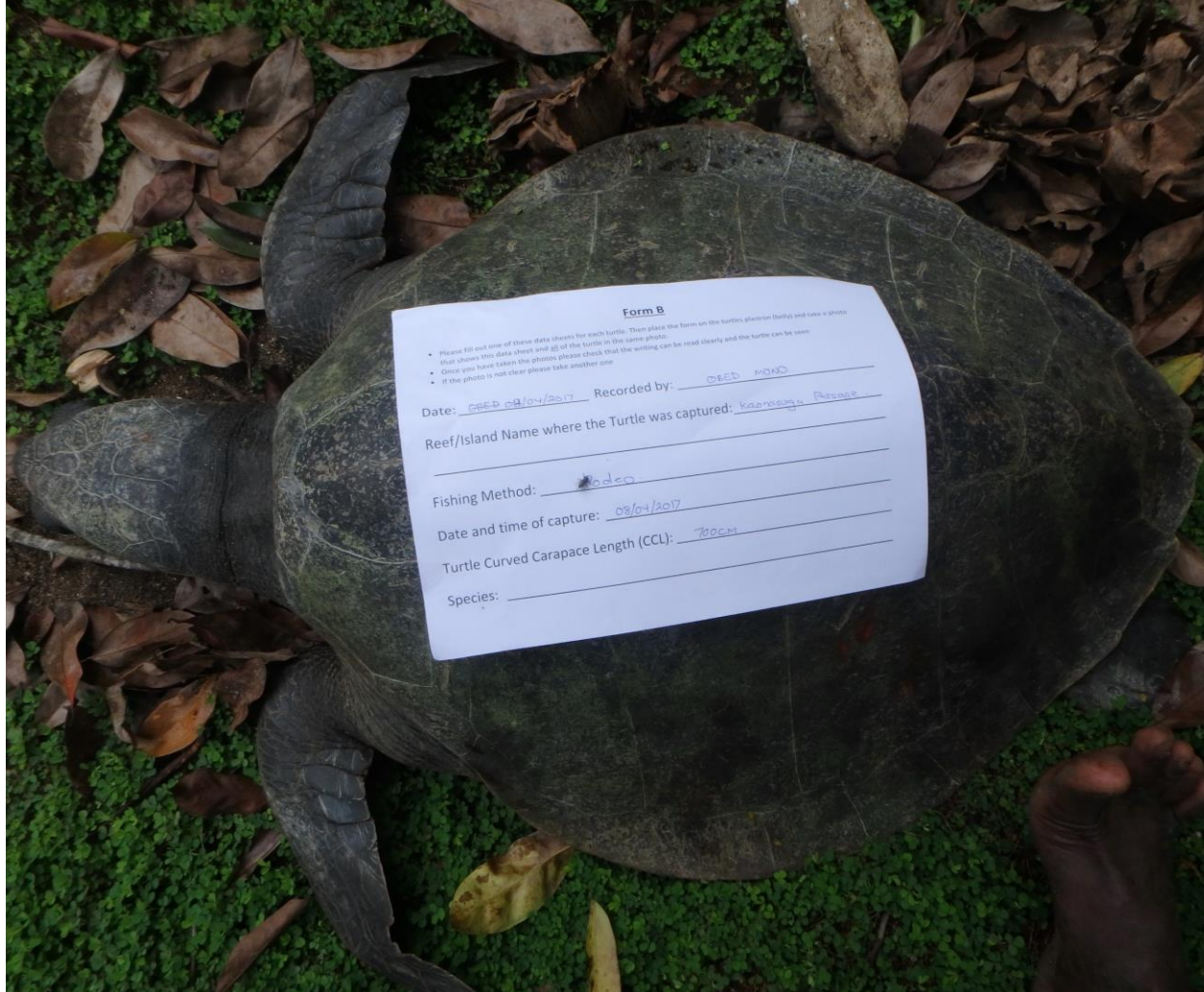




Conclusion

- Turtle catches in Solomon Islands are dominated by juvenile green and juvenile hawksbill turtles, with
- Catch rates very high and likely unsustainable in some provinces
 - Out of 580 turtles survey so far, 91% (531) recorded from Choiseul and Isabel provinces
- Weak Governance
 - Right legislation are available, but weak enforcement of existing regulations facilitate illegal take and trade.

Olive Ridley nesting in Solomon Islands







Thank You and
question?