

Project Update: March 2015

So far we have achieved the following:

1. Acquisition of a 40 HP OBM Yamaha. This has now solved much of the logistical difficulties faced in the past in terms of monitoring and surveillance duties of the island and the marine resources.
2. Consultation with relevant stakeholders has also taken place including Nature Conservancy, WWF, Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP) and the Conservation Division of the Ministry of Environment and Conservation in Solomon Islands. These will be our local partners on the ground in terms of research and training. We should be having visits and a research team to the island soon as soon as all arrangements are done.
3. We have already embarked on an awareness programme over the Christmas period and people are now being made aware of this project.
4. This conservation project is now out in the media hitting newspaper articles and the airwaves all over the country and overseas as well. I have attached some links to this publicity online, including this one:

<http://www.sibconline.com.sb/conservation-association-received-funding-assistance/>

Link to international publicity about this project through Radio New Zealand International:

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/268234/uk-trust-funds-solomons-hawksbill-turtle-conservation>



Left: Turtle breeding site on Malaulalo. Middle: Dennis Marita with a young hawksbill turtle held in captivity and later released into the wild. Right: The OBM engine funded by Rufford Foundation of UK. Malaulalo Island in the Background. Courtesy of Rhonna Marita