

Indian Ocean - South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding




IOSEA Site Network proposal

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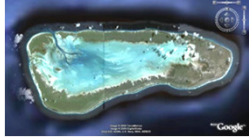
Aldabra Atoll, Seychelles

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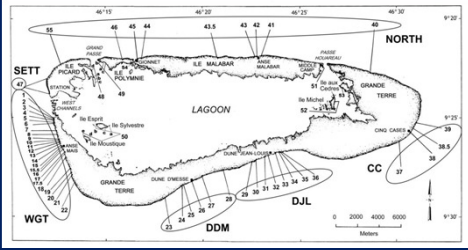
General Location & Area



- **Coordinates:** -9.423698°, 46.343278°
- **Most remote** Seychelles Island
- 1,100 km SW of Victoria
- No permanent **population**
- **Total area: 439 km²**
Land: 155 km²



Habitats Used by Sea Turtles



Nesting beaches: 4,000 m; ~ 60 beaches
Foraging Habitat:
 • Seagrass meadows; Mangrove; Coral Reef

Turtle Nesting Populations

Hawksbills: ~30 females / yr




Photo: Jeanne A Mortimer

Green Turtles :
 >3,000-5,000 females / yr
 • Increase 5-fold since 1968
 • Increasing



Photo: Rainer von Brandis



Large numbers of Foraging Green Turtles and Hawksbills

Long Term Monitoring of Nesting Population: 1981-present

- Track counts
- Flipper tagging


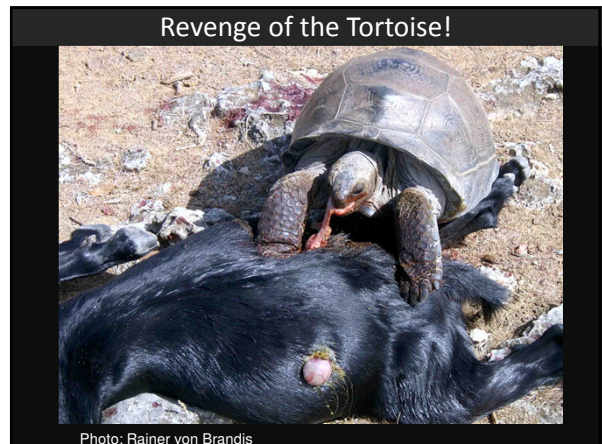
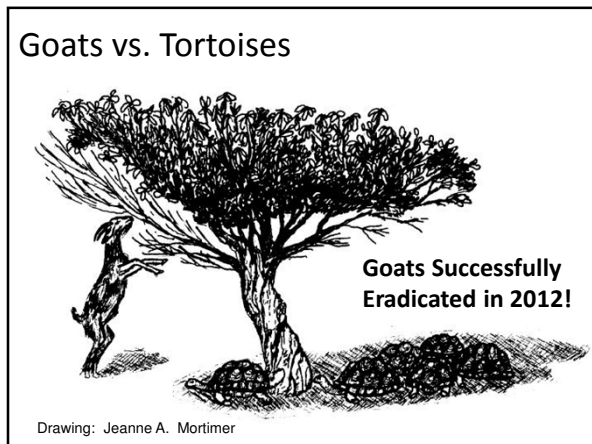


Photo: Rainer von Brandis



- ### Other studies on turtles
- Genetic studies
 - Bourjea et al. 2007 Green turtles
 - Philips et al. 2014 Hawksbills
 - Satellite tracking (unpublished)
 - Seasonality
 - Mortimer 2012
 - Dalleau et al. 2012
 - Mortality of nesting turtles
 - Mortimer & von Brandis 2013
 - Marine surveys & mapping
 - Etc.....



Aldabra Atoll (Seychelles)



- Western Indian Ocean
- Managed by Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF)
- UNESCO World Heritage Site (two in Seychelles)
- Wildlife & ecosystems protected since 1968

Cultural importance:

Symbol of cultural pride for all Seychellois.
Regional & international significance.

References

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- Mortimer JA, Jupiter T, Collie J, Chapman R, Liljevik A, Betsy B, Pimm R, Stevenson J, Laboudallon V, Assary M, Augeri D & Pierce S (2003) Trends in the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) nesting popn at Aldabra Atoll, Seychelles (WIO) and their implications for the region. *Proceedings of 23rd Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation*. NOAA Tech Mem.
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