

OceansWatch Newsletter Nov 2014

Surveying for Endangered Species



It is the end of another fruitful season for OceansWatch.

The two yachts *Magic Roundabout* and *Anna Rose* are now on or about to set off on their final sail back to New Zealand.

Figure 1 Crew with local kids

This year we have been more involved with terrestrial conservation as well as marine conservation. This is an important step in our mission of using ecosystem based management and setting up ridge to reef protected areas.

We worked with Dr Ray Pierce from Eco Oceania Ltd and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund to survey the tropical forest for three Endangered birds and two Endangered flying-fox. One of the flying fox was thought to be possibly extinct as it had not been recorded for about a hundred years.



Figure 2 Palm Lorikeet



Figure 3 Temotu Flying Fox

The forests around Nendo, Vanikoro and Tinakula in the Temotu Province of the Solomon Islands were selected for survey simply because these were the three islands most likely to support these five IUCN red-listed species.



Figure 2 Chris Bone, Charlotte Leger, Georgia Coward and Sophie Bone on Anna Rose

Dr Pierce and his team were successful in locating all the target species.

Another key finding was that the volcanic island of Tinakula was both cat and rat free enabling the survival of the Santa Cruz Ground Dove.

Further work is planned for next year to continue working with the local communities to protect both the island of Tinakula and some of the other ridge to reef habitats that were explored.

The expedition has been successful in other ways in the Solomon Islands including supporting the women of Buma in the setting up an alternative livelihood initiative to extract cold-pressed coconut oil, in beginning to develop a low-key eco-tourism venture in Mola'a, by carrying out two thorough Climate Change assessments and in setting up several more locally managed marine protected areas.

Thanks go to all our wonderful volunteers who were so enthusiastic and worked so hard in making a difference to these isolated communities who welcome us so warmly into their lives.

**AT THIS TIME OF GIVING AND RECEIVING IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE
CONSERVATION WORK WE ARE DOING PLEASE**

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