

In Memoriam

COURTESY OF ISAIAS' FRIENDS & COLLEAGUES



Isaias Majil (1974–2017)

A native of Corozal, Belize, Isaias was a highly respected leader in the study and protection of sea turtles in his country. He began his career as a biologist for the Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve before moving into management, where his contributions expanded to encompass Belize's entire Marine Protected Area portfolio and beyond. His work is recognized throughout the Mesoamerican Reef System. Among his many roles, Isaias served as chair of many national working groups, including the Coral Reef Monitoring Network, the Sea Turtle Conservation Network, and the Glover's Reef Advisory Committee. He also played an important part in the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles. He will always be remembered by his friends and family for his love of sea turtles. In his daughter's words, "My daddy loved turtles so much... I will always remember the times he explained to me about turtles."



Jack Woody (1933–2016)

Jack was known and loved in the sea turtle conservation community and will be remembered as a conservation hero. As the national sea turtle coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Jack championed the protection of the Kemp's ridley in every way possible, and he is credited as one of the pioneers in developing the USA—Mexico joint program to protect and recover the Kemp's ridley nesting sites in Rancho Nuevo, Mexico. He also pioneered efforts to reestablish nesting colonies at Padre Island National Seashore in Texas. Within the span of his career with FWS, Jack's conservation efforts extended to other wildlife, including migratory birds, manatees, and endangered fish. In 2013, he was given the International Sea Turtle Society (ISTS) Lifetime Achievement Award.

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Acknowledgments

We are especially grateful to the following donors for their support of the SWOT Program in 2016–2017, including the publication and dissemination of this volume of *SWOT Report*: Frances and Benjamin Benenson Foundation, Betlach Family Foundation, The Comer Foundation Fund, Thomas D. Hormel Trust, Moore Family Foundation, IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and the U.S. State Department, Fisk Johnson, Joyce and Hugh McCormick Charitable Fund, Oakwood Foundation, Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg 1992 Charitable Trust, John F. Swift, Amy Thurston, Vitalogy Foundation, and Nancy Wotkyns. Thank you for making this work possible.

Authors and Affiliations

ANDREWS AGYEKUMHENE, Wildlife Division, Ghana Forestry Commission, Ghana

BETÂNIA FERREIRA AIRAUD, Institute of Biodiversity and Protected Areas of Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Bissau

PHIL ALLMAN, Department of Biological Sciences, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida, U.S.A.

GARY APPELSON, Sea Turtle Conservancy, Florida, U.S.A.

EDWARD ARUNA, Reptile and Amphibian Program, Sierra Leone

ISIDORE AYISSI, Institute of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences in Yabassi, University of Douala-Cameroon, Cameroon Association of Marine Biology, RASTOMA, Cameroon

CECILIA BAPTISTOTTE, Centro TAMAR, ICMBio, Brazil

KARIEN BEZUIDENHOUT, Zoology Department, NMMU, South Africa

JÉRÔME BOURJEA, IFREMER, UMR MARBEC, France

PAOLO CASALE, University of Pisa, Italy, and IUCN–SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, Italy

LILIANA COLMAN, Marine Turtle Research Group, Centre for Ecology and Conservation, University of Exeter, UK

MAYEUL DALLEAU, Centre d'Étude et de Découverte des Tortues Marines, Réunion Island, France

TOMAS DIAGNE, African Chelonian Institute, Senegal

SCOTT EASTMAN, Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Florida, Florida, U.S.A.

ALEJANDRO FALLABRINO, Karumbé, Uruguay

ANGELA FORMIA, Wildlife Conservation Society, Gabon

JACQUES FRETEY, Chélonée-MoU of Abidjan, France

CASPER VAN DE GEER, Local Ocean Conservation, Watamu Turtle Watch, Kenya

ALEXANDRE GIRARD, Réseau des Acteurs de la Sauvegarde des Tortues Marines en Afrique Centrale (Rastoma) and Université Paris Sud/CNRS/AgroParisTech, France

MARC GIRONDOT, Université Paris Sud et CNRS, France

DIANE LE GOUVELLO, Zoology Department, NMMU, South Africa

JOANA M. HANCOCK, Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisboa, Portugal

LINDA HARRIS, Zoology Department, NMMU, South Africa

JENNIFER HOMCY, Foundwood Woodworking, Hawaii, U.S.A.

SHAYA HONARVAR, Bioko Marine Turtle Program and Indiana University–Purdue University, Indiana, U.S.A.

BRIAN J. HUTCHINSON, Oceanic Society and IUCN–SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

ARISTIDE TAKOUKAM KAMLA, African Marine Mammal Conservation Organization (AMMCO) and IUCN–SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, Cameroon, Central Africa

IRENE KELLY, NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Region, Marine Turtle Specialist Group/Oceania, Hawaii, U.S.A.

NILAMON LEITE JR., Centro TAMAR, ICMBio, Brazil

ADOLFO MARCO, Doñana Biological Station, CSIC, Spain

ANA CLAUDIA J. MARCONDES, Projeto TAMAR/ Fundação Pró TAMAR, Brazil

EVANDRO DE MARTINI, Centro TAMAR, ICMBio, Brazil

RODERIC B. MAST, Oceanic Society and IUCN–SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

ROLAND MISSILOU-BOUKAKA, Inspection Générale des Services de l'Économie Forestière et du Développement Durabl, Congo

STEVE MORREALE, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, U.S.A.

JEANNE A. MORTIMER, Turtle Action Group of Seychelles, Mahé, Seychelles

BRAD NAHILL, SEE Turtles, Beaverton, Oregon, U.S.A.

RONEL NEL, Zoology Department, NMMU, South Africa

WALLACE J. NICHOLS, California Academy of Sciences and Center for the Blue Economy at Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, California, U.S.A.

MIKE OLENDO, WWF Kenya, Coastal Kenya Programme, Kenya

FRANK V. PALADINO, The Leatherback Trust, Goldring-Gund Marine Biology Station, Costa Rica and Department of Biology, Indiana University–Purdue University, Fort Wayne, Indiana, U.S.A.

GABRIELLA TIRADENTES PIZETTA, Centro TAMAR, ICMBio, Brazil

NATHAN J. ROBINSON, The Leatherback Trust, Goldring-Gund Marine Biology Station, Costa Rica and Department of Biology, Indiana University–Purdue University, Fort Wayne, Indiana, U.S.A.

ISABEL MARQUES DA SILVA, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Lúrio University, Mozambique

SANDRA TAVARES, Centro TAMAR, ICMBio, Brazil

JOÃO CARLOS THOMÉ, Centro TAMAR, ICMBio, Brazil

MANJULA TIWARI, NOAA-Southwest Fisheries Science Center, California, U.S.A.

PILAR SANTIDRIÁN TOMILLO, The Leatherback Trust, Goldring-Gund Marine Biology Station, Costa Rica and Population Ecology Group, Institut Mediterrani d'Estudis Avançats, IMEDEA (CSIC-UIB), Spain

SARA VIEIRA, Associação Tartarugas Marinhas, São Tomé e Príncipe

LINDSEY WEST, Sea Sense, Tanzania