

# SWOT

report

Volume XXI

The State of the World's Sea Turtles

SPECIAL FEATURE

## Sea Turtles and Tradition in the Pacific Islands

## An Ecological and Cultural Perspective of Sea Turtles

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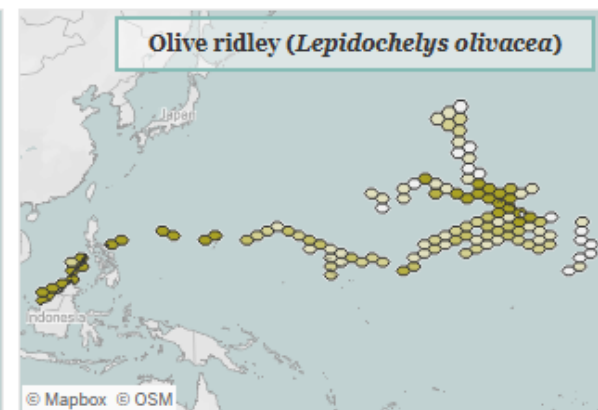
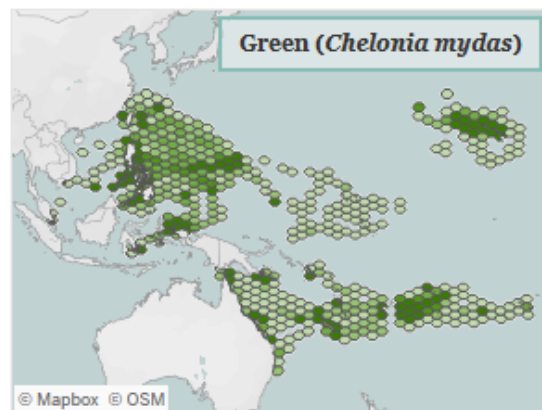
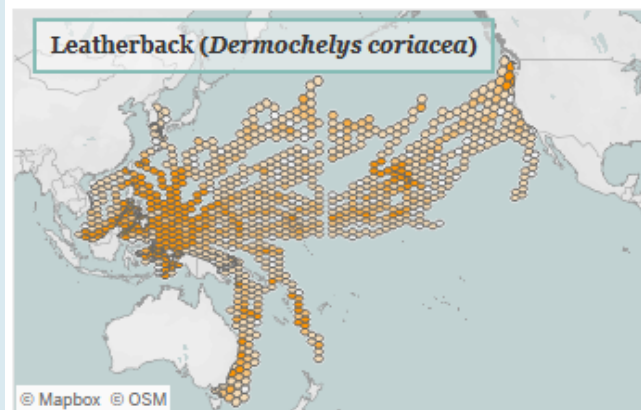
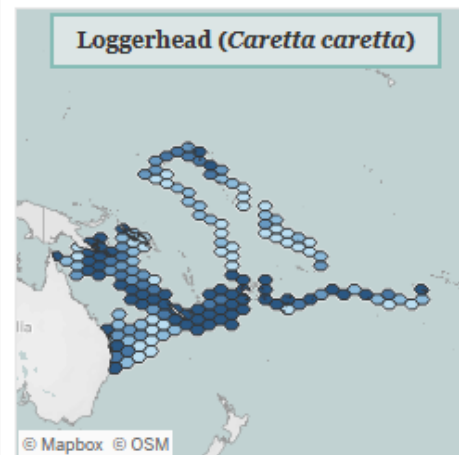
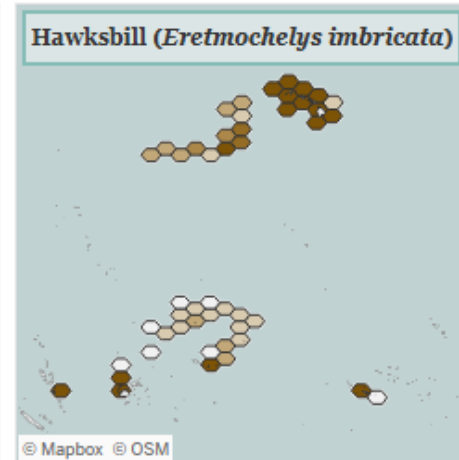
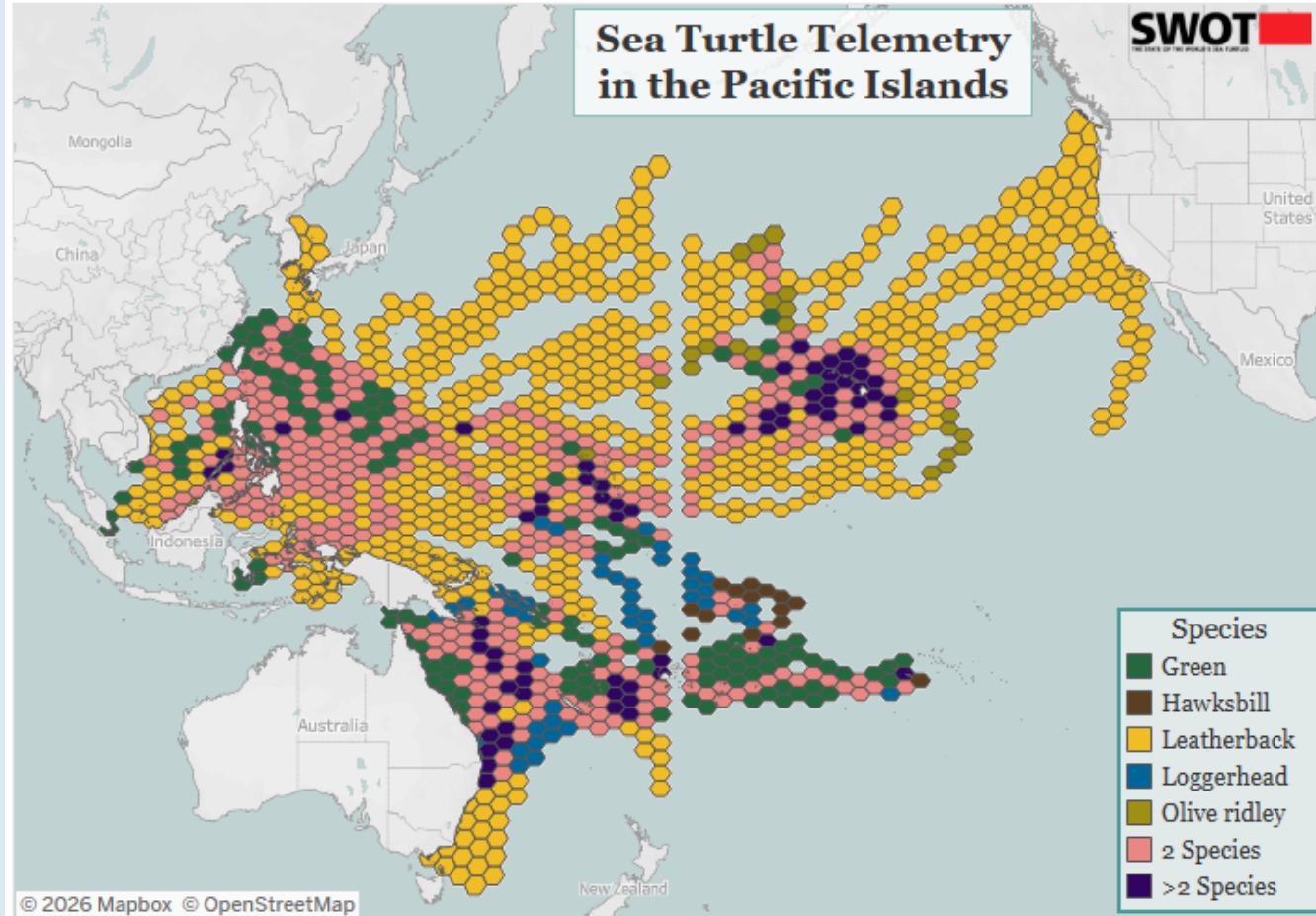
Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office

Honolulu, Hawai'i, USA



A leatherback turtle fitted with a satellite transmitter emerges under a full moon to nest on Haevo Beach, Isabel Island, Solomon Islands. Western Pacific leatherbacks, which are critically endangered, nest primarily in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands. © Alexander R. Gaos





Note: These tracks are from over 500 tags deployed in the Pacific Islands, thereby excluding some turtles that were tracked from outside of the Pacific Islands into the region's waters. In the individual species maps, darker colored hexagons are colored according to how many locations they contain with darker colors representing a higher number. See below for data citations.

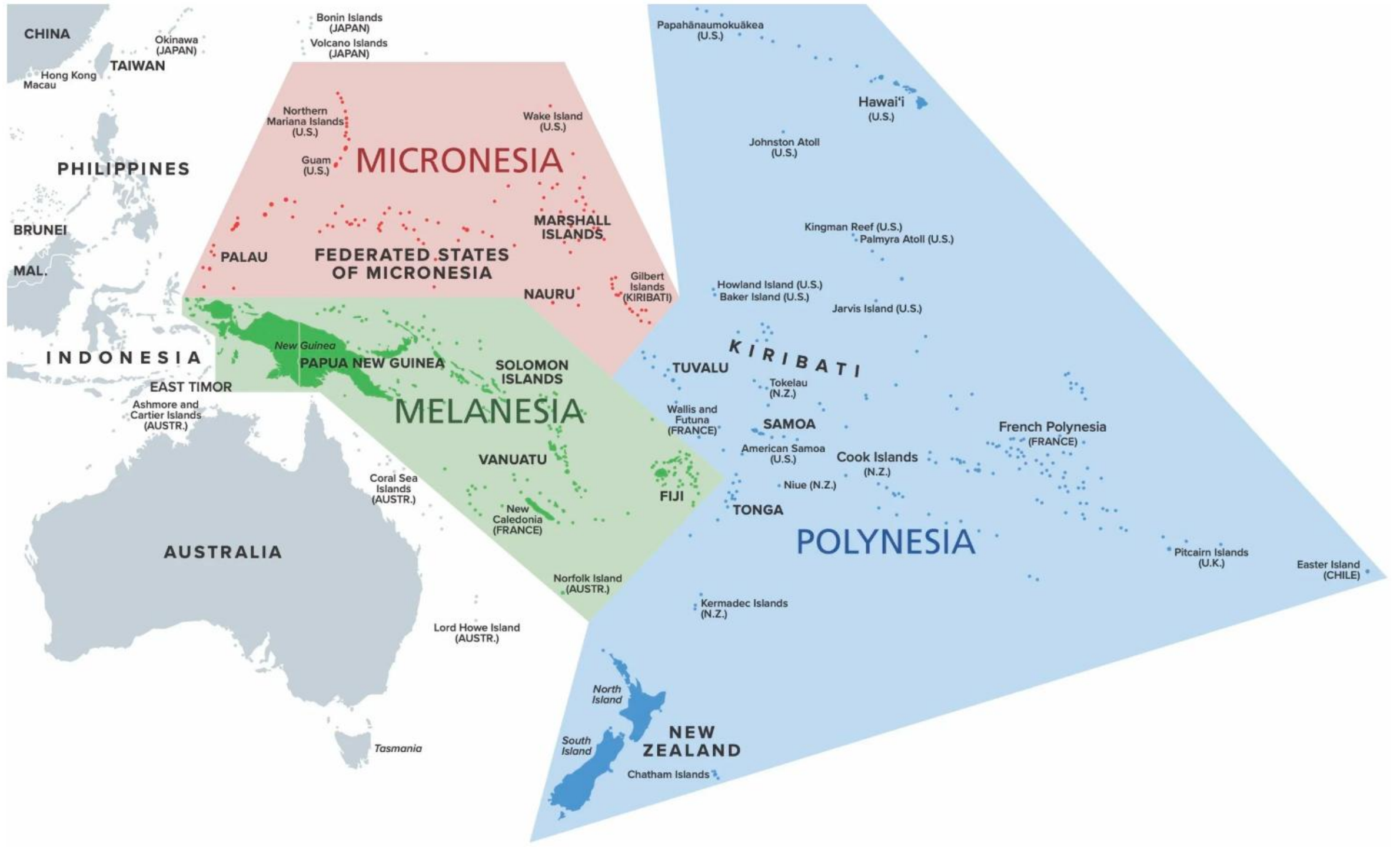


# SEA TURTLES AND TRADITION IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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A local community member holds a hatchling hawksbill turtle in the Arnavon Islands, Solomon Islands. Once heavily exploited, these islands are a rare example of recovery through long-term comanaged conservation that combines community leadership with sustained external technical, institutional, and financial support, and government involvement. © Tim Calver Photography

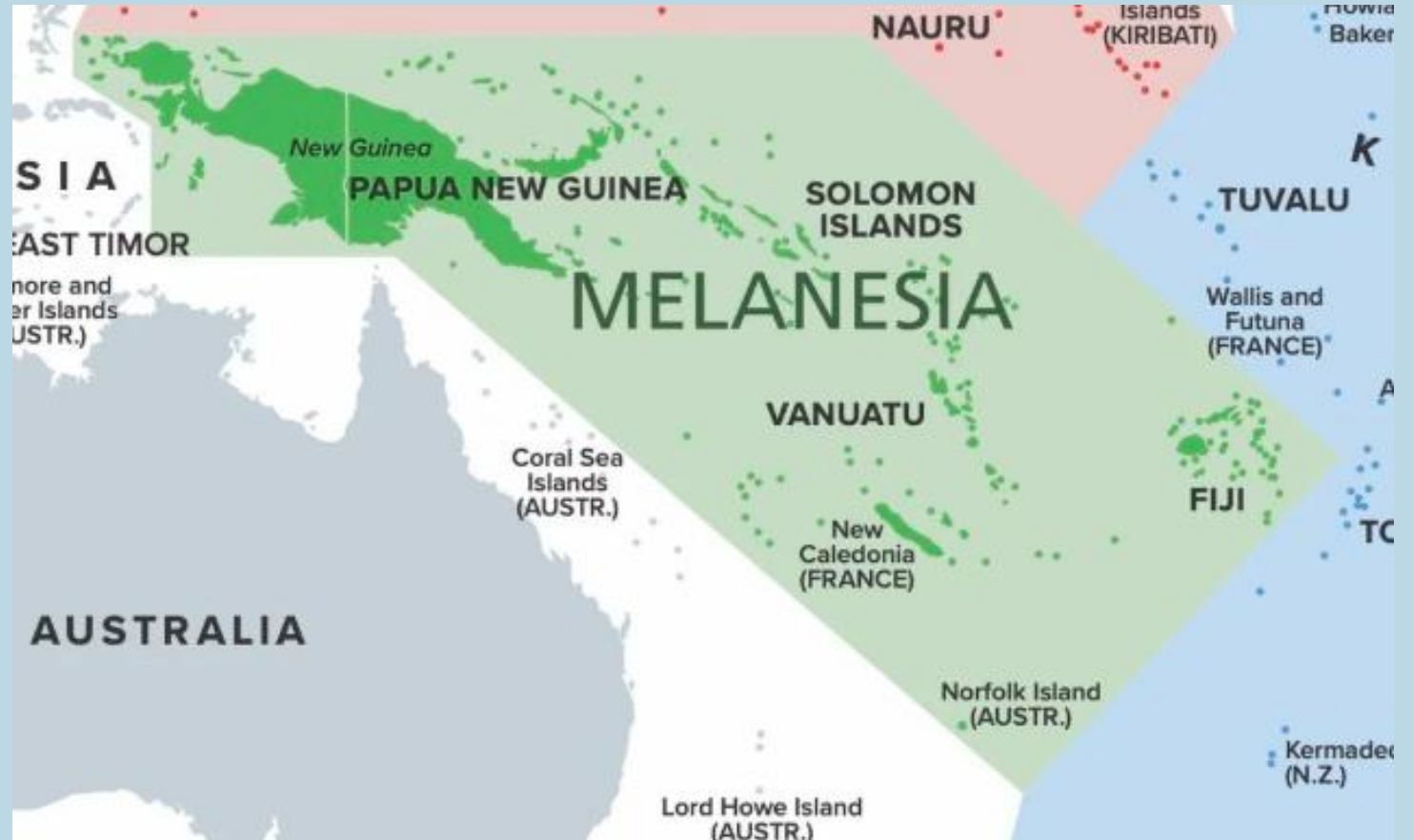




# Melanesia

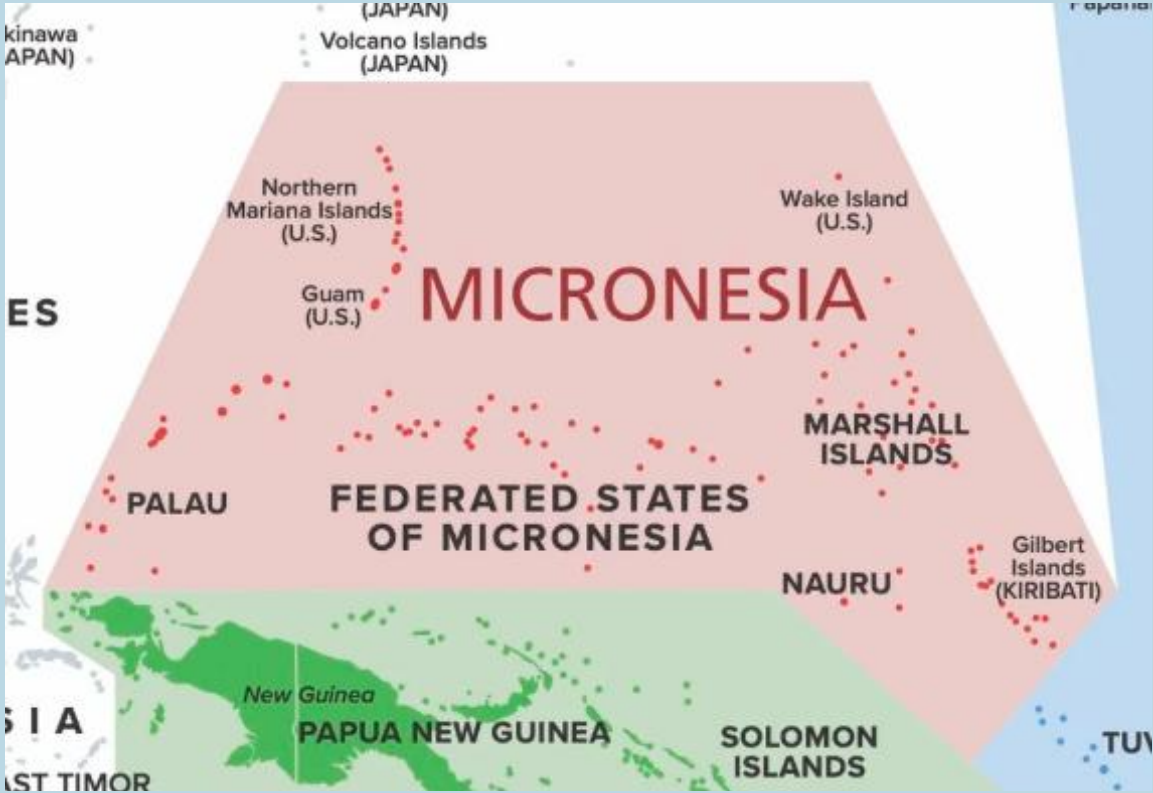
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- Fiji\*
- New Caledonia (France)
- Papua New Guinea\*
- Solomon Islands\*
- Torres Strait Islands (Australia)
- Vanuatu
- West Papua (Indonesia)



# Micronesia

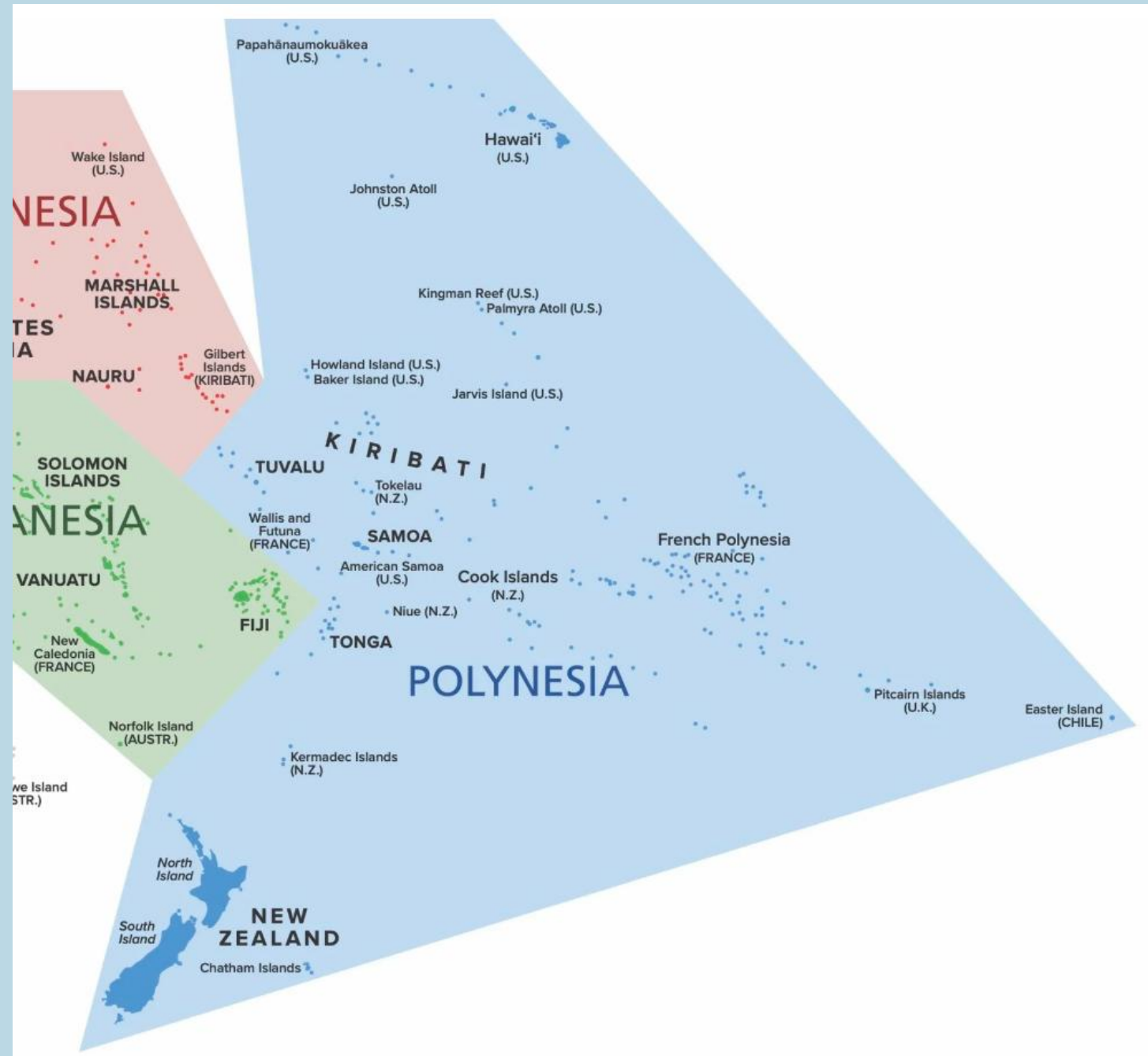
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- Federated States of Micronesia \*
- Guam (U.S.)\*
- Kiribati
- Marshall Islands \*
- Nauru
- Northern Mariana Islands (U.S.)\*
- Palau\*

# Polynesia

- American Samoa (U.S.)\*
- Cook Islands (N.Z.)
- Easter Island (Chile)
- French Polynesia (France)
- Hawai'i (U.S.)\*
- New Zealand\*
- Niue (N.Z.)
- Pitcairn Islands (U.K)
- Rotuma (Fiji)
- Samoa\*
- Tokelau (N.Z.)
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Wallis and Futuna (France)





turtle - *honu*

world - *honua*

Green turtles (known locally as *honu*) rest in a cave on the coast of Maui, Hawai'i, U.S.A. © Leighton Lum



# SEA TURTLES AND TRADITION IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

## Si Yu'os Ma'åse' Thank you

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A local community member holds a hatchling hawksbill turtle in the Arnavon Islands, Solomon Islands. Once heavily exploited, these islands are a rare example of recovery through long-term comanaged conservation that combines community leadership with sustained external technical, institutional, and financial support, and government involvement. © Tim Calver Photography