

Iguana Program – Update 1 – 2 July 2016

By Adam Clause.

Week 2 in an iguana paradise! And what a productive week it was. With the able help of grounds staff, we captured two new Malolo Island crested iguanas - using a Manitou forklift, no less!

After detailed analysis, DNA sampling, and electronic tagging, we released them back to their home trees. These iguanas (named Yanuya and Monuriki) become the 14th and 15th individual iguanas that we have found on Malolo since their rediscovery in 2010. Of additional interest is our discovery of a robust population of Pacific boas on Malolo. Each night's survey has yielded at least one boa (sometimes as many as four).

Finally, for the last two days, Likuliku Lagoon Resort was host to Marica Vakacola, Project Manager of the Mamanuca Environment Society (MES). Marica helped us brainstorm about exciting capacity-building and survey work for the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

As always, sincere thanks to our project partners at MES, US Geological Survey, and San Diego Zoo Global.



Our newest Malolo Island crested iguana, a healthy girl named Yanuya.



Sub-adult Pacific boa, approximately 2ft long. Marica Vakacola releasing Yanuya.