

Iguana Update No. 4

29 July 2016

New iguana population discovered! The distribution of crested iguanas on Malolo Island remains mysterious. How many tropical dry forest fragments on the island still support these lizards? We took a big step closer to answering this question late last week. With vital support from the National Trust of Fiji, the Provincial Office, and local landowners/leasees, our survey team visited a forest patch close to Likuliku and Malolo resorts. In just 80 minutes, we found 17 individual iguanas sleeping in the trees! Like the iguanas at Likuliku and Malolo, however, this third known population is under threat. Continued die - stoefforestation, and the invasion of feral cats, rats, and dogs, puts these iguanas at serious risk. There is reason for hope. But our team has a great deal of work ahead of us to ensure that these new iguanas are adequately protected.

In the interim, we have retained two adult iguanas from this new population at Likuliku. We are pleased to introduce Solevu and Elevuka as the newest members of our captive breeding program. Here's hoping that they produce lots of new babies soon!



Male iguana *Solevu* (top) and female *Elevuka* (bottom), the latest and final additions to our captive breeding stock.