

Iguana Update No. 5

12th August 2016

Breaking news! Just over a week ago on one of our night forages, we spotted eleven wild iguanas at Likuliku Lagoon Resort. This is a new record number seen at Likuliku in a single night. It far surpasses our previous record of six individuals. Of the eleven lizards, we recognised four of them (previously named *Tokoriki*, *Viti Levu*, *Tavarua*, and *Vatubulou*) as repeat customers based on their markings. Perhaps most importantly, seven iguanas were youngsters, only two or three years old. The picture is becoming ever-clearer that the population at Likuliku is rebounding quickly!

First thing on Saturday morning, we returned with our Manitou forklift to where these iguanas were seen. But perhaps due to a gathering storm, nearly all of them had moved to different hiding places. Normally, the iguanas sleep through the night on their perches, and can be spotted in the morning without much difficulty. Not so this time.

Luckily, a couple of days earlier we did catch a new iguana at Likuliku. We are pleased to introduce *Vatutagi*, the 22nd wild iguana captured on the island. She is a healthy young female, and will be released back to her home tree early next week.

As new information trickles in, we will continue share updates with you. Thanks for reading! We owe a debt of gratitude to all of our project partners, and to the dedicated Ahura Resorts staff who make this work possible. Vinaka vaka levu!



Close-up of Vatutagi the iguana.



Vatutagi the iguana.