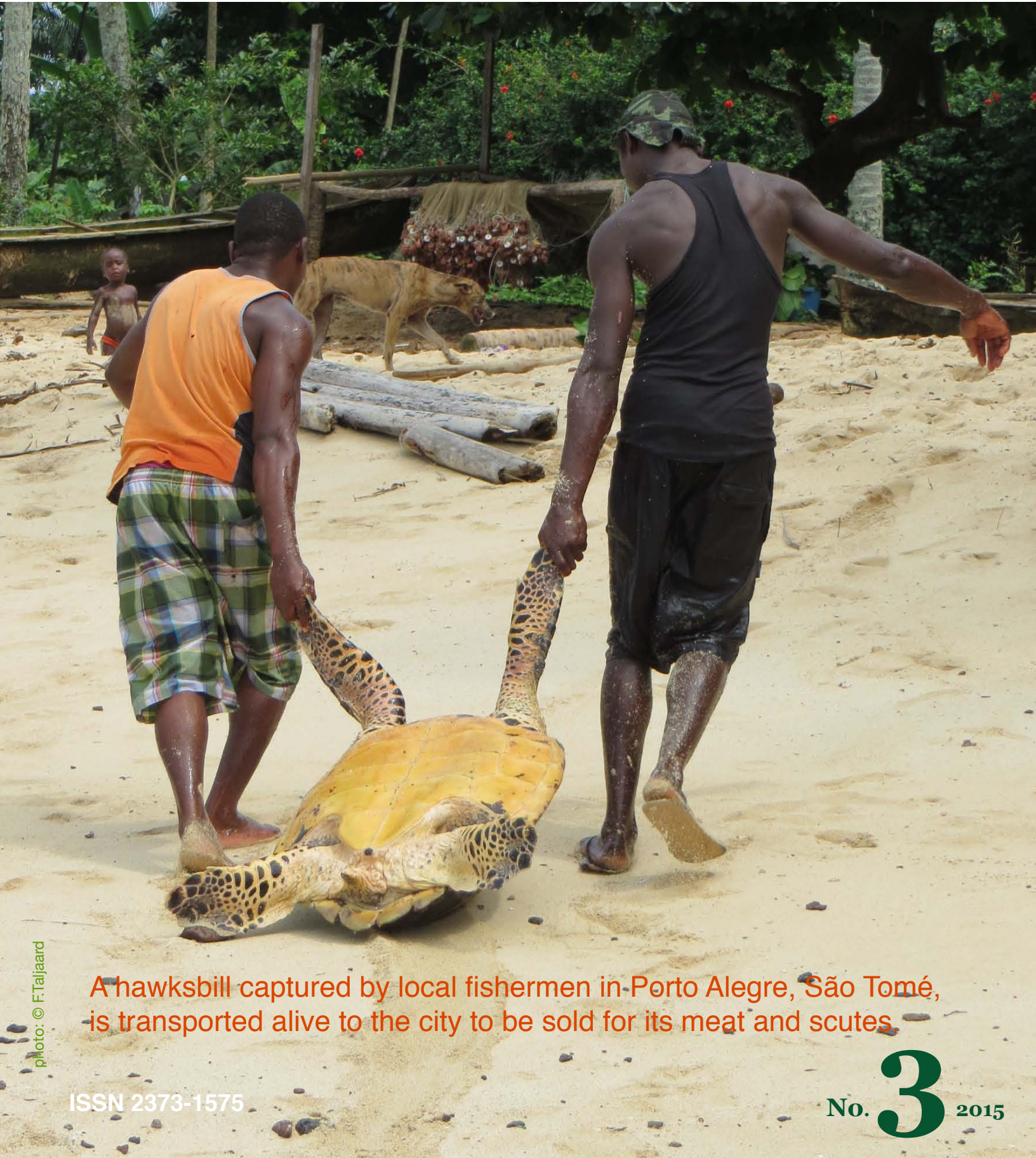




# AFRICAN SEA TURTLE NEWSLETTER



A hawksbill captured by local fishermen in Porto Alegre, São Tomé, is transported alive to the city to be sold for its meat and scutes.

photo: © F.Taljaard

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**Official Celebration of 20 Years of Monitoring and Conservation  
of Marine Turtles at the Ponta do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve, Mozambique**

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As reported in Pereira *et al.* 2014, the Ponta do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve (POPMR) celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its marine turtle monitoring and conservation programme in 2014.

The official celebrations took place on the 19 November at the small village of Ponta do Ouro, and gathered about 20 people, including Pierre and Yvonne Lombard and local partners, representatives of the local authorities and Ministry of Tourism, as well as two long-standing stalwarts of the programme: Drs. George Hughes and Scotty Kyle. A small but heart-felt cocktail with short speeches and tales was hosted by the POPMR, which was followed by a night vehicle-patrol on the beach. About 10 loggerhead turtles were spotted, unfortunately no leatherbacks!

The participants were delighted to have Dr. Hughes and Dr Kyle on the beach, where experiences, stories and plenty of knowledge were shared. It wasn't all fun as the monitoring and research work still had to

be carried out. Genetic samples were collected and the regular nesting and tagging data taken.

A technical meeting was held the next day, which amongst other interesting topics, a review of the turtle situation in Mozambique was discussed as well as prospects for future work and bilateral collaboration between the Mozambican and South African turtle programmes. Local issues relevant to the POPMR were also high on the agenda, especially fundraising, consolidation, and growth of the programme.

#### **Literature Cited**

Pereira, M. A.M., R.S. Fernandes, E.J.S. Videira, C.M.M. Louro, and P.M.B. Gonçalves. 2014. Celebrating 20 years of marine turtle tagging and monitoring in southern Mozambique. *Africa Sea Turtle Newsletter* 2: 31-33



Participants of the official celebration of the 20th anniversary of the monitoring and conservation programme at the Ponta do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve, Mozambique (Photo: R. Fernandes).

