



The Maopa Vernacular

Aroma Coast (Maggi Highway)

Central Province

Abau Electorate

Papua New Guinea

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My family: Mum and dad Anua and Wendy Kana, My grandparents Kana and Vaolo Thoa, brother in-law from Gavone Eric Vaka and those who are not mentioned.

Facebook – Aroma Coast Only Group

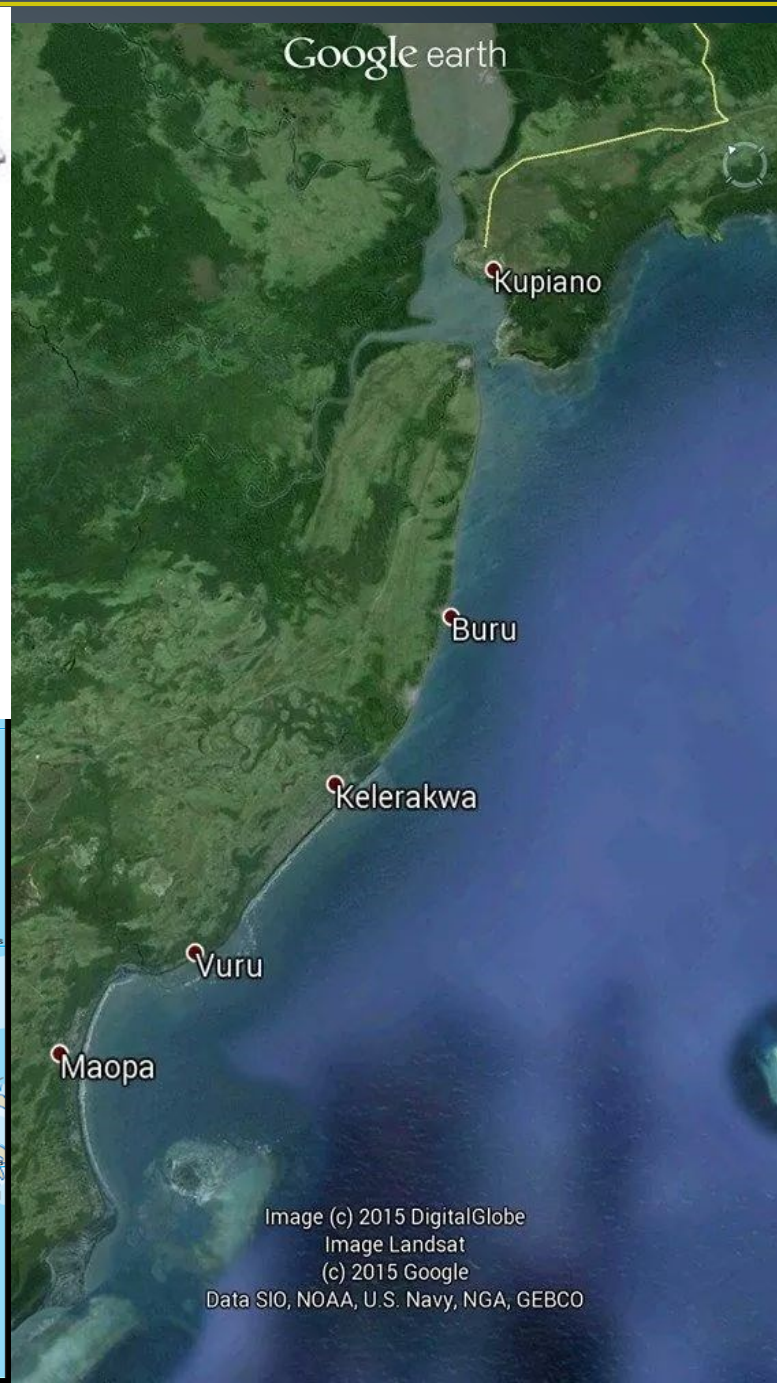
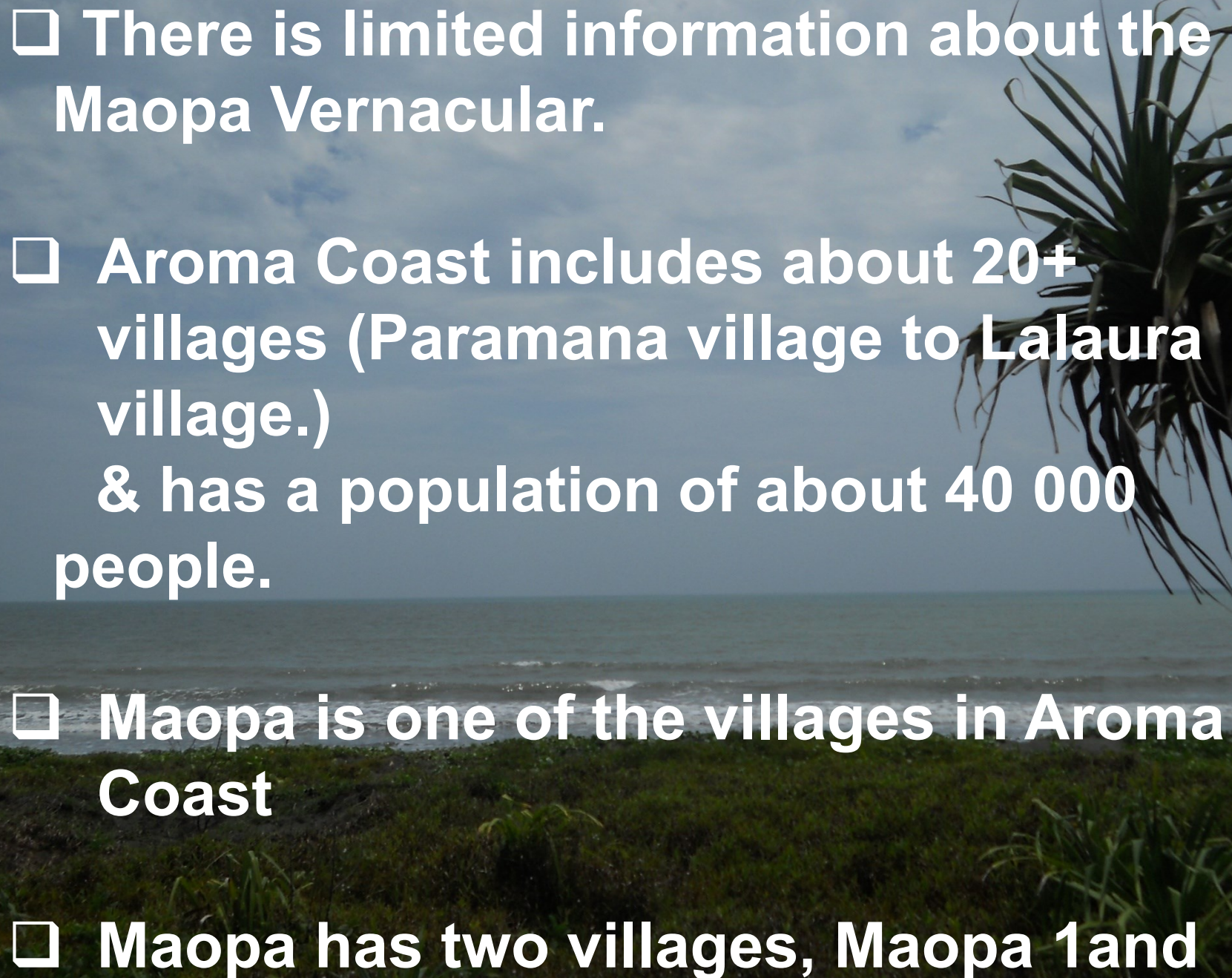
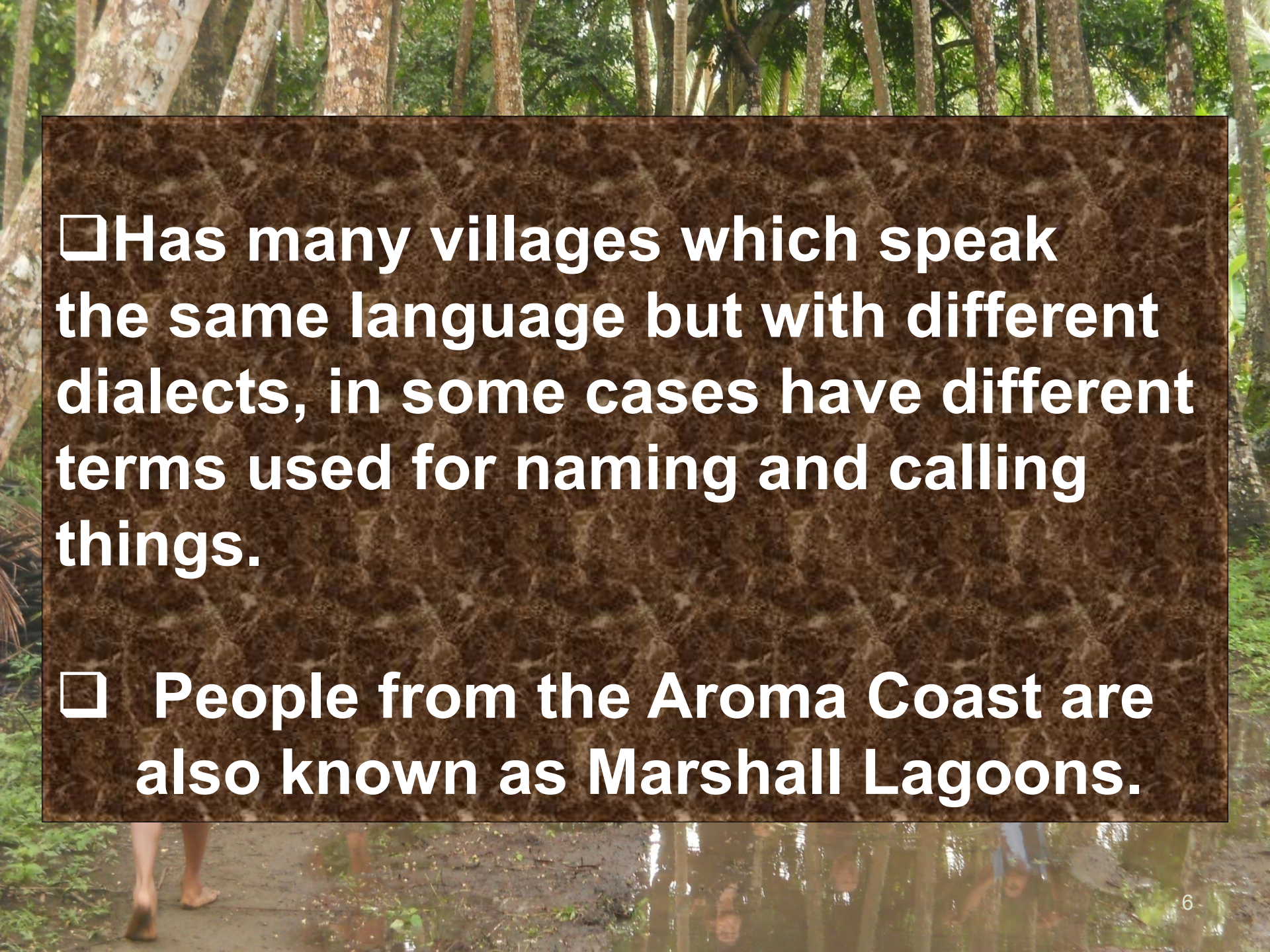


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Overview

- ❖ Acknowledgement
- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Background Information
- ❖ Vowel Charts
- ❖ Examples of Vowels
- ❖ Consonant Chart
- ❖ Phonetic Conventions
- ❖ Interesting Findings
- ❖ Audio Recording
- ❖ Conclusion

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- ❑ There is limited information about the Maopa Vernacular.
 - ❑ Aroma Coast includes about 20+ villages (Paramana village to Lalaura village.)
& has a population of about 40 000 people.
 - ❑ Maopa is one of the villages in Aroma Coast
 - ❑ Maopa has two villages, Maopa 1 and



□ Has many villages which speak the same language but with different dialects, in some cases have different terms used for naming and calling things.

□ People from the Aroma Coast are also known as Marshall Lagoons.

Pictures of people from The Maopa Village



Background Information

- ❑ Interested to share what is learnt at school
- ❑ As it was a trial edition, I would be glad to hear your corrections and comments
- ❑ The aim of the research was to make developments of the PNG languages and make reading and writing possible. As most speakers of this language are illiterate I would encourage the people to read and write.

Vowel Chart

ʌ	ɛ
i	ɔ
u	

A vowel list with Examples

Vowels	Ex. Of word in Maopa	Transcription	Meaning
a /ʌ/	alima	/ʌtɪmʌ/	ground
e /ɛ/	ega	/ɛɣʌ/	ear
i /i/	ima	/imʌ/	arm
o /ɔ/	oioi	/ɔici/	three
u /u/	oo	/u:/	head lice

Consonant Chart

p	t	k
b	ḏ	ɣ
	d	
m	n	
	ɫ	
	ɾ	
w	y	v

Phonetic Conventions

Symbol	Transcription	Example	Meaning
/p/	[pɫɔvɔ]	palovo	Coconut Tree
/m/	[mɫɣɫni]	magani	fish
/w/	[wɫɣɫ]	waga	Dog
/t/	[tɫmɛnɫ]	tamena	Salt
/ð/	[ðɔnɛkɫ]	thaoneka	knowledge
/n/	[nɫɫɔ]	nalu	Water
/ʎ/	[ʎɫɫɫ]	lala	Blood
/ɾ/	[ɾɫɣɫɔ]	ragau	what?
/j/	[ɫjiɔ]	ayiu	Yam
/k/	[kɔɫɔɫ]	koloa	Young boy
/ɣ/	[ɣɫɾɔ]	garo	Sun
/v/	[vɫvɛnɛ]	vavine	woman

Interesting Findings

- The Maopa Vernacular has allophones of the same phoneme.

➤ /b/ and /v/ are allophones of the same phoneme which is /v/

Example:

aloba/alova (fire)

nabu/navu (swim)

bau/vau (Stone)

Collect some stones:

ba u aula i go be ko ko ri

/bʌu/ ʌuʔʌ / /iɣɔ/ /be/ kɔkɔɾi/

va u aula i go ve ko ko ri

/vʌu/ ʌuʔʌ / /iɣɔ/ /ve/ kɔkɔɾi/

➤ /d/ and /ð/ are allophones of the same phoneme which is /ð/

Example: darapara/ tharapara
(road)

madana/mathna (tongue)

dagi/ thagi (wind)

The wind is blowing

dagi e gavu ni - /dagi/ /e/ /ɣavu/ /ni/

thagi e gavu ni - /ðagi/ /e/ /ɣavu/ /ni/

According to the Vocabulary, there are many words that are the same but mean different things at different times according to the situation the speaker is in.

For example: the word 'rogo' /ɾɔɣɔ/ in Maopa language can mean wait, later, stop or hold.

• In grammatical rules there is not much indication of putting verbs into sentences.

For Example: Thank you very much

Tanikiu raga kamu /tɒnikiu/ /ɾɒɣɒ/ /kɒmu/

• I am comparing the Maopa and Gavuone language because I want to show that both neighboring villages speak the same language but with different dialects.

•The difference in dialects is the intonation in the Gavuone Language.

• All environments are the same except that the Gavuone has the /ɺ/ phoneme while Maopa has the /t/ phoneme.

Audio Recording

Comparison between the Maopa & Gavuone
dialect

Sentence 1: *Tell the boys to go and get some coconut.*

Koloa ono vaila ri egala aula ige ve touri

/kɔʔɔʔ / /ɔʔɔʔ / /vliʔʔ / /ri/ /eʔʔ ʔ / liʔʔ / /iʔe/ /ve/ /tʔuri/
/kɔʔʔʔ / /ɔʔɔʔ / /vliʔʔ / /ri/ /eʔʔʔʔ / liʔʔʔ / /iʔe/ /ve/ /tʔuri/



Sentence 2: *They're waiting*

Geve thaloni

/ʔeʔe/ /ðʔʔni/

/ʔeʔe/ /ʔʔʔni/

Conclusio

- Show the world that my language exists
- Due to the fact that language is constantly changing because of technology and development, I would like to preserve the language so I can keep the culture alive and active.
- Invite Linguists to do further research on the vernacular and to document the language.

A young woman with dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans, is crouching on a black sand beach. She is wearing blue headphones and has her hands raised in a gesture. The background features a line of palm trees under a clear sky, with the ocean visible to the right.

**THANK YOU FOR
LISTENING...**

**EMAU
AIONI**

**BAMAHUTA
SAYONARA &
GOODBYE 😊**