

Project Update: January 2015

After 5 months of hard work, the Local Conservation Groups protected the last hatchlings until they arrived safely to the river and the 2014 phase of the programme arrived at an end. Thanks to the hard work of the LCGs and the raised awareness in the area, no nests were poached this season, for the first time since the start of the programme. However, the nesting events showed a critical decrease, with only 30 nests of the three species during the whole season compared to more than 90 in 2013. Clearly, 1 year without active protection had a great impact on the populations. At the end of the season, 30 nests, including three of *P. expansa*, were protected, and more than 1000 hatchlings arrived safely to the river. More importantly, the regional environmental agency agreed to seek for funding for the programme starting in 2015 for 3 to 4 years, which would guarantee its sustainability for the years to come.



Photo1: release of a *P. unifils* after measuring and marking. Photo by LCGs



Photo2: Turtle Guardians at work on one of the conservation beaches. Photo by LC