

### **Project Update: February 2013**

- Monthly surveys in the feeding grounds from October to November 2012 and we will start the monthly surveys again in Feb 2013 (Feb to May 2013).
- We conducted training (in a hands-on manner) for rangers in Wadi Gimal National Park during September, October and November 2012. We will start again in February 2013.
- We are doing questionnaires with fishermen (10 done already) and we will continue for the next few months to do more.
- We will run workshops in Sharm el Sheikh and Wadi Gemal area on how to collect data in the feeding and nesting grounds in the next 2 months.
- We will run the nesting survey as planned in Summer 2013 (1<sup>st</sup> trip: May; 2<sup>nd</sup> trip: July-August; 3<sup>rd</sup> trip: September-October) as the money was received in August 2012.
- We did not install the acoustic tags and we might not be able to do that because there are problems with the Navy and the continuous change of people in charge so we are not sure we will be able to get the permits on time.

The project is running late, we will complete the monitoring of feeding grounds and nesting grounds and finish by December 2013.

As for the acoustic tags, in case we will not be able to install them, we were thinking about the following:

- Use temperature data-loggers in nesting sites to: 1) understand if nesting sites in Egypt are producing more males or females; and 2) on the long term understand what impact the global warming and climate change will have on these sites.
- Collection and analysis of genetic samples collected from nesting and feeding grounds. Marine turtle populations in the Egyptian Red Sea might be genetically unique and thus should be treated as a separate management unit.