

## Project Update: June 2013

Monthly surveys of 12 important feeding grounds for green turtles in the southern Egyptian Red Sea took place from September to December 2012. In 2013, monitoring efforts focused mostly on two highly impacted bays where human disturbance is now being evaluated.

One survey of a remote nesting ground was undertaken at the beginning of May 2013 (which is supposed to be the beginning of the nesting season). Only two false tracks were found on the beach and no new track was counted during the survey period.

A workshop was organised in the Wadi Gemal Hamata National Park where seven rangers from different protected areas along the Red Sea coast participated. The workshop was divided into two parts: the first part was about general biology and ecology of marine turtles; the second part was about the field work currently being done by me. More workshops will be organised also with rangers from South Sinai.

Hands-on training on field techniques for marine turtles were organised during the monthly field surveys. Three rangers and two undergraduate students from Port Said University attended the practical trainings. The two students are now completing their final projects, one is focusing on human impact on marine turtles and dugongs while the other one focused more on green turtle feeding behaviour related to the seagrass.

Seagrass surveys have been carried out almost monthly since January 2013.



