

## Project Update: July 2013

Student Volunteers engaged by the Nevis Turtle Group for the 2013 Nesting Season

An average of 10 student volunteers have been engaged by the Nevis Turtle Group to work with it during the July and August summer holidays in sea turtle conservation. During their summer attachment to the group the volunteers will be taught the basics of sea turtle biology and conservation and will be involved in beach patrol activity such as the tagging and measuring of nesting females. The involvement of the volunteers will allow the Group to have much better coverage of the main nesting beaches (Lovers or Seahaven Beach, Cades Bay to Cotton Ground and Jacks Bay). The intention of engaging the volunteers is to increase levels of awareness on the island and train more persons to assist in surveys and conservation efforts generally. Also, the increase in patrols will act as a deterrent to the poaching of sea turtle eggs and of nesting females. The engaging of volunteers seems to already have had an impact with the largest number of new turtles been tagged at this time of year when compared with previous years.

