

Project Update: November 2015

Monitoring was extended for an additional 2 weeks and concluded in mid-September 2015, matching the effort made last year. This season showed many improvements on last season despite being hampered by poor weather throughout. Particular successes include the acquisition of multiple DNA samples, measurement data and the application of PIT tags. Additionally more leatherbacks were seen by rangers than last year, with some tagged turtles identified as they returned to nest. Furthermore a greater number of nests were protected with some carefully relocated to safer parts of the beach and a greater number of hatchlings observed.

These efforts are the first meaningful steps in addressing the data deficiency of this sub population of leatherback and supporting their dwindling numbers. Moreover the knowledge and ability of the local people around Waisurione has increased dramatically as a direct result of this project enriching their appetite for conservation.



Left: Applying a PIT tag to a nesting leatherback. Right: Measuring the CCL of a large leatherback.



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