

Project Update: January 2017

Activity: Sea turtle monitoring

The project's local monitor participated in a regular training workshop in November 2015. The workshop was held for 2 days and the monitors were particularly trained on nest excavation techniques. There were 18 participants (local monitors) who attended the workshop along with two project staff from the Save My Future (SAMFU) Foundation. The actual beach patrols began late in October 2015 due to the continuous heavy rain during that month.

During the period, the total amount of nests recorded was lower than the figures recorded from previous seasons. We had 104 nests counted, 91 successfully hatched and 10 unknown (one poached nest and nine damaged or destroyed by erosion and/or high tide). Also, there were four accidental captured marine turtles recorded, with one dead (drowning) and three released by the monitoring team. Below is a table showing the number of nests recorded during the season which ended in September 2016:

Unpublished Data Collection Summary:

Target species	# of nests laid	# of successful hatched nests	# of hatchlings	# of bycatch release alive	# of bycatch dead or drown
Olive ridley	10	10	55	1	0
Green	39	38	n/a	1	0
Leatherback	45	43	325	1	1
Unknown	10	0	0	0	0
Total:	104	91	380	3	1

Since the beginning of the 2016/2017 season which started in October 2016, the community monitors have continued the beach patrols and are still inspecting dug-out canoes for incidental capture turtles. There has no major problem reported by the local monitoring team.

Activity: Public awareness and school conservation education

The project organised an education workshop for the local law enforcement officers in the area. The officers were excited about learning conservation issues especially relating to sea turtles occurring on the beach. Except for the law enforcement officers from Edina, 15 participants attended the education workshop including 10 law enforcement officers, a local court magistrate, and four chief/elders from Little Bassa and Samuel Brown Town. All of the local officials have pledged to give more support and improve law enforcement especially to areas where there are no beach patrols on-going.

Finally, 10 teachers from five of the local primary schools and law enforcement officials who were not present during the previous workshops attended a 2-day training workshop

intended to startup nature conservation education into their local school curriculum. The workshop focused on the team – “Bring Enviromental Education to your Students”. The school authorities agreed to commence the activity at the beginning of the coming school year. The nature lessons will be for 2 hours each week. Follow-up meetings will be organised to select teachers for the programme.

The project will develop and print-out additional nature conservation learning materials/booklets for the schools and will continue to work with the school authorities to improve this initiative.



Trokon Saykpa presenting at the Teachers workshop



Teacher's group discussion



Participants posing for a group photo