

## Project Update: December 2009

With the last hatchlings that arrived in the river on 21st November, the 2009 phase of the program concluded. A total of 559 eggs of the three species from 20 protected nests hatched on the community conservation beach. Children and other members of the communities were invited to witness the hatchlings on the beach. A closure event took place with participating and neighbour communities. Conservation groups presented results of their activities and received a diploma and a small engine to allow them to have self-mobility for next year's activities, as reward for their volunteer conservation efforts. Several communities showed their interest to participate in next year's phase, including one of the most reluctant communities at the beginning of the programme.

Although local turtle populations are still in a critical state, awareness-raising, positive influence of participating communities and persistence of conservation actions will surely contribute to their recovery.

