

Project Update: October 2009

The field phase started in June 2009, with organizing and training of two local conservation groups from Colombian indigenous communities. These and a local indigenous association were in charge of protecting a community conservation beach during the whole turtle nesting season, from July to September 2009. Monitors gathered biological data on the nests and erased tracks so that nest poachers could not find them during the day. Monitoring and socialization among neighbour communities discouraged hunters from visiting the beach during night hours, thus avoiding nesting females from being captured. 28 nests of the three species were found. Four nests were poached by humans during the daylight hours which was a great improvement from last year when almost 50% of the nests were lost due to poaching. Conservation groups will continue to monitor the nests until all hatchlings arrive safely to the river in November 2009, when this phase of the programme will conclude.

