

## Project Update: October 2018

During the second quarter of the project, we conducted 102 surveys and recorded 188 turtles at our five index foraging grounds in the Marsa Alam area. We also received sighting reports of 360 turtles from 50 citizen scientists, in total, 105 new turtles were added to our existing catalogue. We now have a total of 314 individual turtles in our catalogue.

We had several meetings with dive centers in the areas of Marsa Alam, Hurghada and Sharm el-Sheik and we now have official collaborations with 19 dive centers. All new participants received posters and printed manuals as part of their TurtleWatch – Egypt affiliation.

At the peak of the nesting season, we developed and disseminated educational material for hotel and dive centers staff members on how to identify and protect turtle nests and how to behave in presence of nesting turtles and hatchlings.

We also provided support to hotels and dive centers which found stranded dead animals, in collaboration with the rangers from the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency and HEPCA.

TurtleWatch - Egypt team regular surveys and citizen science sightings allowed us to find other four recently injured turtles and in some cases we could follow their recovery process. We keep monitoring injured turtles conditions with the help of a turtle veterinary. In all cases speed boat propellers seem to be responsible for those accidents. Together with HEPCA we are working on implementing management measures to address this issue.

We also organized a "Turtle Day", an awareness event together with Roaya, a local NGO based in El Quseir, HEPCA, a dive centre and an educator targeting children from local primary schools. A total of 10 children participated in the "Turtle Day" which took place in Marsa Abu Dabbab, one of the main turtle feeding grounds in Marsa Alam area and included a talk on turtles and plastic pollution, games related to marine life and threats represented by marine litter and in-water activities to see turtles in their natural environment.

For the next quarter, we will be continuing with our regular surveys and compiling data received by citizen scientists. We aim at organizing further awareness events with local schools involving children and teachers.



Left: "Turtle Day" for El Quseir children: short lecture on marine turtles. ©Kholoud Mohamed Shawky. Right: "Turtle Day" for El Quseir children: preparation for guided "Turtle Watching" tour in Marsa Abu Dabbab. ©Kholoud Mohamed Shawky.



"Turtle Day" for El Quseir children: marine turtle related games and activities on the beach. ©Micol Montagna



Left: "Turtle Day" for El Quseir children: the group who took part in the awareness event. ©Kholoud Mohamed Shawky. Right: Nest in Equinox, Extra Divers dive centre protecting a nest reported to TurtleWatch – Egypt. ©Abdallah R. Taher.



Most recently spotted injured turtle resident in Marsa Abu Dabbab. ©Abdallah R. Taher

**Promotional materials:**

TurtleWatch Egypt nesting – season flyer and poster (indications on how to recognize nesting turtles’ tracks; turtle nest poster to warn people on nest location).

**ATTENTION!**  
**SEA TURTLE NEST HERE!**  
**PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB**



**TURTLEWATCH - EGYPT 2.0**

What to do if...you see a track left by a nesting turtle!

Some important info:

Nesting season in Egypt goes from late April to end of October. While most nesting sites are located in islands where access is forbidden, some sporadic nesting events occur along the coastline, so you might be really lucky and witness this too!

[If you go for an early morning walk on the beach, please look out for turtle tracks!](#)



A turtle track looks almost like a car or quad track, but only one wheel is visible!



All turtle tracks start from the water and are slowly deleted by high tides.



Tracks can go on for a while and they usually go towards the beach.



For every track coming out of the water, there is one going back in. If not, the turtle may still be nesting!

If you see any track, please :

- Take a picture;
- Contact the beach manager;
- Share your report with us!



You can use our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/turtlewatchegypt/](http://www.facebook.com/turtlewatchegypt/)  
 or you can send us a private message!  
 or you can e-mail us: [turtlewatch@hepca.org](mailto:turtlewatch@hepca.org)

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