

Project Update: March 2019

Nesting sea turtle monitoring-tagging

In the period between March 18th and November 30th, 2018 we recorded 357 nesting activities on the monitored beaches, mainly of hawksbill turtles (288 hawksbill and 69 leatherback nesting activities). 94 confirmed nests, 169 unconfirmed nests, 60 attempts and 34 dry runs.

Seven new leatherbacks and 10 new hawksbills were tagged, of which one carried a worn-out plastic tag which we tracked to a Colombian tagging operation.

Two pre-tagged leatherbacks returned to nest in Petit Carenage (High North National Park) carrying one tag only, to which we added new ones.

12 pre-tagged hawksbills returned to nest in Petit Carenage (High North National Park), of which two animals needed to be re-tagged having lost one of their tags.

During the 2018 nesting season an estimate of 23,300 eggs were laid and saved from poaching and we confirmed the success of 35 hatched nests, through the recording of hatchling tracks and the observation of emergence of hatchlings from nest.

Trained guides Hansel Patrice, Rickie Alexander, Antonia Peters, Mataio Guadeloupe with Kate McDonald, a volunteer from UK and Research Assistant Marine Biologist Piero Becker patrolled the beaches of Petit Carenage, Sparrow Bay and Anse La Roche during the night and/or early mornings. Dario Sandrini, KIDO Foundation director, performed early morning patrol duties when needed.

The teams protected the two endangered species of turtles (hawksbill is critically endangered and the Atlantic leatherback is vulnerable, decreasing in numbers) nesting in the above beaches, located within and adjacent to High North National Park in Carriacou.

Petit Carenage (north east) was the most active beach with 211 nesting activities, followed by Sparrow bay beach (north west) with 74 and Anse La Roche (north west) with 57.

The remaining 15 nesting activities were recorded in different locations around the island (Big Field, Lauriston, Sandy Island and Prospect) by KIDO team, local residents and tourists

The presence and conservation work by KIDO turtle monitoring teams (camouflaging turtle nests and tracks as anti-poaching strategy) have deterred egg-poaching activities. Poachers do not come to the beaches when a KIDO patrol team is present, yet during this period on Sparrow Bay beach our early morning patrol team found one nest poached and one track only of a nesting hawksbill, a clear sign that the turtle was poached as well, probably during the night by opportunistic poachers.

Nature Guide Training

We trained one new turtle guide, Mataio Guadaloupe, 18, along with volunteer Kate Mc Donald (UK) who patrolled Carriacou main nesting turtle beach, Petit Carenage, with guides Alexander, Peters, Patrice and RA Becker. One more turtle guide will be trained for the upcoming nesting season 2019.

Mangrove restoration

Since June 2018 we planted approximately 2,000 red mangrove propagules in 1 acre of selected restoration area, with approx. 30% replacements of damaged plants.

On February 2nd 2019 on World Wetland Day, Grenada Fund for Conservation, Ocean Spirits and Education Conservation Outreach (two NGOs from Grenada) teamed up with KIDO Foundation, KIDO Kids with Cameras Carriacou and the Creative Women of Carriacou to plant 160 red mangrove saplings in the restoration area of Petit Carenage, Carriacou.

The Creative Women of Carriacou recycle discarded materials to produce grocery bags, fashion bags, folding bags and backpacks made of used fabrics, sails and plastic. The aim of this project, funded by the co-funding agency Seacology.org, is to protect the environment by reducing island solid waste, help conserving Carriacou nesting sea turtle population and assist in the restoration of the mangrove ecosystem. CWC chairwoman Mrs Evelyn Bartholomew (82), surrounded by local KIDO youths, was part of the World Wetland Day team planting red mangrove saplings in the restoration area of Petit Carenage, part of High North National Park

The growth of new propagules in Petit Carenage mangrove nursery trees is being monitored to resume planting operations when ripe.

Youth Environmental Education & Conservation program

From May 26th to September 9th 2018, 30 students participated to KIDO Youth Environmental Education & Conservation program: 12 sessions (nine on sea turtle biology, toxicity and conservation, one on bird conservation and two field trips).

Joseph Frame (USA), veterinary student doing his Master's degree in Education at St. George's University, Grenada and member of Exotic Wildlife Society (Grenada), was in charge of a class on 'Sea turtle biology & conservation and pathologies (fibropapilloma, heavy metal & plastic contamination) as health hazards for human consumption' during KIDO Youth Environmental Education & Conservation programme.

The course included interactive power point presentations, educational games, and hands-on activities such as garbage identification of waste pollution affecting sea turtles, the oceans and humans. The overall goal was to deepen the students' education and awareness process about nature conservation through active learning.

Our students loved the interaction as well as the beach game "Be a Turtle for a Day", where they carry a replica, made by Dr Fastigi out of cardboard, of three different species of turtle carapaces and mimic turtles' crawls from the water to nest. The youths

were also very interested in finding out pathologies affecting turtles during the session 'Be a Scientist for a Day'.

At the end of the training course each student received a school bag made of recycled sail material, produced by CWC (Creative Women of Carriacou) and had a "Decorate your bag" session with sea creature stencils.

The second part of KIDO Youth Environmental Education & Conservation programme involved the participation of eight students (age 10-15) and three adults from Carriacou in the production of the new KIDO puppet movie 'Tale of Two Islands', a 46 minute educational play on Global Warming issues, their causes and how to develop resilience in tropical small islands. Students and adults were involved in puppet/props/costume making, music composition, stage performances with Green Screen, outdoor takes and recording of puppet voices, dialogues and songs, impersonating the play's characters. While performing and discussing the issues of global warming, the students/actors suggested successful text modifications to better adapt the play's roles to their own personality.

The film and DVDs production was funded by co-funding agency Direct Aid Program (DAP), Australian High Commission in Trinidad and hundreds of DVDs were distributed and presented to the nine primary, secondary and tertiary Carriacou and Petit Martinique schools, TV stations and primary, secondary and tertiary schools in Grenada, with much appreciation from the students, teachers and principals of the schools

The film can be freely viewed at <https://vimeo.com/308530681> and was posted on Kids with Cameras Carriacou and YWF-KIDO Foundation Facebook pages and on KIDO Foundation Website www.liletsanctuary.com



Left: Post nesting leatherback measured by KIDO Turtle Team in Petit Carenage. Right: Post-nesting Hawksbill turtle in Petit Carenage.



Left: Hawksbill turtle previously tagged in Colombia nested in Petit Carenage beach, Carriacou. Right: Dario of KIDO carries this Atlantic rescued Hawksbill to be tagged and released in the Caribbean Sea.



Left: Release of rescued Hawksbill with Dario and Guide Hansel. Right: Measuring a post-tag rescued Green Turtle before release in the wild.



Male Hawksbill turtle with Noah Matthew, valuable junior assistant in Rescue, Tag & Release operations with KIDO Team 2019.



Left: Petit Carenage Bird Sanctuary, planted Red Mangrove sapling produces above soil wetland buttress roots. Right: WWD, Petit Carenage Mangrove Restoration, Senior and Junior kids.



Left: Ms Bartholomew, 82, CWC chairwoman, ready to plant a red mangroves propagule on World Wetland Day 2019. Right: Ms Bartholomew, 82, CWC chairwoman with KIDO Kids with Cameras planting red mangroves on World Wetland Day 2019.



Left: Planted Red Mangrove sapling develops several buttress roots, key to its survival in wetland habitat, Petit Carenage Mangroves Restoration 2019 March. Right: WWD, Petit Carenage Mangrove Restoration, Dario with ECO representative.



WWD, Petit Carenage Mangrove Restoration, KIDO Kids with Cameras.



Left: KIDO film presentation at Lesterre School March 1, 2019. Right: Save the turtle game, Vet and environmental education instructor Joseph Frame, from SGU, challenges KIDO kids.



Left: Children decorate their CWC prize school bag. Right: Kids With Cameras at KIDO proudly show their prized CWC bags.



Left: Dario instructs on massive Leatherback sea turtle handling, while Piero, marine biologist & wildlife film producer looks on. Right: Informal setting at KIDO for a well-focused class.



Left: Scientists for a day. Right: Marina help Winna to analyse a chemistry test at KIDO.



Left: Kids with Cameras has trained 100s of students to discover the fascination for fauna and flora photography. Right: Anse LaRoche field trip. An Iguana chased by a dog is rescued by KwCs, shocked but ready for safe release.



Left: Abriana, Kayla and Karijah as Hawksbill, Leatherback and Green turtles. Right: KIDO Kids mimicking the crawl of nesting turtles in Anse LaRoche, where, at night, mother turtles deliver their clutch of eggs.



Left: Feb 2, 2019 World Wetland Day at CWC, before planting mangrove expedition to Petit Carenage. Right: Marina instructs the KIDO team and new guide about nesting turtle monitoring & tagging operations.