

Project Update: July 2008

Between 15th and 30th May 2008, investigation of the north Bulgarian Black Sea Coast was conducted. Five huge golf courses are being built between the city of Balchik and Kavarna. Two of them, *Thracian Cliffs* and *Black Sea Rama*, are totally destroying the most stable northern coastal population of *Testudo graeca*.

From 7th to 17th June and from 20th to 30th June rescuing actions were carried out in the target sites with more than 12 experts and volunteers. After examination, measuring, marking and photographing in the Gea Chelonia Foundation Tortoise Centre located in Banya village, 90 *T. graeca* and 2 *Testudo hermanni* that had been rescued were relocated in Bezanovo protected area.

The actions were widely reported by the national and regional media. Publicity included two live radio programmes, more than 20 articles in the press and electronic media, reports on TV programmes as well as in the prime time news of main Bulgarian channels.



