

## **Project Update: December 2011**

### **Nesting sea turtle monitoring-tagging**

From July until the end of December 2011, we recorded 118 nesting activities of hawksbill turtles on the monitored beaches (night and morning patrols), and a total of 270 nesting activities for the 2011 nesting season, including nests of leatherbacks, who usually lay their eggs between March and June.

Emmanuel and Camilla Bethel were the local guides and Tom Duerden was the field coordinator for Kido Nesting Sea Turtle Monitoring-tagging programme. They worked with oversea volunteers to monitor and protect these two Critically Endangered species of turtles nesting on High North Nature Park beaches of Carriacou.

### **Nature Guide Training**

Three young Carriacouan women (Janice Douglas, Andrea Sylvester & Ramona Deedee Bristol) and three young men (Brian Charles, Nigel Stewart & Angelo Alexander) were trained by Kido, in collaboration with the Carriacou Board of Tourism, in Nature Guiding.

The course included the following topics:

- 1 - Sea turtles' role in the coastal marine environment and Nesting Sea Turtle Monitoring guidelines following "Monitoring-Tagging Procedures Manual", produced by Kido/WIDECAS.
- 2 - Information on health hazard by consuming sea turtle products.
- 3 - Mangrove ecology and value of its ecosystem: mangrove restoration guidelines following "Mangrove planting/monitoring manual", produced by Kido/ Dr G.E.Moore, UNH.
- 5 - Knowledge of flora and fauna.
- 6 - Small island eco-system conservation education (beaches, mangroves, reefs, sea grass, forests, MPAs & National Parks).
- 7 - Tourism industry (an overview) and customer service: the Do's and Dont's of interacting with visitors.
- 8 - First aid/CPR with Red Cross trainer from Grenada.

The course included the following field trips:

- 1- Night field trip on the beach monitoring nesting sea turtles.
- 2- Field trip to L'Ilet mangroves/bird sanctuary.

3- Field trip to High North Nature Park (hiking).

4 - History of the island, names of locations, origins and eco-sites.

The course started July 15, 2011, continued in August, October, November and December 2011, when some of the trainees were given the opportunity to participate to the presentations and field trips they missed in July.

At the end of the course each trainee received a folder with four lesson handouts and other information materials to study for the final test, scheduled to be held in January 2012.

The trainees who successfully pass the test will receive a Nature Guide certificate signed by Kido Foundation and the Carriacou Board.

### **Educational Sessions in Local Schools**

Five Kido Power Point presentations on sea turtle conservation were held at five primary schools and four Kido Puppet Plays were shown to four primary schools.

**Youth Eco Club:** Crystal Bernal, our Kido USPCV, established a Youth Eco Club in four primary schools, teaching about local ecosystem, trees and land animals, green house effects and climate change, involving approximately 70 children. Hiking, clean up beaches, exploration of the natural environment and Sandwatch programs (UNESCO) to monitor the status of the beaches are part of the club activities.