

Conservation of Nesting Leatherback & Hawksbill turtles populations and their Habitats in Carriacou Island, Grenada, West Indies

ID: 9835-1

Mid-term report by Marina Fastigi

Nesting sea turtle monitoring-tagging

From July until the end of December 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 (see photo) and Tom Duerden was the field coordinator for Kido Nesting Sea Turtle Monitoring-tagging program. 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.



Emmanuel and Camilla Bethel with a post-nesting hawksbill in Petit Carenage beach

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 (Power Point presentation and practicum - Dr. Marina Fastigi & Tom Duerden)



Tom Duerden teaching the trainees how to measure a hawksbill turtle carapace - July 15, 2011

2 - Information on health hazard by consuming sea turtle products (Power Point presentation - Tyrone Buckmire)

3 - Mangrove ecology and value of its ecosystem: mangrove restoration guidelines following "Mangrove planting/monitoring manual", produced by Kido/ Dr G.E.Moore, UNH. (Dario Sandrini & Tyrone Buckmire)



At Kido, July 15 & 16, 2011 - Tyrone Buckmire teaching about turtles and mangroves

- 4 - Birds I.D. (Tyrone Buckmire)
- 5 - 'Knowledge of flora and fauna' (Power Point presentation - Dario Sandrini & Dr. Marina Fastigi)
- 6 - 'Small island eco-system conservation education (beaches, mangroves, reefs, sea grass, forests, MPAs & National Parks)' (Power Point Presentation - Dario Sandrini & Dr. Marina Fastigi)
- 7 - 'Tourism industry (an overview) and customer service: the Do's and Dont's of interacting with visitors' (Allison Caton, Tourism Development Officer of Carriacou)
- 8 - First aid/CPR with Red Cross trainer from Grenada



*Carriacou Tourism office: Oct. 29, 2011- Tyrone Buckmire with trainee Bristol
Nov.12, 2011 Dario Sandrini with trainees Bristol & Alexander*

The course included the following field trips:

- 1- Night field trip on the beach monitoring nesting sea turtles (Tom Duerden & Tyrone Buckmire)
- 2- Field trip to L'Ilet mangroves/bird sanctuary (Tyrone Buckmire)
- 3- Field trip to High North Nature Park (hiking) - (Dario Sandrini)
- 4 - 'History of the island, names of locations, origins and eco-sites'' (Island bus tour with expert tour operator Linky)



July 17, 2011 - Trainees, Tyrone Buckmire & Allison Caton collecting saplings and planting mangrove in L'Ilet, mangrove bird sanctuary, Petit Carenage



Dec. 2011 - Trainee Bristol with Dario Sandrini collecting saplings and planting mangroves in Petit Carenage and hiking in High North Nature Park (1000 ft high)

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 4 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 of Tourism.



July 23, 2011 - First Aid class

July 24, 2011 - Island Tour, the Ningo well (historical site)

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.



*P. Point presentation on Sea Turtle conservation with Tom Duerden and Crystal Bernal
Dover school (left) and Harvey Vale school (right)*



Kido Puppet Play on Sea Turtle at L'Esterre school (left) & Hillsborough primary school

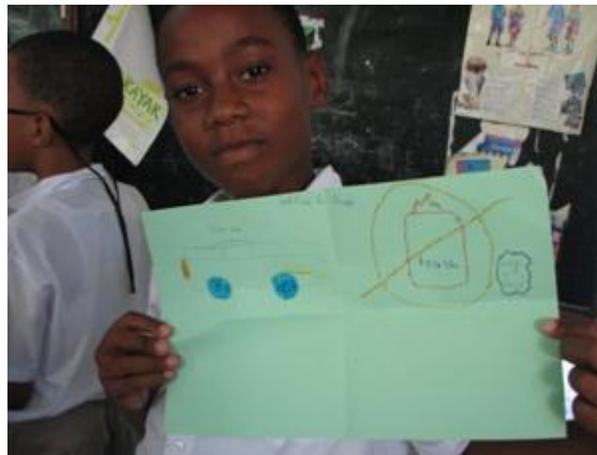
Youth Eco Club: Crystal Bernal, our Kido USPCV, established a Youth Eco Club in four primary schools, teaching about local ecosystem, trees and land animals, green house effects and climate change, involving approximately 70 children. Hiking, clean up beaches, exploration of the natural environment and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



Club's youths in L'Esterre school produce meaningful work on the issue of climate change



Dover school Eco-club youths give a presentation on climate change (left)
Hillsborough school Eco club children perform a Sandwatch beach check (right)



L'Esterre school Eco club boy with his drawing on climate change solutions:
solar car & no burning of trash