

THE FUTURE OF SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION

The three day workshop (10th – 12th December) exposed participants to the status of sea turtles.

Itinerary for workshop

Day 1		
9:00 – 9: 45 am:	Opening ceremony	
9:45 – 10:00 am:	Break	
10:00 – 10:30 am:	Sea Turtle Conservation in the Caribbean Region	Dr. Daren Browne
10:30 – 11:00 am:	The role of Widecast in sea turtle conservation	Dr. Karen Eckert
11:00 am - 11:30 am:	Sea turtle Conservation on Nevis	E. Lemuel Pemberton
11:30 am – 12:00 pm:	Challenges to sea turtle conservation on Nevis	Lemme
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm:	Lunch	
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm:	Making a video presentation	Government Information Service Staff
1:30 – 3:00 pm:	Preparing and presenting video presentations	
3:00 – 3:30 pm:	Wrap-up of day's proceedings	

Day 2		
9:00 – 9: 45 am:	Careers in tourism	Nevis Tourism Authority
9:45 – 10:30 am:	Tour Guide training	Department of Tourism, Nevis
10:30 – 10:40 am:	Break	
10:40 – 11:00 am:	Tour Guide Training (Practical)	Department of Tourism, Nevis
11:00 am - 11:30 am:	Role of the DPPNRE in natural Resource Conservation	Thema Ward
11:30 am – 12:00 pm:	Customer Service	Mackee France
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm:	Lunch	
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm:	Role of the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society in resource conservation	NHCS staff
1:30 – 2:00 pm:	Grant writing	Ilis Watts, National Coordinator GEF Small Grants Programme
2:00 – 3:00 pm:	Break out session to practice grant writing	
3:00 – 3:30 pm:	Wrap-up of day's proceedings	

Day 3		
9:00 – 12.00 pm:	Field visits to sea turtle nesting sites on Nevis	
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm:	Lunch	
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm:	Break-out session, "The future of sea turtle conservation on Nevis"	
2:30 – 3:00 pm:	Presentations of findings	
3:00 – 3:30 pm:	Wrap up of workshop	

The activity outlined and helped participants to appreciate the role of the Nevis Turtle Group which is the vanguard and the face of turtle conservancy in Nevis. The turtle group goes out to scientifically monitor nesting sites, tag turtles and promote awareness of the importance of these and other marine animals and their habitats.

What can be done to conserve turtles?

- Educate the public. The focus has to be a public awareness campaign with the aim of behaviour modification
- Create a radio jingle which reinforces positive messages about sea turtles
- Post anti-poaching signs
- Use local television to broadcast turtle conservation messages
- Have more turtle workshops
- Host panel discussions
- Launch competitions (poster, creative writing, jingle etc.) to stimulate interest in saving turtles
- Continue to seek funding for turtle conservation work from donor organizations such as the Rutherford Foundation and GEFF
- Underscore the importance of enforcement of environmental laws regarding poaching

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF TURTLES IN NEVIS

Turtles have a good future is everyone does his part. This includes:

- Reporting of violators - each person needs to be 'Good Samaritan'.
- Public examples should be made of know offenders so that would be poachers and other violators would be deterred
- Locals and visitors should contact the monitoring group (Nevis Turtle Group) if they see any turtle activity so that there can be follow up
- Volunteering for the beach clean up to get rid of plastics and other substances that are harmful to turtles
- Support anti-littering measures such as placement and appropriate use of garbage bins
- Respect and make use of appropriate setbacks when developing beach properties
- Avoid driving on beach as it may damage turtle nests buried in the sand
- Preserve vegetation where turtles nest
- Refrain from sand mining
- Control of pests such as mongooses and fire ants with the assistance of the Department of Agriculture
- Join the turtle conservancy group and encourage others to volunteer

- Within the turtle group there should be succession training so that young persons are capable of perpetuating the work and mission of the Nevis Turtle Group.
- Link to tourism:
 - Crucial to preserve turtles for ecotourism which is pillar in Nevis
 - Biodiversity must be encouraged- product offering increased when turtles are preserved
 - Satellite monitoring creates interest among tourists and is likely to attract the attention of generous benefactors
 - Voluntourism – visitors have a varied and interesting eco-experience working with turtles and in exchange there is greater visibility and support for turtle conservancy
 - Inter sectorial collaboration among government agencies and also with NGOs will lead to a more co-ordinated and stronger approach to turtle conservancy in Nevis.



