

important information regarding the migration patterns of sub-adult green turtles in and around the TCI. The local sea turtle fishers involved with the trips have generated significant income as an alternative to that generated from fishing as a result of the initiative. Developing relationships that both engage and benefit the local fishing community is an important component of the Amanyara Sea Turtle Initiative. The multi-stakeholder approach that the TCITP has developed along with the Amanyara Sea Turtle Initiative has potential to be applied to other islands in the TCI and further afield. Involvement in this project provides an alternative source of income for fishers through the non-consumptive use of sea turtles, which has potential positive impacts on the legal sea turtle fishery in the TCI. Beyond local relationships, community involvement and beneficial data contributions used to guide regulatory changes, the TCITP has also generated positive publicity in the TCI and abroad through media exposure and live tracking of tagged turtles.

HPA/NOAA: A SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIVE MARINE TURTLE PROGRAM SPANNING TWENTY-NINE YEARS

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In 1987, students from the Hawai'i Preparatory Academy (HPA) joined George Balazs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at Kiholo Bay on Hawai'i Island for the inaugural trip to ocean-capture, measure, and tag green turtles (honu). This trip was the launch of a very successful cooperative relationship between a secondary educational institution and a formal government agency that has spanned 29 years with positive impacts on the honu and people in Hawai'i and around the Pacific. The work has been conducted primarily on the west coast of Hawai'i Island with approximately 2200 HPA students participating. There have been 249 tagging trips on the island with over 3900 honu captured and released. In addition to flipper tagging, numerous ARGOS satellite tags and time-depth recorders have been deployed. Other ocean-capture tagging events have occurred on the other Hawaiian Islands. HPA students and teachers have volunteered to educate the public at community events. Additionally, HPA has run a turtle stranding rescue program for the west side of Hawai'i Island for over 15 years, assisting sick or injured turtles and collecting dead turtles for necropsy by NOAA scientists. In addition to efforts in the State of Hawai'i, the program has worked internationally, including New Caledonia, Japan, Rose Atoll, Midway Atoll, etc. During these trips, HPA students and educators have assisted NOAA scientists and cooperating research organizations in the deployment of over 300 satellite tags on juvenile and sub-adult sea turtles. Thirteen HPA students have completed independent projects and presented them at annual International Sea Turtle Symposia. The students of HPA have benefited by participating in applied science in action with a number of experts from around the world. The scientific results coming from the HPA/NOAA program have resulted in 75 publications and reports and a website highlighting program accomplishments (www.hpa.edu/turtle). The robust population return of the honu in the Hawaiian Islands can be partially attributed to the HPA/NOAA program and its efforts to enhance scientific knowledge about the honu. For many students, their career paths and subsequent contributions towards science and conservation have been influenced by their experiences working with Hawaiian sea turtles. Why has this cooperative program continued to grow and thrive over the last three decades? People make partnerships and throughout the 29 years the program has involved two essential members, NOAA scientist George Balazs and HPA educator and scientist Marc Rice. While these two leaders will accept little praise, their

achievements towards sustaining the honu and educating the people of Hawai'i and the world are examples of effective cooperation that can be applied to any initiative. Both leaders have enlisted the support of their institutions, networked with researchers, stayed relevant and innovative in the area of technology, and recognized then harnessed the energy, enthusiasm and potential of student scientists. It is our belief that cooperative projects will be successful if they have appropriate needs, effective leaders, and support from their respective institutions and the community.

INTERINSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FORMED FOR SEA TURTLE'S CONSERVATION IN CEARÁ STATE, BRAZIL

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In recent years, Projeto TAMAR has defined priority regions in 8.000 Km of Brazilian coast for a sea turtle protection and monitoring program in feeding and nesting areas, developing different activities and campaigns with the central theme in conservation involving communities and society as well. In addition, TAMAR supports external initiative with partners potentially interested in contributing to the protection of sea turtles in not monitored areas, but that present significant occurrences. Since 1993, Projeto TAMAR has a Protection and Research Station in Almofala, a small village in the West Coast of Ceará State, to protect sea turtles in this important feeding and development area. This Station operates in six fishing communities that extend over 40Km of coastline, where there are five species of sea turtles that can be captured incidentally in local fisheries. In the remaining 520Km of coastline there is no effective project performance. In the year of 2014, the Station of Projeto TAMAR based in Almofala, Ceará, started a Lecture Series with discussions whose main theme is Sea Turtle's Conservation and the challenges to be faced. Questions as Incidental fishing, situation of Sea turtle's occurring areas, Review of species records and Exchange of experiences are discussed in such debates. In parallel, there are some courses to the participating groups directed to procedures for rescue of stranded animals and necropsies to identify the cause of death of the rescued individuals that did not survived. The guests groups also conduct explanations about activities and future claims. At this time, there were three Lecture Series with six Debates and two Classes of Sea Turtle's Rescue and Necropsies with 81 attending persons from different institutions such as universities, environmental departments of the state and city, non-governmental organizations and environmental police. The results so far are encouraging since we have formed stimulated and interested partners to collect standardized information, following the same procedures and presenting progress in activities, which reverts to the best conservation of Sea turtles in Ceará's Coast. Projeto TAMAR, a conservation program of the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment, is affiliated with the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio), is comanaged by Fundação Pró-TAMAR, and officially sponsored by Petrobras.



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29 February to 4 March, 2016

Lima, Peru

Compiled by:

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