

## Barbuda Sea Turtle Monitoring Program

**Location:**

Barbuda Island, Antigua & Barbuda

**Contracting Party:**

Private Sector Company

**Project Dates:**

July 2018 – Present

**Services Provided:**

- Gathering/Managing Experts
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Environmental Consulting
- Briefings and Reports
- Ecological Surveys
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Mapping
- Wildlife & Endangered Species Monitoring

**Key Outcome:**

We are working with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Barbuda Council to implement a long-term sea turtle monitoring program embedded in the community and supported by the development sector.

**Project Summary:**

We have successfully worked with members of the investment and development sector in Barbuda to increase awareness of sea turtles and engage them in sea turtle protection from the start of their projects. With their financial support and our technical support, we have established a locally-run effort that invests in training the local community and will contribute to international scientific monitoring efforts.

The monitoring team consists of two elected members of the Barbuda Council and local community members, including one who works at the Barbuda Fisheries Division and one who is the Island's foremost natural historian (as well as a former natural resources representative on the Council). Nightly patrols are conducted during the sea turtle nesting season. We have developed a GPS/GIS mapping program and trained the local observers on how to digitally record the location of each sea turtle activity (e.g., false crawl, nest, etc.). Every month our patrol team compiles the data and we create a GIS map of activities and produce a sea turtle report.

We are currently developing a sea turtle tagging program to achieve four overarching goals:

- 1) **Scientific:** To gather scientific information that will increase our knowledge of sea turtle populations.
- 2) **Training:** To advance the training of our sea turtle team in all aspects of sea turtle monitoring.
- 3) **Educational:** To raise awareness and educate the community through regular presentation of findings.
- 4) **Community Engagement:** To engage the community through trainings and educational outreach, thus creating a greater sense of pride in the conservation of sea turtles and reducing poaching.

We are committed to this program and have a permanently established base in Antigua and Barbuda.