

Acting Globally

2009 SWOT Outreach Grants

SWOT Report's success is measured by the success of those who use it. For the fourth consecutive year, SWOT has distributed small grants to help organizations put *SWOT Report* to work in reaching their outreach goals. Through their hard work and dedication, these five grant recipients have helped make 2009 a successful year for all of us!

Fundación Tierra Ibérica—Senegal

The Casamance coastline in southern Senegal is an area where mangroves, tropical forest, marine islands, and beaches combine to form a unique ecosystem mosaic of high natural value. For the past 30 years, an armed secessionist conflict has prevented these natural wonders from being well explored, researched, and documented. However, in 2008, with support from the University of Salamanca, Fundación Tierra Ibérica was able to conduct a study of the coastal zone from The Gambia to the Casamance River. The study revealed the presence of several marine turtle species that are being threatened by incidental and intentional capture by artisanal fishermen, and it recommended implementing a sea turtle education program for natural resource managers and partner organizations. A 2009 SWOT Outreach Grant helped support Fundación Tierra Ibérica's sea turtle training course in the town of Kafountine, where the main artisanal fishing port is located. During the course, more than 20 people from different government and private institutions made presentations and were provided *SWOT Reports* and other materials on sea turtle biology, threats, and management and research techniques. The course concluded with a visit to the fishing port to directly engage local fishermen.



Fundación Tierra Ibérica staff members lead a sea turtle training course at an artisanal fishing port in Senegal. © FUNDACIÓN TIERRA IBÉRICA



A sea turtle drawing contest among students decides who will have the honor of painting a mural on Karumbé's new Marine Turtle Center. © KARUMBÉ

Karumbé Marine Turtle Center—Uruguay

Uruguayan organization Karumbé promotes the preservation of marine wildlife through research and environmental education, focusing in particular on flagship species such as sea turtles. The Karumbé Marine Turtle Center, near the capital city of Montevideo, is a unique space designed to support and advance the conservation of sea turtles and their habitats. In 2009, a SWOT Outreach Grant helped fund Karumbé's ongoing education and awareness program along the Uruguayan coast. During the campaign, Karumbé staff members used *SWOT Reports* while leading discussions in schools, teaching workshops at universities, and meeting with fishermen in villages. Karumbé also held a sea turtle drawing contest among schoolchildren, using the beautiful photographs in the *SWOT Reports* as inspiration. The winning team was awarded the honor of painting a mural on the wall of Karumbé's new

Marine Turtle Center, which is due to open in early 2010. The center, aimed at schoolchildren, fishermen, and tourists, will feature exhibits on the importance of responsible fisheries, the threats of marine pollution, and the challenges of climate change.



Visit www.SeaTurtleStatus.org to apply for a 2010 SWOT Outreach Grant!

EARTHCARE—The Bahamas

EARTHCARE's Grand Bahama Island Sea Turtle Awareness Campaign was developed to help generate and demonstrate local support for the Bahamian government's sea turtle harvesting ban, which went into effect September 1, 2009 (see page 17). Over the course of the campaign, which ran through April 2010, trained volunteers traveled to schools and libraries throughout Grand Bahama to give educational presentations and to encourage student involvement. During the presentations, students learned about sea turtle biology; threats, such as poaching, overharvesting, habitat destruction, and pollution; and the government's recent ban. Students were then encouraged to write directly to the Minister of Fisheries to let him know their feelings about laws that should be implemented to help protect sea turtles in The Bahamas. By the end of the campaign, *SWOT Reports* had been distributed to all schools, colleges, and libraries on the island of Grand Bahama.



After attending an Earthcare presentation, a student writes a letter to the Minister of Fisheries about the importance of sea turtle conservation in The Bahamas. © EARTHCARE



AIto staff conduct Conservation Awareness Campaign meetings in Tompotika schools. © TITAYANTO PIETER

The Alliance for Tompotika Conservation—Indonesia

The Tompotika peninsula sits at the extreme eastern tip of the central arm of the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia. There, the Alliance for Tompotika Conservation/Aliansi Konservasi Tompotika (AIto) works with local villages to protect sea turtles and other endangered species from the primary local threat of poaching. In their sea turtle work, AIto staff members partner with local villagers to patrol beaches and to travel throughout the area to conduct community awareness campaigns using *SWOT Reports* and other educational materials. Now in its second year, the turtle field program and awareness campaign has not only protected thousands of adult turtles and eggs but also reached thousands of Tompotikans with a conservation message that

has both resonated and been embraced. Recently, awareness campaign participants from the village of Taima prevented a poacher on a nearby island from slaughtering 26 sea turtles for market. After unsuccessfully confronting the poacher themselves, the people traveled three villages away to find a policeman who could enforce the antipoaching law they had learned about through AIto's campaign.

Local Ocean Trust—Watamu Turtle Watch—Kenya

Despite protective international and Kenyan legislation in place since 1977, sea turtles along the Kenyan coastline continue to be extensively exploited for their eggs, meat, and oil, as well as being caught in large numbers as bycatch. LOT-WTW works toward protecting sea turtles through a wide range of programs, including bycatch compensation, nest and hatchling protection, turtle rescue and rehabilitation, and local outreach and education. A 2009 *SWOT Outreach Grant* supported LOT-WTW's ongoing education work. This work includes (a) school programs with lectures, visits to the turtle rehabilitation center, arts competitions, and marine science career development;



Kenyan fishermen learn about sea turtles during a LOT-WTW education program. © LOT-WTW

(b) tourist programs with hotel talks, beach cleanups, and turtle release events; and (c) fisher programs with presentations at key ports and the LOT Marine Education Center. Together with educational posters and stickers, *SWOT Reports* were distributed to activity participants and proved particularly useful in helping LOT-WTW staff members communicate the global scope of sea turtle conservation with local Kenyan communities that have long perceived it as an isolated problem.