

## Project Update: August 2007

During these two months of work (June – July) we have not have a lot of turtles on the beach, it seems to be an atypical year and the nesting females began to come out in march when they use to do it in may , anyway, there have been a lot of work and just two turtles have come out since June, one of them was tagged and with it we began the **TAGGING PROGRAM IN TAYRONA NATIONAL NATURAL PARK** with a beautiful female, 99,5 cm of Curved Carapace Length, and 85 cm of Curved Carapace Width.



Fig 1 & 2. First female tagged in TNNP.

We have emphasized the work in the six nests laid by the turtles during the first months of the year. We had monitored them, determining a hatching success of 31, 56 % and an emergency success of 29, 37 %. Of these six nests, four of them had been relocated by the National Park Staff without an adequate instruction, being that one of the principal factors affecting the survival of the hatchlings. Regarding this situation, we conduct the **First Workshop in Management and Conservation Techniques of Sea Turtles in TNNP**, directed to the staff working in sea turtles and the volunteers in the study area.



Fig 3. Leatherback Hatchlings coming up



Fig 4. Measuring Leatherback hatchlings



Fig 5. Field activity during the workshop



Fig 6. Some of the assistants to the workshop

Other part of the work has been to create conscious in the tourists who visit TNNP about the importance of the conservation of sea turtles, and the appropriate use of light in the nesting beaches, so we have distribute more than five hundred flyers in three different languages (Spanish, English and French) and talk with the people on the beach at night, explaining them our project and the need of their help in order to protect the sea turtles.

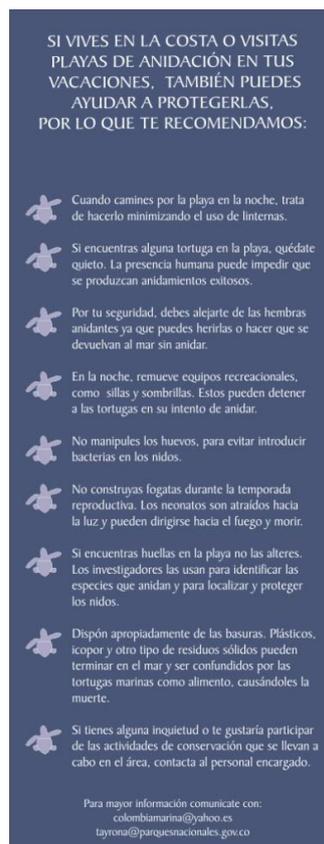
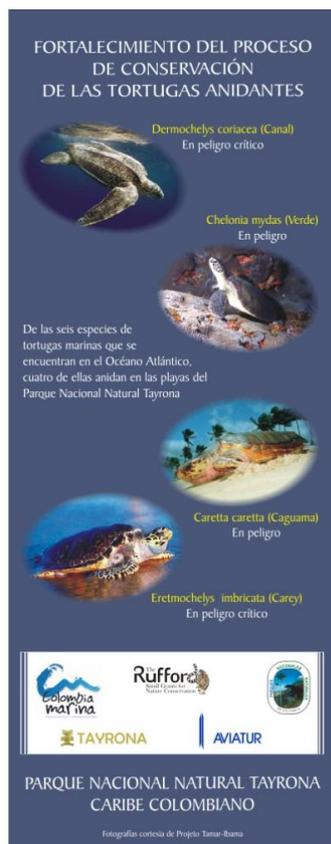


Fig 7 & 8. Leaflets used in awareness campaigns.