

## **Project Update: October 2002**

The Borgor Point Sea Turtle Pilot Research, Monitoring and Conservation Project, Liberia's pioneer sea turtle conservation project, was formally launched in May 2002. The Save My Future Foundation 'Liberia Sea Turtle Project' is working with residents of the community for the long-term survival of the sea turtles nesting in the community taking into consideration the integrated well-being and needs of residents of the area.

Eight veteran sea turtle hunters were this year trained and hired to serve as guards for sea turtles in Borgor Point. Since May 2002, they have recorded three species of sea turtles *Dermochelys coriacea* (Leatherback), *Lepidochelys olivacea* (Olive ridley) and one unknown. For the first time ever in Liberia, seven nesting turtles including four *Dermochelys coriacea* (Leatherback) and three *Lepidochelys olivacea* (Olive ridley) were successfully released between June and September 2002. An estimated 359 hatchlings were recorded, with 108 definitely confirmed as returning safely to sea. Although the remaining 215 hatchlings were missed, it is estimated that 80 – 90 % may have made it back to sea.