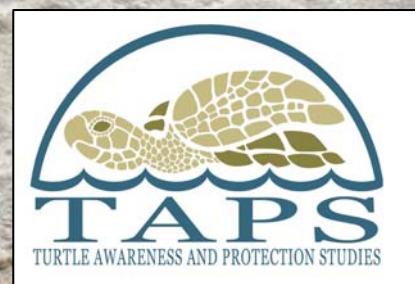


FINAL REPORT TO THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S SEA TURTLE REPORT (SWOT)

Stephen G. Dunbar, PhD

**Protective Turtle Ecology Center for Training, Outreach, and
Research, Inc. (ProTECTOR)**

**Turtle Awareness and Protection Studies Program (TAPS)
October 31, 2008**



**A PROPOSAL FOR A SERIES OF SCHOOL VISITS
TO COMMENCE THE “TURTLE NESTING
HOTLINE’S TURTLE ART AND JINGLE
CHALLENGE” IN THE BAY ISLANDS,
HONDURAS; AN EDUCATION AND AWARENESS
INITIATIVE**

June 23 – November 5, 2008

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SEA TURTLE REPORT (SWOT)***

October 31, 2008

Submitted by

Stephen G. Dunbar, PhD of the

**Protective Turtle Ecology Center for
Training, Outreach, and Research, Inc.
(ProTECTOR)**

and the

**Turtle Awareness and Protection Studies
Program
(TAPS)**

Location of project: Roatan, Honduras

Contact name and information: PI - Stephen G. Dunbar, President, Protective Turtle Ecology Center for Training, Outreach and Research, Inc. (ProTECTOR), c/o Department of Earth & Biological Sciences, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA. 92350. Phone: (909) 558-1000, 48903. E-mail: sdunbar@llu.edu

Summary of proposed project and objectives:

The project proposed an education campaign through the “Turtle Art and Jingle Challenge.” The challenge was designed to meet four project objectives: 1) to increase awareness of the sea turtle conservation work carried on by ProTECTOR in the Bay Islands, 2) to raise awareness of the status and plight of sea turtles in the Bay Islands, 3) to introduce the “Turtle Nesting Hotline” program to school-age children of Roatan and, 4) to engage local community children (and through them, their families) in sea turtle conservation efforts in the Bay Islands. From the art and jingles submitted by students from each school, four posters and one jingle will be select after November 5, 2008 to publicize the Turtle Nesting Hotline numbers.

Summary of project implemented:

Planning for the school presentations began in June, 2008 with several visits to schools to arrange presentation dates and introduce ProTECTOR and the main presenter, Dr. Stephen G. Dunbar to school administrators. School visits proceeded as arranged with teachers and Principals as outlined in Table 1. School presentations began on July 9, 2008 and continued through to October 31, 2008.

ProTECTOR has been assisted in presenting the “Turtle Nesting Hotline’s Turtle Art and Jingle Challenge” to schools across the island by Loma Linda University graduate student, Ms. Melissa Berube, and staff from the Roatan Marine Park headed by Ms. Grazzia Matamoros. To date, we have been able to attend 12 schools throughout Roatan, and have addresses approximately 1086 students around the island. Although Grades 4 – 12 have been the target audiences for the presentations and “Challenge”, student audiences have ranged from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Student groups receiving the presentation and “Challenge” ranged from one-room school groups of 6 – 8 students, to school campuses with over 400 students.

After a 20 – 25 minute presentation about sea turtle ecology and threats to their survival, students were introduced to the ProTECTOR organization and to the Turtle Awareness and Protection Studies (TAPS) program carried out by ProTECTOR in the Bay Islands. During the presentations, students were encouraged to suggest ways they could become involved in helping sea turtles, including shading beach lighting, beach clean-ups, and picking up litter from local streets and fields. Students were then challenged to partner with ProTECTOR in sea turtle conservation by drawing, coloring, or painting 11 × 14 inch artwork featuring sea turtles on the beach, and/or recording a 15 – 20 second jingle about turtles on the beach. Competition entries are to be submitted to their school office, with the student’s name, age, phone number, and school provided with the submission by November 5, 2008. From the entries received, a small panel will select four pieces of art which will be printed as posters with the Hotline numbers. These posters will then be placed throughout Roatan to publicize the numbers to call when a turtle is sighted at any beach on the island. From the jingle entries received, a jury will

select one jingle which will be recorded in a studio in Spanish and English to be played on public radio stations throughout Honduras as a public service announcement. Each competition winner will receive public recognition of his/her artwork and/or jingle each time it is displayed, or announced. Each art competition winner will also receive US\$40, while the jingle competition winner will receive US\$50.00

At each presentation venue, three SWOT II and three SWOT III reports were provided to the school as reference materials. Students were directed through the reports and made aware that the SWOT Reports and website would be valuable reference materials for information and ideas related to their artwork and jingles. At the conclusion of each session, SWOT Reports were provided to the sponsoring teacher or administrator to be placed in the school library, or kept in the room's bookshelf. We were also able to distribute over 30 Conservation International Sea Turtle posters to the schools (some receiving up to two copies, depending on school size).

During the majority of presentations, both photographs and video were taken. The video taken will be edited into 3 - 5 minute video segments to be used on SWOT and YouTube websites. Several of these photographs and video clips will also be used as updates at the ProTECTOR website (see: www.turtleprotector.org).

Table 1. Schools, dates and grades addressed by the presentation of the “Turtle Nesting Hotline’s Turtle Art and Jingle Challenge” in Roatan, Honduras.

School	Date	Grades
Arnold Bilingual School	July 9, 2008	4 - 7
Church of God Bilingual School	July 9, 2008	4 - 7
Church of God Bilingual School	July 9, 2008	8 - 12
Jonesville SDA School	July 11, 2008	K - 6
Jean Isablle School	July 18, 2008	4 - 12
Escuela Dionisio de Herrera	August 21, 2008	5 - 7
Pandy Will Community School	August 21, 2008	4 - 6
Pandy Will Community School	August 22, 2008	4 - 8
French Harbour SDA School	August 22, 2008	4 - 8
French Harbour SDA School	August 22, 2008	9 - 12
Children’s Palace	September 19, 2008	4 - 6
Children’s Palace	September 19, 2008	7 - 8
Children’s Palace	September 19, 2008	9 - 11
Punta Gorda School	September 26, 2008	4 - 12
Escuela Roberto Stanley	October 13, 2008	5
Escuela Roberto Stanley	October 16, 2008	4 - 6
Alternative School	October 17, 2008	4
Escuela Miguel Paz Barahona	October 27, 2008	2,4,6
Escuela Miguel Paz Barahona	October 28, 2008	1,3,5

Project budget¹:

Item	Total Cost	SWOT Contribution	Matching Funds	In-Kind Contributions
Ground transportation (Roatan)	\$100	\$50	\$50	
Accommodation	\$2,610			\$2,610
Salary	\$3,577		\$3,577	
Travel	\$680		\$680	
Printing Costs	\$1,100	\$850	\$250	
Prize money	\$210	\$100	\$110	
Totals	\$8,277	\$1,000	\$4,667	\$2,610

¹Some adjustments to the proposed budget were, or will be, made once actual costs are finalized.

Success of project rating:

I give the project, to date, a rating of 9. The “Turtle Nesting Hotline’s Turtle Art and Jingle Challenge” has generated significant interest in sea turtle conservation among schools and school children on the island of Roatan. The majority of students to whom the program was presented expressed both curiosity and concern about the species and status of sea turtles in the waters around Roatan. Through informal question and answer sessions during and after the presentations, the low level of awareness regarding sea turtle conservation, threats to survival, biology and ecology were repeatedly confirmed. However, by the completion of each presentation, students and teachers were more enthusiastic and willing to become involved in some type of conservation effort than prior to the presentations. We were very pleased with the support and enthusiasm of school teachers and administrators who were eager for their students to both hear about sea turtle conservation, as well as become involved with conservation efforts on the island. Under the direction of Ms. Carolyn Veith, the Biology class from the Children’s Palace School organized a visit to the Reef House Resort to see the TAPS program. This enthusiastic group comprised 15 students, three adults and one child. After the TAPS visit, Ms. Veith requested to become a TAPS Partner and volunteered her Biology class to become involved in quarterly beach clean-ups on Roatan. We’re excited to know that ProTECTOR has inspired this school to become actively involved in sea turtle conservation with us.

Another very positive result of the project was the establishment of a ProTECTOR – Roatan Marine Park (RMP) partnership. This resulted from an invitation by ProTECTOR to the RMP to take part in presenting the “Challenge” to schools. Dunbar was unable to attend. On reviewing the presentation and recognizing that it was compatible with RMP goals, personnel at the RMP translated the presentation into Spanish and began making presentations to schools throughout the island. As a result, the RMP is also interested in becoming a TAPS partner.

One drawback of the project was the limited time in which to publicize the “Challenge” over only one summer. However, we are contemplating modifying and continuing the presentation in the schools we were unable to invite into the “Challenge” in order to continue the awareness campaign of ProTECTOR and the “Turtle Nesting Hotline” around the island.

Additional comments:

Through the “Challenge” we have been able to secure partial funding for the “Turtle Nesting Hotline” from local businesses in Roatan. We have also secured publicity spots for the project and “Challenge” on the Bay Islands-wide, “Roatan Bruce” radio talk show. We plan to approach additional businesses in Roatan for further support of the program through donations of funds, cell phone hardware, cell phone time, and funding for response team training and transport expenses.

Acknowledgements:

ProTECTOR wishes to thank Larry and Carol Stevenson, owners of the Reef House Resort, and the Department of Earth and Biological Sciences, Loma Linda University (LLU), who continue to support the Turtle Awareness and Protection Studies (TAPS) program throughout the Bay Islands. Thanks to LLU graduate student, Melissa Berube, Roatan Marine Park Director of Education and Communication, Grazzia Matamoros, Roatan Marine Park volunteers, Kirsten Rose, Arielle Smith, Serena Moscati, and Dimitri Dimence, each of whom gave presentations to schools in Roatan. I thank Roatan Marine Park Southside Chapter Manager, Licario Zippeda, for translating the presentation into Spanish. We gratefully acknowledge Hyde Shipping for their assistance in shipping materials to Roatan. We thank SWOT for funding assistance and for providing the SWOT Reports, which will continue to be invaluable resources in each of the schools we visited. The Honduras Ministry of Environment (SERNA) continues to be supportive of conservation and research work by ProTECTOR, for which we are grateful.

Photo captions:

Photo 1: Children participate in a turtle activity at the Escuela Roberto Stanley. Photo credit: Grazzia Matamoros

Photo 2: Over 200 students attend a ProTECTOR presentation at the French Harbour SDA School. Photo credit: SS Dunbar

Photo 3: Teacher Desiree Barrett translates a ProTECTOR presentation at the French Harbour SDA School. Photo credit: SS Dunbar

Photo 4: A young student translates a sea turtle conservation talk by Steve Dunbar at the Escuela Dionisio de Herrera. Photo credit: SS Dunbar

Photo 5: Steve Dunbar discusses threats to sea turtles in the Bay Islands at the Pandy Will Community School. Photo credit: SS Dunbar

Photo 6: Students at the Escuela Dionisio de Herrera are happy to learn how they can help sea turtles in the Bay Islands. Photo credit: SS Dunbar

Photo 7: Steve Dunbar illustrates how students can help protect sea turtles around the island of Roatan. Photo credit: SS Dunbar

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7

