

TurtleNews

The Newsletter of the Marine Turtle Conservation Project <<http://www.seaturtle.org/mtrg/projects/cyprus/>>

Issue 13 2003

Editorial

Welcome readers to Issue 13 of *Turtle News*. Firstly, many thanks to all of you for your support and interest in our work. Long may it continue!

Adopt a Turtle to end:

This year sees a few changes to our fund-raising initiatives. Due to both time and work constraints we have had to re-think our Adopt a Turtle scheme. From October 2003 all current adopters will be invited to become supporters of the project and will continue to receive *Turtle News* annually. Adopters of turtles returning to nest in 2003 will be notified and awarded a prize as in previous years but this scheme is currently proving too costly and we feel that our efforts are better served elsewhere. You will still be able to follow your turtles progress from annual updates in *Turtle News*. New parties can become a supporter of the project for £20 and receive a free Video, T-shirt or cuddly turtle and a subscription to *Turtle News*.

We apologise to those of you that are disappointed by this news but hope that you will agree with our decision and continue to support our work.

I am pleased to report that nesting is now underway and the team are in place in Cyprus, busy working night and day! We hope that it is a good season for the team and turtles.

Annette Broderick

Turtle News On-line

We are pleased to report that from this issue onwards *Turtle News* will be available online as a pdf file. If you have Acrobat Reader on your computer you can download and print off the newsletter, or just read it on-line. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat, please see our web site (<<http://www.seaturtle.org/mtrg/projects/cyprus/>> for details of how to download it to your pc. Subscribing to the on-line issue will save the MTCP money in printing and postage that we can spend on our conservation effort. Please let me know if you would like to receive this on-line version. If you provide me with an email address I will send notification when the latest issue is available at our web site and also notify you via email when your subscription is due for renewal. Further details of how to subscribe on-line will be sent to you in the Autumn with renewal requests and issue 14 of *Turtle News*.

If you would like to receive updates via email. Please email Annette at: mtn@swan.ac.uk



Nesting green turtle

SUMMARY:

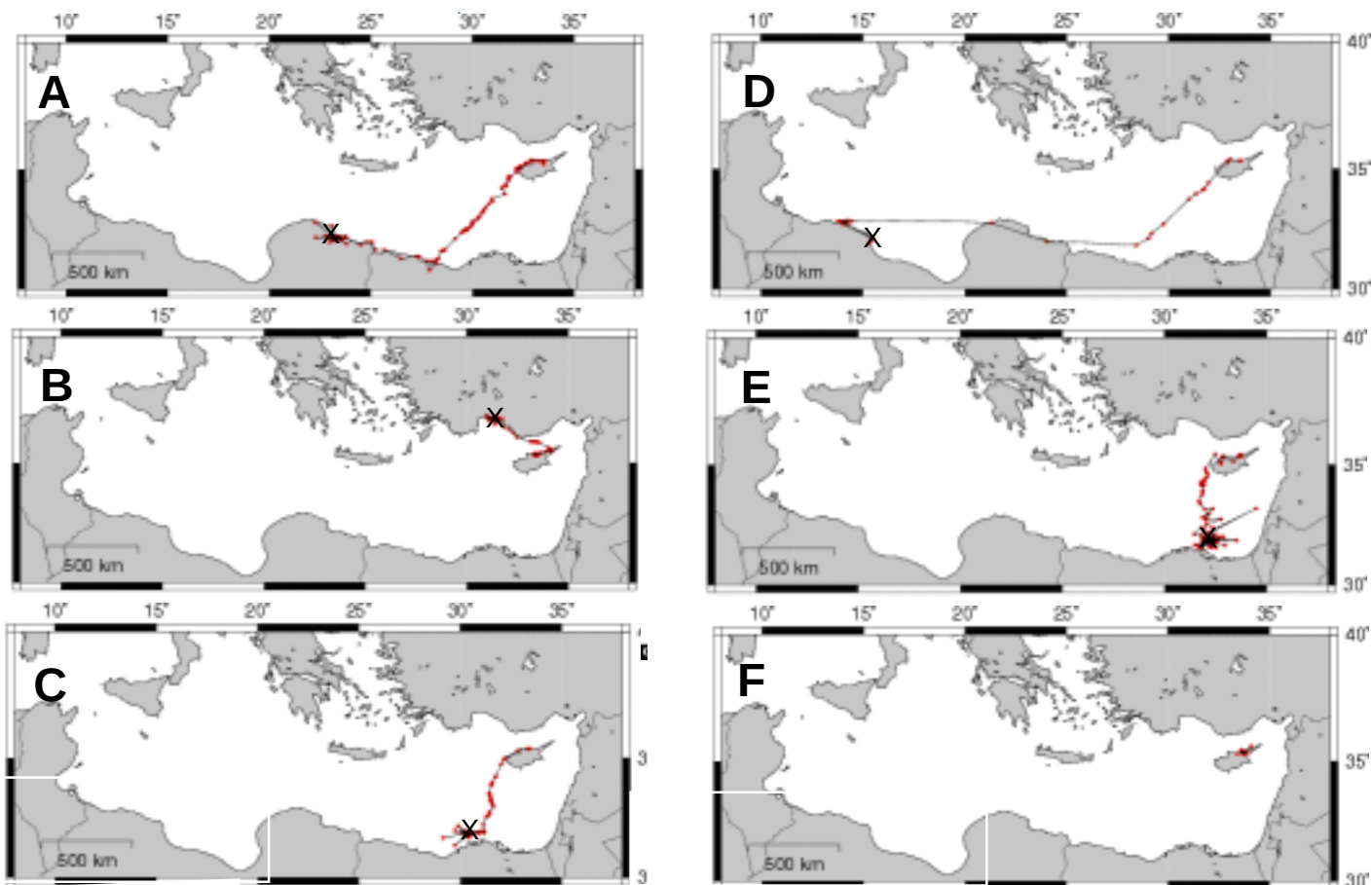
Female A: Green turtle number 77. Tag number 906/907. Attached 11th July 2002. Still functioning as of 19th May 2003. Currently located off the coast of Libya.

Female B: Green turtle number 59. Tag number 457/1426. Attached 27th July 2002. Still functioning as of 19th May 2003. Currently located off the coast of Turkey.

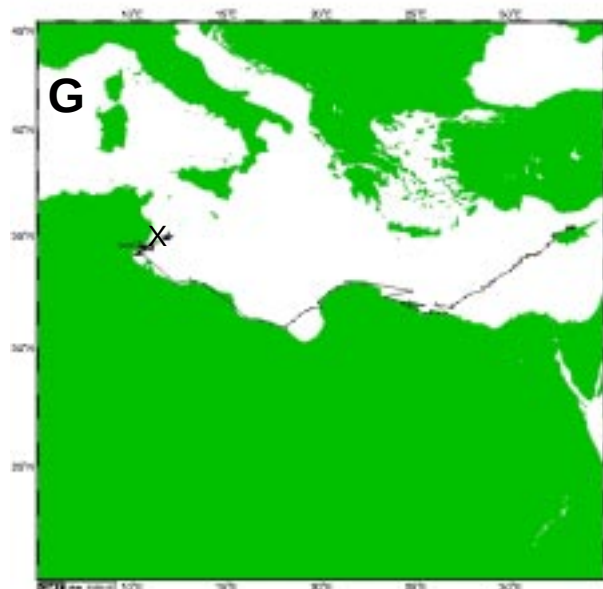
Female C: Loggerhead turtle number 220. Tag number 864/865. Attached 3rd August 2002. Stopped functioning 27th October 2002. Last recorded off the coast of Egypt.

SATELLITE TRACKING

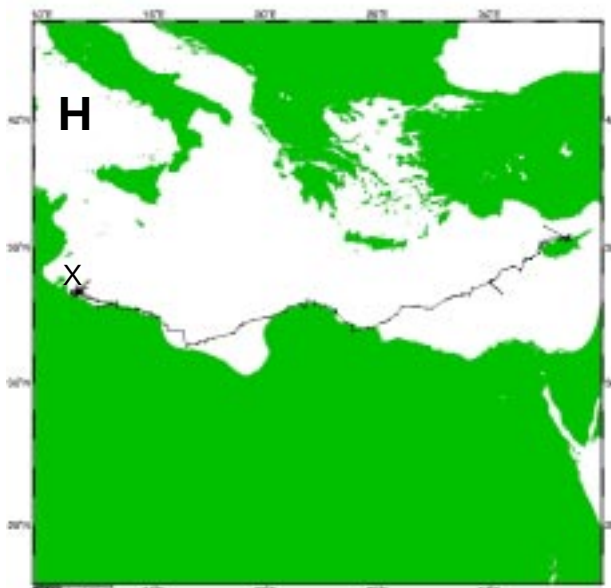
Many of you generously supported our efforts in 2002 by adopting a turtle. Some of you chose to adopt one of the females being tracked via satellite. Assuming that all our readers would be interested in the results of this study, in this issue of *Turtle News* we include updates and maps on the whereabouts of these females. In 2002, a total of 9 females were tracked after nesting at Alagadi Beach. Six of these were loggerhead turtles and 3 green turtles. Three of these (2 loggerheads and 1 green) were tracked using devices designed and produced by the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) based in St Andrews. These units provide detailed data on the females activities, namely dive depth and duration in addition to providing a lat/long location of known accuracy. Tracks of the females with SMRU transmitters are individuals G-I, with maps taken from the SMRU web site, whilst all others are produced using 'maptool', available at www.seaturtle.org. We are grateful for this facility. This study has been hugely successful with transmitters still functioning some 300 days later! Since 1998 we have now tracked 18 turtles (9 of each species) and gained insights into the at sea behaviour of these endangered species. Identification of the foraging/over-wintering areas which include: Cyprus, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey highlights how important regional conservation efforts are for the protection of such migratory species.



Maps to illustrate the routes and end locations (x) of females A-I, tracked via satellite in 2002.

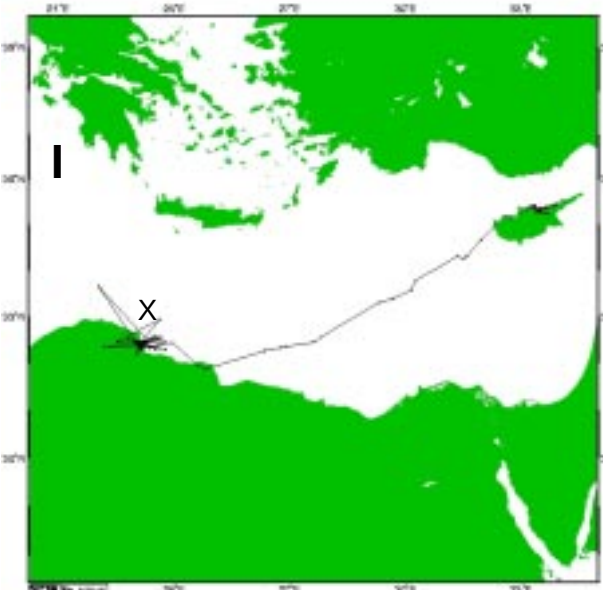


Female D: Loggerhead turtle number 43. Tag number 874/873. Attached 17th July 2002. Still functioning as of 19th May 2003. Currently located off the coast of Libya.



Female E: Loggerhead turtle number 212. Tag number 802/806. Attached 5th June 2002. Stopped functioning 16th January 2003. Last recorded off the coast of Egypt.

Female F: Loggerhead turtle number 44. Tag number 612/1056. Attached 4th July 2002. Still functioning as of 19th May 2003. Currently located off the coast of Cyprus.



Female G: Green turtle number 78. Tag number 841/842. Attached 11th July 2002. Still functioning as of 19th May 2003. Currently located off the coast of Tunisia.

Female H: Loggerhead turtle number 12. Tag number 1164/1154. Attached 5th July 2002. Stopped functioning 19th November 2002. Last recorded off the coast at the border of Libya/Tunisia.

Female I: Loggerhead turtle number 3. Tag number 413/44. Attached 8th July 2002. Stopped functioning as of 19th March 2003. Last recorded off the coast of Libya.

"Hutchinsons" Turtle Report

Last spring (2002) we were asked if we would like to help with the Turtle project here in Northern Cyprus. Ian and Celia (Moorely-Bell) were going to be away in Europe for most of the summer so needed someone to keep an eye on the students. We gladly accepted.

We live to the west of the Island not far from the Akdeniz beach which is monitored from the village by up to four students. Each Wednesday we would host them at our house for a swim, a meal and drinks.

On Sundays we would go along to the "goat shed" and catch up on progress there and at other sites.

During the summer Maureen was busy making turtle cards and painting stones with a turtle design on them to be sold to visitors to the project at Alagadi.

It was interesting to see the development of these young people into cohesive units. They arrive here not knowing many of their colleagues; after three months they have matured into hard working teams. Some develop talents they hadn't realised that they had! Team leaders emerge; skills at delivering talks to visitors appear. Unfortunately culinary skills are yet to be developed!!

We look forward to meeting the new group of students this year and hope for good turtle times.

Tony & Maureen Hutchinson

Acknowledgements: The 2002 project was funded by: **Apache, Atlantic Car Hire, BP Egypt, British Chelonia Group, British High Commission, Kibris Turkish Airlines, Long Beach Hotel, NERC.** Equipment was donated by; **AnimalCare Ltd., Atanco, Immap.** Thanks to Terry Thomas @ iecnc

The 23rd Annual Sea Turtle Symposium - Kuala Lumpur 2003

This year's sea turtle symposium took place outside the Americas for the first time in 22 years. Hosted by the Community Conservation Network, WWF-Malaysia and the Department of Fisheries Malaysia and Sea Turtle Society President Dr Nicolas Pilcher, the event was a huge success, particularly considering the political climate at the time. Over 400 turtle biologists, managers and volunteers attended. Brendan Godley attended on behalf of the MTRG and presented results from our work in west Africa and Ascension Island. In addition, with colleagues he co-ordinated a tagging workshop, providing training in flipper tagging, PIT tagging and the attachment of satellite transmitters. Prior to the symposium, a one day Mediterranean meeting was held, for which Brendan acted as rapporteur. This meeting was a great opportunity for colleagues in this region to put their heads together! It was great to see colleagues from Cevre Koruma Dairesi (Department of Environmental Protection), Northern Cyprus, at the symposium. Next year Project Leader Wayne Fuller will present results of our work in Northern Cyprus.....in Costa Rica!

Darwin Initiative Grant Awarded to MTRG

It was recently announced that Drs Broderick and Godley have been awarded a grant by the UK Darwin Initiative;

<<http://www.darwin.gov.uk/>>
to conduct a Darwin Biodiversity Action Plan of Anegada, a remote island of the British Virgin Islands. This grant will see the appointment of a new member to the group who will spend most of his/her time on the island. This new project will compliment the existing project 'Turtles in the Caribbean Overseas Territories (TCOT)' awarded to MTRG and the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) in 2002. Results of the TCOT initiative to date were presented in Kuala Lumpur by Peter Richardson and Sue Ranger of the MCS and Brendan Godley at the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum conference in Bermuda in March 2003.

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