

Where we are now, a glimpse into the British Virgin Islands Sea Turtle Programme



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Presented at the WIDECAST Annual Meeting, 2015.

A Look back

- In the early 1980's the Conservation Department (CFD) was established.

- The initial Turtle Programme.

- 1986

- The British Virgin Islands joined the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST).

- 1994

- Nightly Leatherback nesting and tagging programme.

- 2001

- UK Funded Turtle in the Caribbean Overseas Territories (TCOT) project.

- 2003

- Darwin Initiative, Anegada BVI

Outside Resources

- ◉ Summer Sailing Programmes
 - These programmes are science based programmes that expose young people to Sailing, Scuba, Marine Biology, Water Sports, Exploration, Community Service and Leadership Skills (Action Quest/LifeWorks, Sail Caribbean and Sea Trek).



The vision to expand...

- Operating on a Limited Budget



- ARK

"The Association of Reef Keepers (ARK) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to ensuring the preservation and sustainability of the BVI marine environment for the benefit of all future generations. ARK is committed to provide assistance in collecting information used to determine short and long-term changes of the marine environment which will ultimately aid government departments in determining effective marine resource management strategies. ARK is also committed to promote local outreach programmes aimed at educating and empowering the local community."

How it came about...

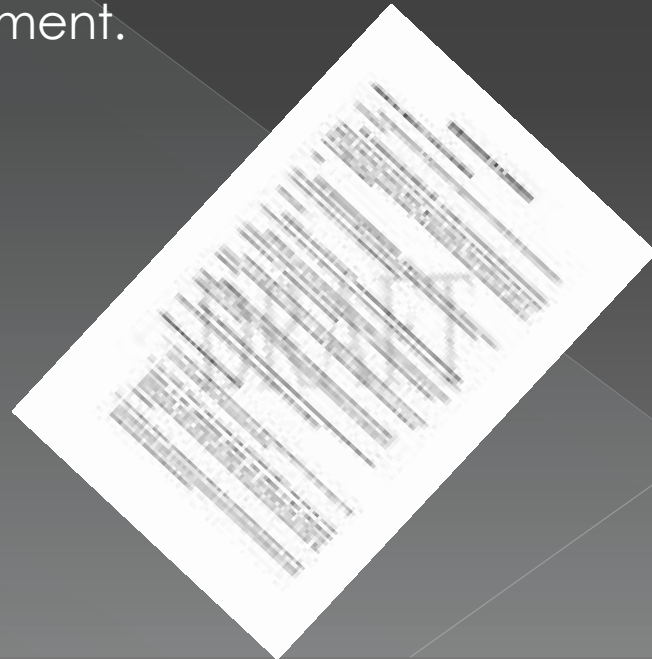
- Meeting with the BVI Tourist Board to discuss ideas of developing a new Eco-tourism Product.



How is it made possible

- Memorandum of Agreement “MOA”

- A memorandum of agreement (MOA) is a written document describing a cooperative relationship between two parties wishing to work together on a project or to meet an agreed upon objective. An MOA serves as a legal document and describes the terms and details of the partnership agreement.



Future Goals & Objectives of the VI Sea Turtle Programme

Key Area	Goals	Objects	Indicators
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improved management of VI turtle fishery ➤ Improved beach management on nesting beaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop a project entitled: 'The Socio-economic viability of the VI Turtle Fishery' ➤ Create beach signage that includes a "Code of Conduct" for nesting beaches ➤ Create a best practices guide for coastal developments on nesting beaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Update legislation regarding licensing, catch/size restrictions and open season for the turtle fishery ➤ Total number of signs (with the code of conduct) located on nesting beaches ➤ Physical guide/manual for developments (hotels /resorts) located on nesting beaches

Key Area	Goals	Objects	Indicators
<h1>Research</h1>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Contribute to regional and global efforts towards better understanding sea turtle life cycles, ecology, natural and anthropogenic impediments to recovery and the dynamics and status of turtle populations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Determine the abundance, distribution migration and temporal variability of foraging, nesting and hatchling sea turtles in the BVI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Total number of sea turtles tagging (foraging & nesting) and nesting/hatchling success rates entered into the database . ➤ Total number of community volunteers patrolling nesting beaches and documenting nesting activities and hatchling success rates. ➤ One peer-reviewed scientific journal articles produced every year ➤ Minimum of one presentation is presented at the Annual Sea Turtle Symposium/WIDECAST meeting

Key Area	Goals	Objects	Indicators
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improved community knowledge regarding local sea turtles and their habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop an “E-Library” with scientific literature, best practices and general information regarding sea turtles ➤ Develop classroom presentations/resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Physical location of literature available at CFD and on ARK’s website ➤ Total number of visits to schools and community organizations ➤ Total number of types of information produced for the local community (print, video, etc.)

Key Area	Goals	Objects	Indicators
Economic Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify a sustainable financing mechanism to support the VI Sea Turtle Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Create a partnership between CFD and the local non-profit ARK ➤ Introduce the Adopt-a-turtle kits from locally tagged turtles ➤ Develop the “BVI Turtle Encounters” Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Total revenue generated ➤ Total number of Government projects/programmes funded ➤ SOP for Turtle Encounters Programme

Thank you for listening.



Any Questions