

TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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U.N. IN ACTION

UNDP HELPS WITH

SEA TURTLE PROJECT IN

BARBADOS

VIDEO

AUDIO

TURTLES/SCENERY
BARBADOS

NARRATION

Sea turtles have always fascinated tourists who visit the island country of Barbados.

More than half a million people visit Barbados every year. This Caribbean nation is situated in the North Atlantic Ocean, and is just 431 square kilometers in size. Tourism adds about 1.7 million dollars annually to the local economy. (25")

PEOPLE PICKING UP TURTLES

The safety of sea turtles became a concern when tourists and local residents began poaching them for consumption. (8")

In 1987, Dr. Julia Horrocks, a senior lecturer at the University of the West Indies, initiated the Barbados Sea Turtle Project. (10")

HORROCKS ON-CAMERA

HORROCKS: (In English)

"...there was legislation in place that protected sea turtles when they were nesting their eggs. But there was still a lot of turtle take at the time, a lot of illegal take so animals were being taken

from the beaches while they were nesting...."
(13")

NARRATION

STUDENTS AT WORK/UNDP
SHOTS

The project monitors and tracks the turtles to ensure their safety. It was made possible through a small grant of US\$50,000 provided by UNDP, the United Nations Development Programme. Charissa Seward-Cheong is Programme Assistant at UNDP... (16")

SEWARD-CHEONG: (In English)

SEWARD-CHEONG ON-CAMERA

"...the project is still ongoing as we know it. There are regular turtle patrols during the nesting season, as well as regular maintenance of the database." (9")

NARRATION

PARLIAMENT BUILDING/PEOPLE
WALKING ALONG BEACH

And that's not all. In addition to the Sea turtle Project, a moratorium was implemented by the Government of Barbados in 1998 to conserve and protect its sea turtle population. It is now illegal for anyone to have in their possession a turtle of any size, turtle eggs, or any other turtle product. (18")

TOURISM/HOTELS ALONG
BEACH

Hotel owners are supporting this legislation by warning guests not to touch or disturb nesting turtles that come ashore. These initiatives have

already yielded some turtle advances. (12")

HORROCKS:

HORROCKS ON-CAMERA

"...when I first started working and first started monitoring our national index beach, there was only about 10 females nesting there each year, now we have over a hundred females nesting there annually." (12")

NARRATION

DARRYL OPERATES HOTLINE

With the help of students at the University of the West Indies, Dr. Horrocks set up a hotline to encourage anyone spotting stranded or injured turtles to call the number. Teams are then dispatched to rescue the needy turtles. (14")

NARRATION

HOTEL ALONG COAST

Coastal development is seen as a threat to the turtles' nesting sites. Hotel owners keep parts of beaches natural for nesting turtles. At the Coconut Court Hotel, Nicole McCleary is an activities' coordinator. (13")

McCLEARY: (In English

McCLEARY ON-CAMERA

" ...now this natural vegetation, Coconut Court allowed to grow back on its beach, and they did so because when the hawksbill turtle comes out of the water, she goes towards that vegetation...which lets her know that the sea level would not go to that area there, so her eggs

are protected.” (17”)

NARRATION

TOURISTS ON BOATS/ENTERING
WATER/SWIMMING WITH
TURTLES

And tourists still get a chance to interact with the turtles. Tour companies arrange for them to be taken out to sea in huge sailboats -- known as Catamarans -- to snorkel or swim with the turtles. They even get to touch them if they are lucky. Denise Hughes is visiting from London. (16”)

HUGHES: (In English)

HUGHES ON-CAMERA

“Swimming with the turtles is great because it actually brings you close to nature.” (5”)

NARRATION

TURTLES

Allowing tourists to participate in activities with the turtles still brings economic benefits to Barbados without destroying the turtles or their habitat. (12”)

LOGO

This report was prepared by the United Nations.