

Saving the turtle eggs

Both green turtles and hawksbill turtles nest on Denis Island. At the moment it is the peak of the hawksbill nesting season, but occasionally a green turtle nests during this time of the year as well (their nesting peak is some months later, roughly between April and August).

Every early morning, the Denis Island Conservation Team walks the entire beach surrounding Denis Island to count all tracks of nesting turtles and to tag any turtles that they encounter. Intervention is normally not needed, but just before Christmas, one green turtle laid her eggs very close to the shore line.

As this part of the beach is normally prone to quite some sand movement, there was a risk that the eggs would be washed away by the sea within the two months incubation time. The Conservation Team therefore decided to move the eggs to a place somewhat higher on the beach. Carefully the nest was dug up and all 113 eggs were carefully taken out. It was an urgent and delicate operation as the eggs should be moved within the first day after they are laid and they should not be turned upside down.

After the hotel guests had a chance to have a closer look at the eggs, they were re-buried in front of Cottage 8. Hopefully, in two months time, the guests in this cottage will be able to see the little green turtle hatchling crawling down the beach!

