

Project Update: January 2013

Education day; empowering the leaders the Vezo community - on the 19th January 2013, over 90 members of the turtle association FI.PA.MI.FA and honorary guests from the 13 coastal villages of the Bay of Ranobe (BRB), attended the turtle education day held at a local school. Lessons were provided for all attendees on marine turtle biology, survival rates of hatchlings and juveniles, along with information on national and international turtle laws. This collaboration of stakeholders provided a platform for the agreement of two DINA's or local indigenous laws to manage the hunting and consumption of turtles in the Bay of Ranobe. The first DINA enforces an ad infinitum hunting ban of juvenile turtles, under 70 cm. The second DINA refers to the closed season from 1st December to 1st March. The next few months will be dedicated to the implementation of marine turtle protection teams to apply the DINA's in each of the 13 villages. This is the first marine turtle fishery management plan in Madagascar, the result of many years of hard work. However, it would not have been possible to carry out this programme without the generous support of the Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

