

Project Update: December 2014

Marine turtle tagging programme

ReefDoctor Fano project, together with the local turtle protection association (FI.MPA.MI.FA), and Kelonia marine turtle observatory in Reunion implemented the Ranobe turtle tagging programme in October, 2013. This programme aims to reinforce the indigenous law 'dina' protecting juvenile marine turtles (< 70 cm) captured in the fishery. In the early stages of the programme, only a few turtles were tagged due to difficulties ensuing from wariness by fishers to participate in the program. To address this issue ReefDoctor and FI.MPA.MI.FA developed a community awareness campaign for the 13 villages of the Bay of Ranobe. This resulted in mounting support for the programme and over 85 turtles tagged and released since July 2014 (fig 1).

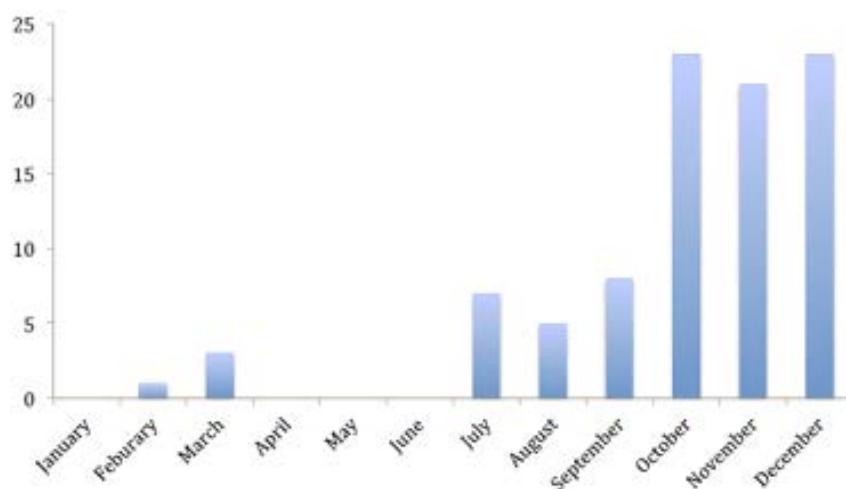


Figure 1: number of marine turtles tagged and released per month, 2014.

In 2015, we aim to increase community participation in the tagging and release program. This will be achieved by conserving marine turtle habitats and protecting marine turtles captured in the fishery.

Please watch our work in-progress @ <http://youtu.be/2T3KSK2u0UU>