Project Update: February 2015

<u>Nesting sea turtle monitoring-tagging</u>

In the period between March 15 and December 31, 2014 we recorded 355 nesting activities of leatherback and hawksbill turtles on the monitored beaches (night and morning patrols).

This shows an increase of 21% of nesting activities compare to the 2013 season

Trained guide Solomon Stafford and Emmanuel & Camilla Bethel started the Kido Foundation 2014 Sea Turtle Nesting Monitoring season by patrolling Petit Carenage Beach and Anse La Roche beach from March 1st 2013 before dawn every morning. The full night patrols began middle of March and newly trained turtle guide Antonio Peters joined the patrol team in July and August.

The guides worked with oversea volunteers and field research assistants monitoring and protecting the two critically endangered species of turtles nesting in the beaches of High North proposed National Park in Carriacou. Sparrow bay beach, adjacent to High North Park was also

monitored as it became an active nesting ground of mainly hawksbill turtles. Big Field beach, located within High North Park, was occasionally monitored in the early morning by kayak, since there are no access trails through the steep forested coast. Far southern nesting sites (Lauriston & White Island) had some nesting & hatching activities recorded by local residents and tourists. The presence and conservation work by KIDO turtle monitoring teams (camouflaging turtle nests and tracks as anti-poaching strategy) have deterred poaching activities. One nest was poached in Petit Carenage beach because a hawksbill turtle came to nest during the day, after 6am, when the patrol team had already left the beach.

Nature Guide Training

In June we trained Antonia Peters, 21, from Carriacou, as turtle monitoring field research assistant and Antonio Peters, 19, (her brother) in turtle monitoring.

In October Antonia & Antonio were also trained as Nature Guides (Level 1) and scored well in the test. The siblings have actively participated in KIDO conservation activities since their early age (see photo # 16) and Antonia volunteered as facilitator during KIDO-Rufford 'Kids with Cameras' program in 2013. We utilized the educational material and program created during the first KIDO-Rufford project 2011-2012 to train both as Nature Guides. Antonia already guided successfully two groups of visitors to a nature hike and wildlife watching tour of High North peak.

Antonia Peters was also selected as KIDO representative to participate in October 2014 in the BirdSleuth Caribbean in the Bahamas, a 3-day workshop designed to train trainers to teach youths how to study, appreciate and conserve Caribbean birds. This program is part of a larger BirdSleuth program developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (Cornell University, USA). The training experience enriched the knowledge of Antonia in tropical bird identification and

opened the opportunity to guide Bird Watchers in the Carriacou Bird Sanctuary of Petit Carenage, part of the 600-acre proposed National Park of High North and part of the same coastal habitat where KIDO nesting turtle monitoring is carried out at night.

Youth Environmental Education

KIDO Educational Eco-Game started in December 2014 with the participation of kids, age 10-16, at KIDO Youth Environmental Centre.

Dario Sandrini & Marina Fastigi (KIDO directors) and KIDO facilitator Antonia Peters run the program assisted by volunteer Rickie Alexander.

Brief explanation: The blue platform in the classroom represents the Planetarium space, The Commons and the 4 decorated disks in the corners represent planets named Artis - Tekno – Kido – 'Spiteful'. The kids are asked to form 'governance teams' to run the challenging affairs of each planet and of the Planetarium Commons; each planet represents a salient aspect of human endeavors.

Artis is an artistic planet; its inhabitants solve problems using **diplomacy, cultural exchange, art and communication**. Their motto is "Our love songs win the wars"

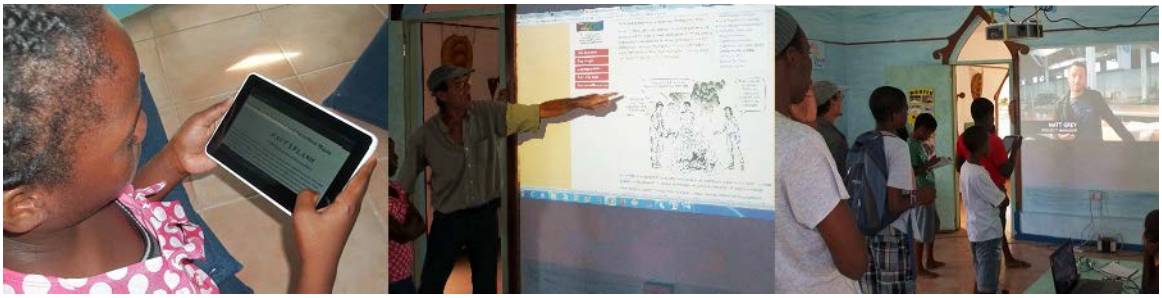
Tekno citizens pursue **science and technological innovation** to solve issues. Their motto is: 'We measure, we design, we find the solution & we share'

Kido is the 'peculiar' planet, citizens are each and all very diverse culturally and ethnically, thus their society is in constant transformation. Thinking 'outside the box' they solve problems using a 'different approach', even if never utilized before. Their motto is 'Unity in Diversity'

'Spiteful' is the nickname given to what was once the most beautiful bio-diverse and resource-full planet, its original name now forgotten. Spiteful citizens fight endless wars against each other and their excesses threaten the existence of animals and plants, water and soil, sea and air. The Spiteful exert their destructive behavior all over their planet and further, into the Commons space of the Planetarium. Their motto is: 'Each one for himself' & 'More is Better'

The Game consists of solving challenges of complex nature posed by 'Spiteful' Planet'. The Solutions need to abide to 5 basic sine-qua-non guidelines (inspired by Buckminster Fuller)

The first environmental challenge is Toxic Waste being dumped into the Planetarium Commons by Spiteful. In the Game kids identify the dumped waste, separate toxic, recyclable & non-recyclable materials and label each lot (see photos # 29,30), Then each Team searches for a practical solution to dispose of waste, also using tablets for available references and ideas on internet. They share their findings, web links are examined and proposed solutions are discussed collectively. Kids themselves find & show websites-videos on worldwide waste issues and solutions are learned with much spontaneity and interest.



During subsequent collective field trips to turtle nesting beaches (plagued by solid waste dumped locally or carried ashore by ocean waves and trade winds), the youths applied their learned lessons to remedy the situation; they organized numerous effective group clean-ups, separated the various materials and recycled and reused what could be saved. The huge amounts of plastic containers collected during these field trips (especially water bottles) shocked our Tekno students, who prompted the other teams to help them build a 10 ft sailing catamaran reusing discarded materials and plastic bottles, as a demonstration of ingenuity and a showcase for raising public awareness.

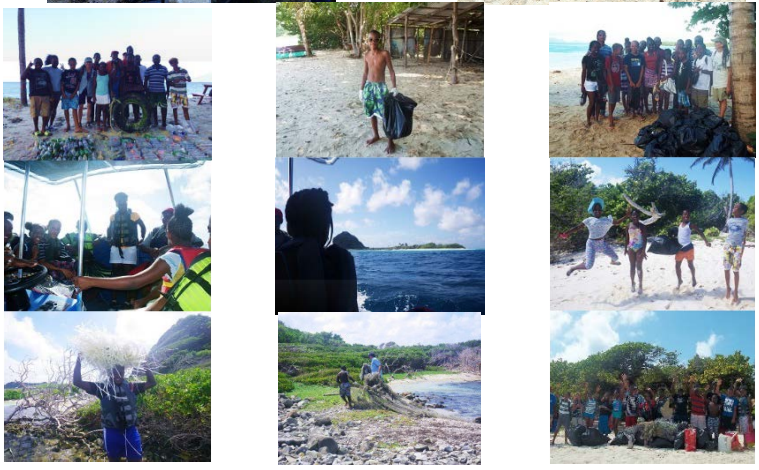
Concurrently, the Artis team came up with the idea of producing alternative grocery carrier bags made of discarded plastics and cloth, sewn in attractive designs with a donated vintage SINGER sewing machine, reassembled and brought back to life after de-rusting. The completed sailing boat will be toured during regattas and festivals, while recycled carrier bags will be offered on shop counters in all villages as alternatives to plastic bags. Artis team also practice video making and interviewing to start a campaign asking the public to sign on for a complete ban of plastic bags in Carriacou.

Thus KIDO Youth Eco-Club was formed with the motto: 'Changing Junk into Craft' and aim: 'With our WI KRAFT projects we believe that one man's trash is another man's treasure. Our aim is to reduce the level of solid waste pollution in Carriacou' .

To date 18 youths participated in:

- 6 classroom sessions (Internet search, related video projections and theme discussions)

- 6 field clean-up trips to different beaches: Anse La Roche & Petit Carenage (part of High North proposed National Park), Behind Sands and L'Esterre beaches (part of Carriacou Marine Protected Area, The Esplanade beach in town and White Island (one of the southern offshore isles of Carriacou, nesting ground for hawksbill turtles and rare marine birds – see photos # 49-54).



- 1 rescue, measure, tag & release operation of a 150 lbs male hawksbill turtle, caught in a fishnet (see photos # 25 - 27)
- 2 practicum sessions, forming the frame of the plastic bottle catamaran and over 1,000 bottles selection for the two hulls, as floating devices (see photos # 43, 44 – 47)








Preparation of Planetarium Game

- Two WiFi range extenders were purchased and installed; a 27ft high WiFi antenna was placed in a strategic position above the forest trees foliage to provide free and stable Internet access at the hilltop KIDO Environmental Learning Center.
- The 8x7ft game platform (Planetarium) was constructed and decorated, along with the 4 Planets (Dr. Fastigi's artwork). A WiFi HD wall projector was purchased (rather than a Samsung smart TV) because it is more efficient and less susceptible to failure. Instant online video projection is an effective and innovative teaching/learning tool of encyclopedic capability, especially among isolated communities.

- As we had expected, students are enabled to instantly switch from the theoretical game to environmental research documentaries, with top scientists portraying those very same challenges in real locations around the world. Thus our youths now experience local wildlife and conservation issues with heightened sense of global participation, although they have yet hardly travelled outside their island.
- The Kids with Cameras Carriacou Facebook page is updated to highlight the progress of KIDO Planetarium Game and related educational conservation activities.