

Project Update: March 2009

During the 2008 side-neck turtle laying season we patrolled local Amazon beaches and transferred 39 nests of eggs to the Natutama Foundation artificial beach. By the end of the year we had released 555 hatchlings into the waters of the Amazon. To help reinforce turtle and manatee conservation, the Ticuna Indian educators developed plays which were presented at the end-of-year cultural festival in Puerto Narino. Both plays were based on indigenous stories – one about the transformation of a tapir into a manatee, the other telling of the giant charapa turtle which takes an unrepentant egg-stealer to the bottom of the river. Our new exhibit at the Interpretation Centre, the beach by night, features turtles as well as caiman, river dolphin, capivara and other species, all represented life-size. Ticuna constellations are painted on a midnight blue sky and the visit is designed to stimulate interest in the sun, moon and stars as a way of introducing the theme of climate change to children.



Left: Beach by night. Right: Turtle release.