

Turtles under the spotlight

BY JEANNINE KLEIN

BERMUDA'S TURTLE project will be featured in a new documentary being filmed by a Canadian team exploring conservation efforts in three islands.

The turtle documentary produced by Montreal-based Amfibia and funded by Film Barbados and Ocean Ark Productions focuses on the biology and conservation of marine turtles and features seldom seen underwater footage.

Kat Baulu, producer of Amfibia, says their documentary differs from most in that they have used underwater cameras to film students with the Bermuda Turtle Project transferring turtles to the boats for testing. "There have been many many turtle documentaries but the one thing that differentiates our documentary is that in Barbados and Bermuda we are featuring and showing in-water



studies. We are out in the water with our cinematographer, Paul Mockler, who has done this kind of work for the last 40 years. We're getting very high quality footage of animals in the wild being captured and all of the scientific work being done in their water environment which is most of their lives really."

The documentary which

focuses on people working on turtle conservation in their local areas also features a ten-year old turtle conservation project in Barbados in addition to a brand new project in Qatar in the Middle East.

Amfibia is also producing a documentary on the conservation of sea coral which highlights the Bermuda Biological Station for

Research's Dr. Hank Trapido Rosenthal and his findings of new medicines from coral reefs.

The two documentaries will be ready by January 2003 and will air on national television in Canada as well as in Bermuda. Some footage may remain on permanent display at the Bermuda Aquarium.