



SAL ISLAND  CABO VERDE

Project Biodiversity
www.projectbiodiversity.org

Bringing Local Communities
and Sustainable Growth
Opportunities Together for
Sea Turtle Conservation

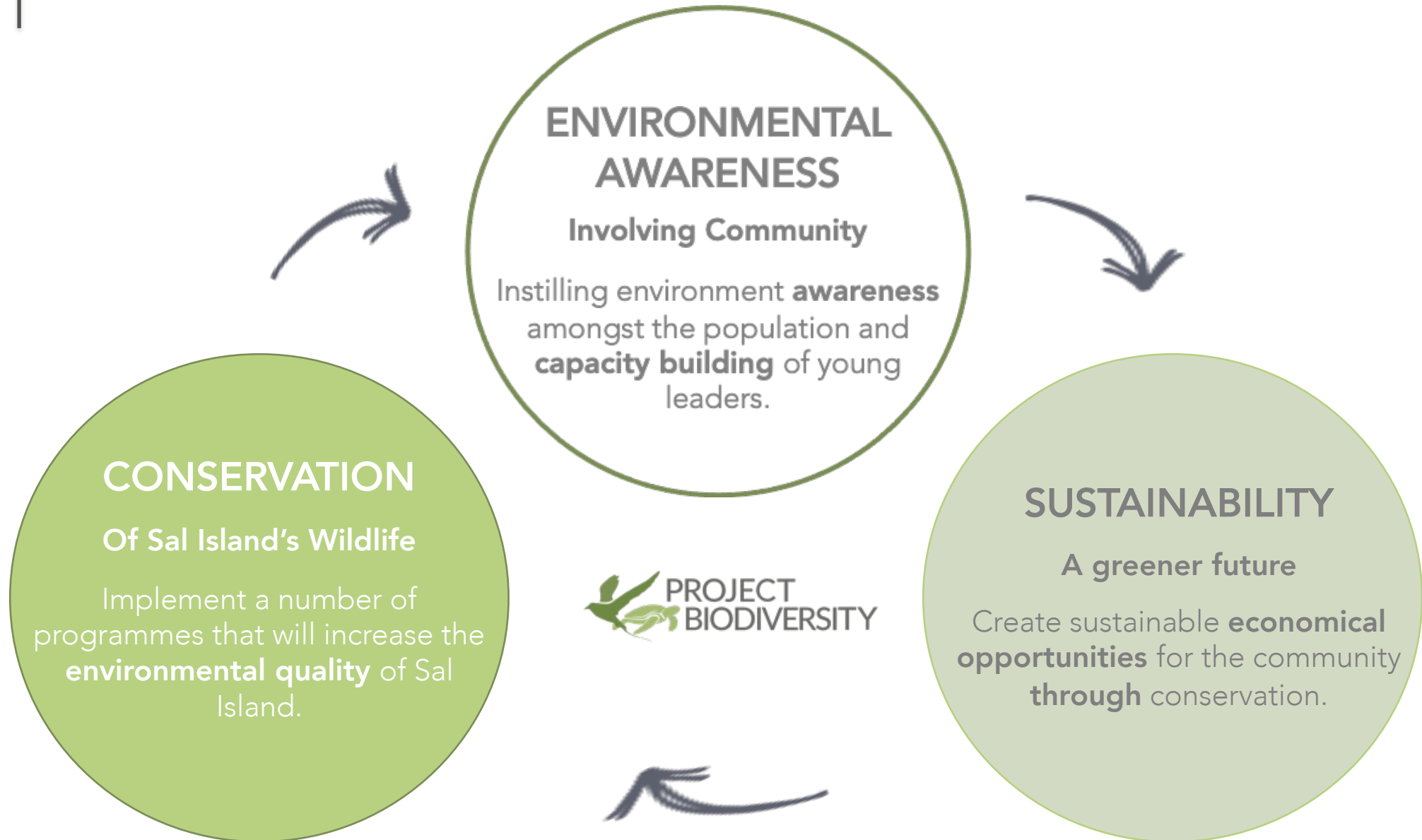




OUR | Mission

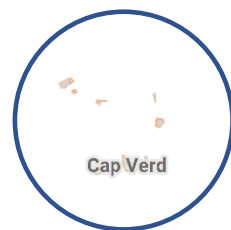
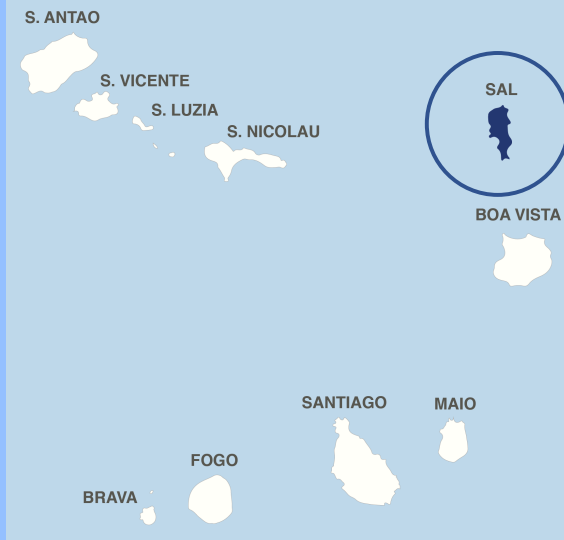
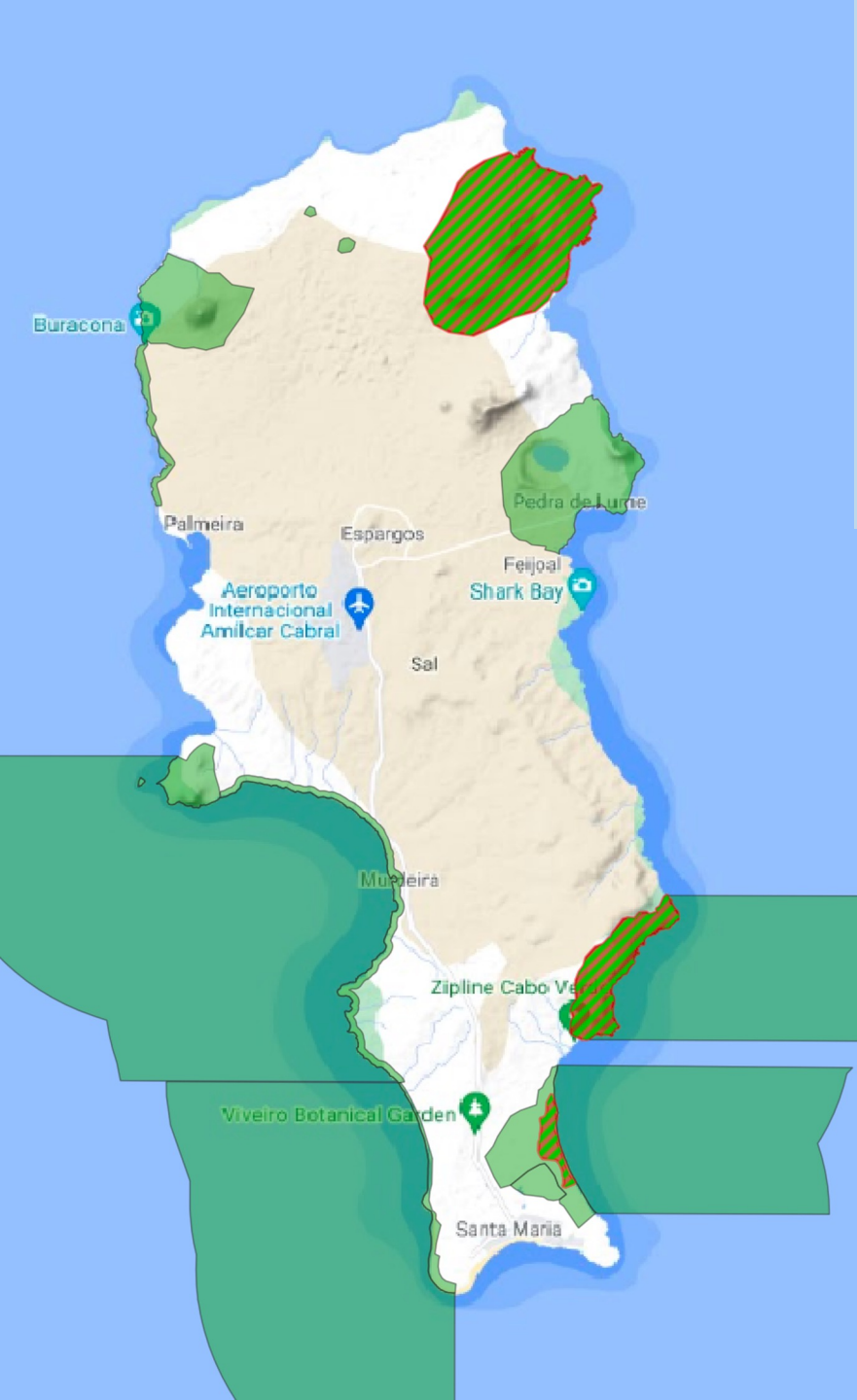
Projeto Biodiversidade is a Cabo-Verdean non-profit association that works for creating a world in which humans and nature can thrive together; where communities practice sustainable use and management of natural resources, and are committed to protecting nature - ultimately giving back in return.

OUR | Pillars



The NGO





Threats

Marine & Light Pollution



Coastal Development & Loss of Nesting Habitat



Poaching








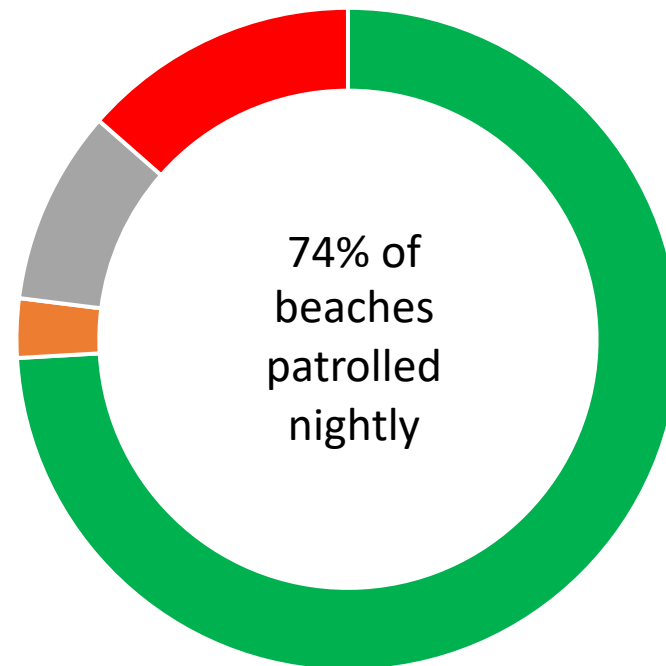
Dog Predation (nests & nesting turtles)



Patrol Effort



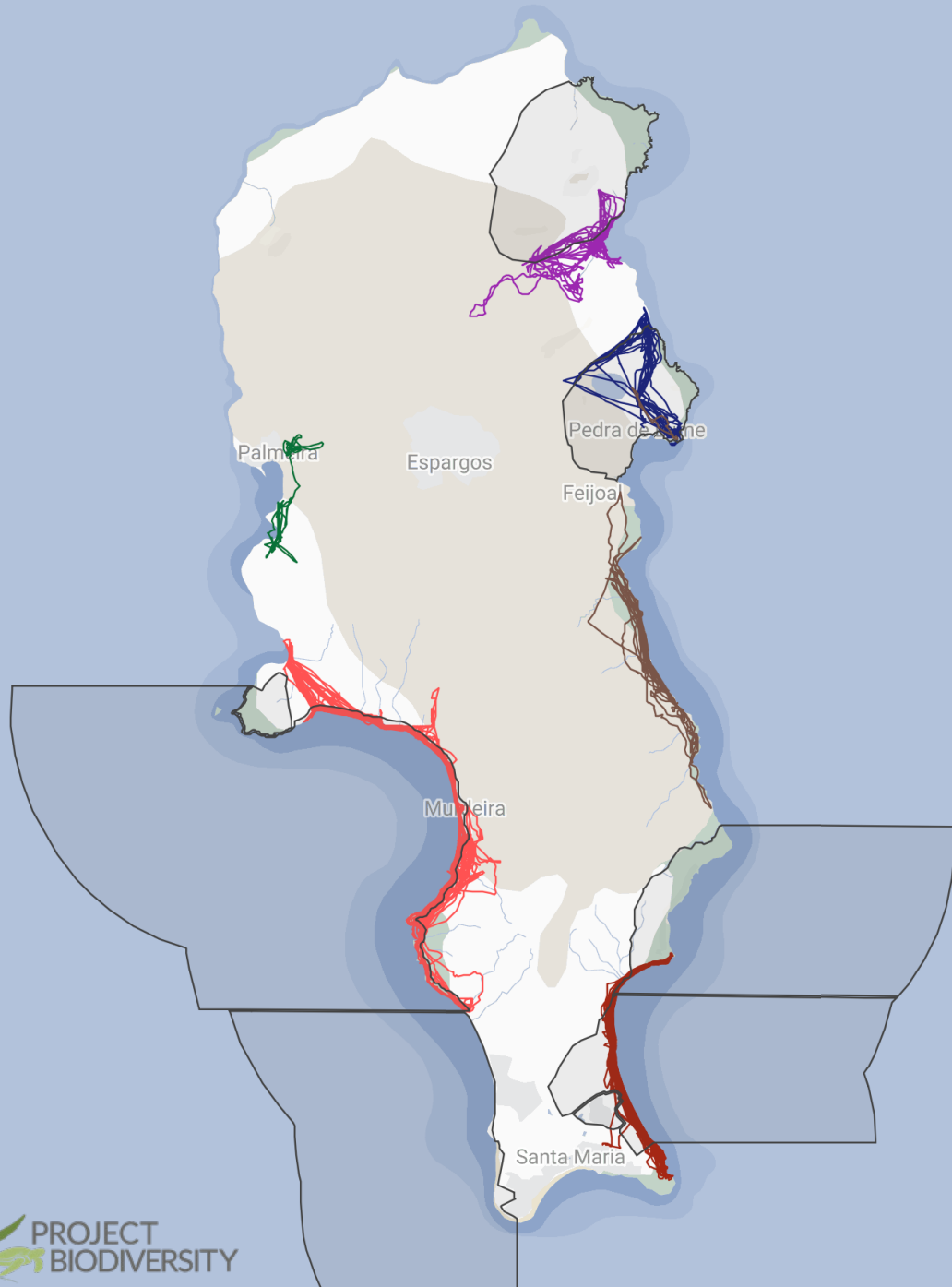
-  Field Camp
-  Foot Patrols
-  Drone Patrols
-  Community Patrols
-  Military Support



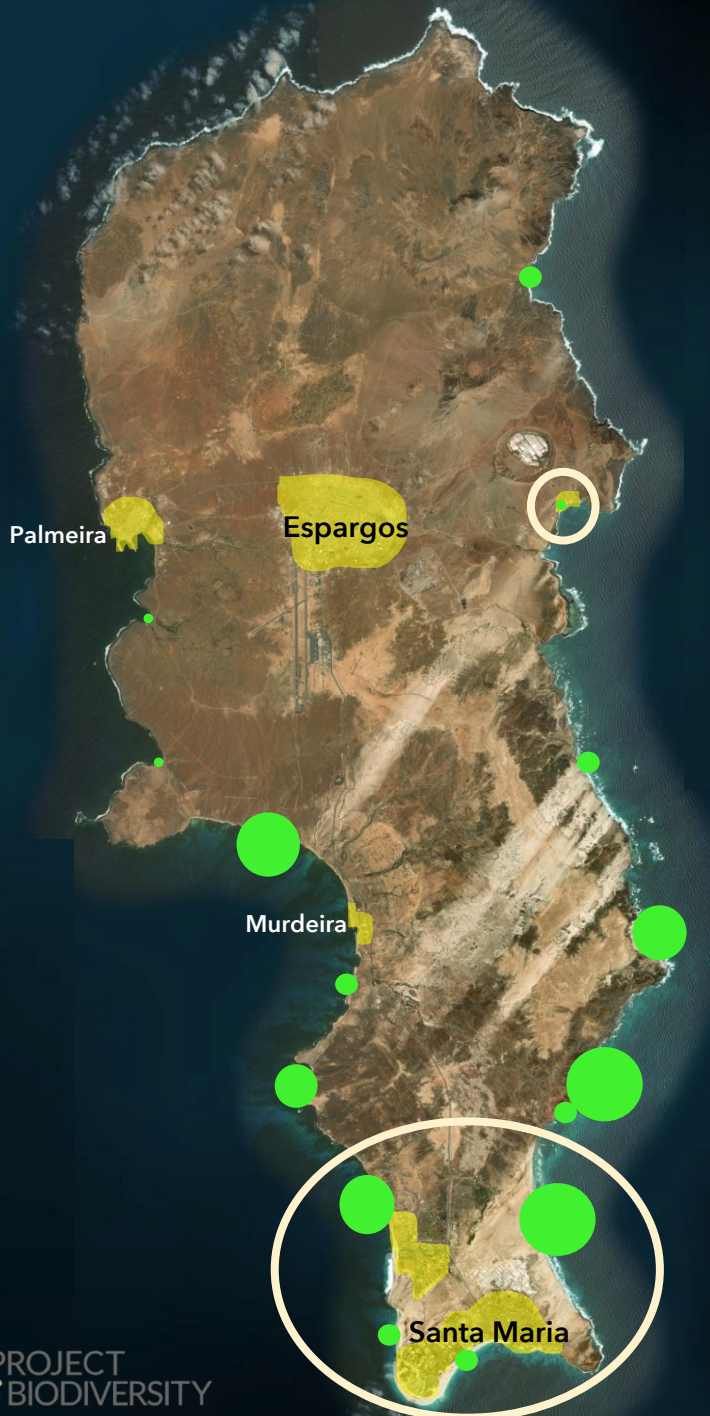
■ Daily Patrol ■ Partial Patrol ■ Drone ■ Weekly Census

Use of Drones

- Drones allow us to cover vast areas rapidly
- Allow us to monitor hard to reach areas at a distance
- Drones can show things that we cannot see from a personal perspective
- Cost-effective strategy to cover large areas



Nest Distribution



36% of nests are located on the immediate or surrounding beaches of urban areas.



Nest Relocations

Nests are relocated primarily due to **light pollution**
~7% of nests relocated **tran-situ** annually
~8% nests protected annually in **hatcheries**

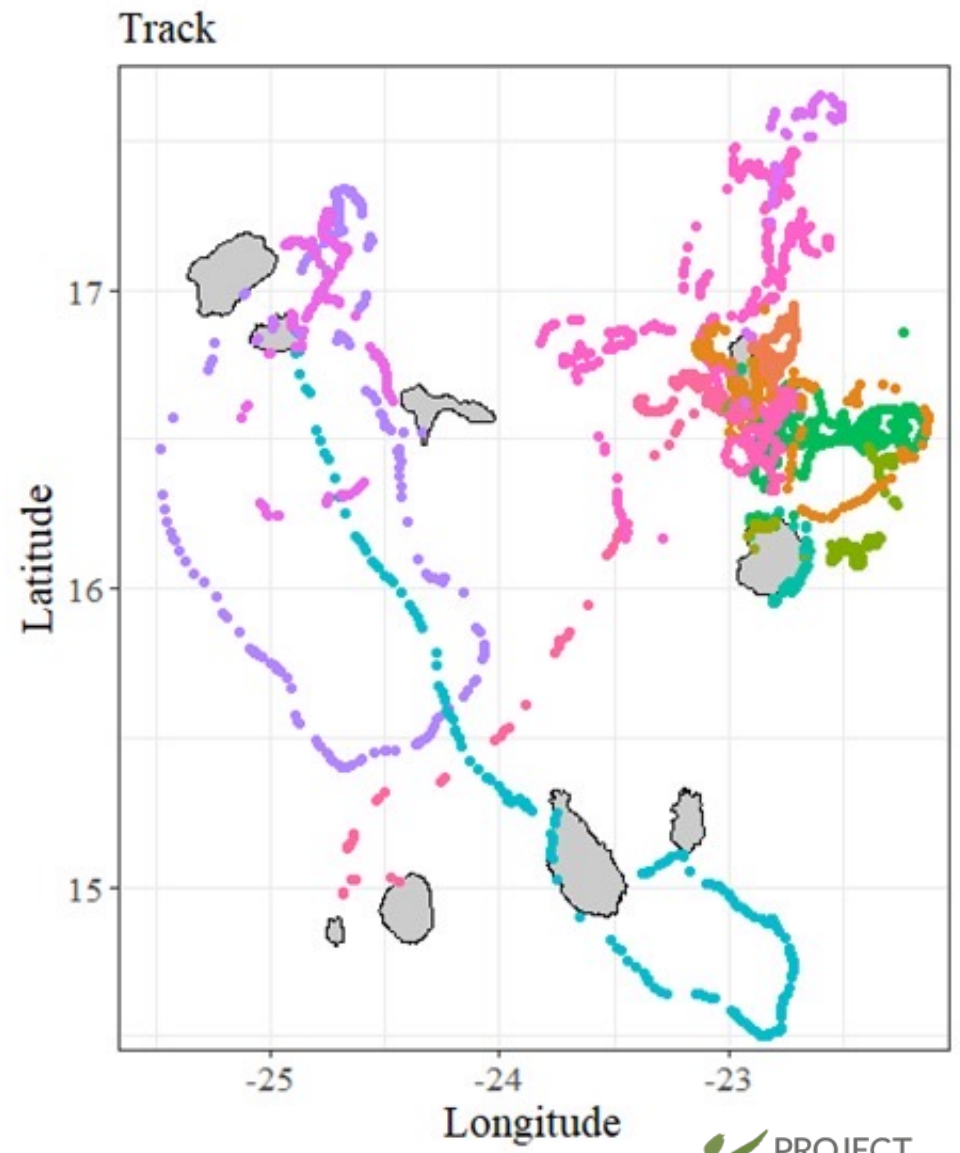
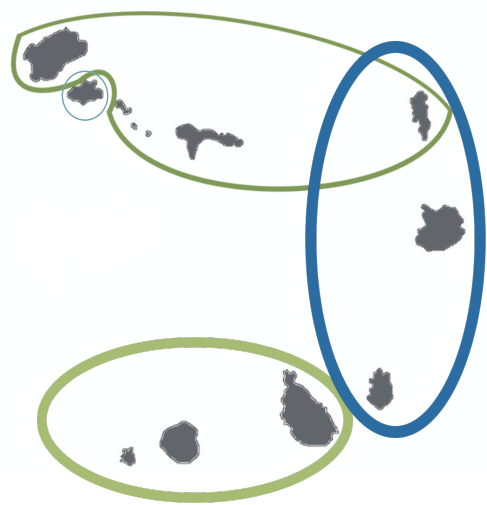
In 2023, **3276 nests** were relocated to a safer location.
Over **760,000 hatchlings** released from hatcheries since 2015



Research Collaboration



Genetic sampling of nesting females
GPS tracking
Investigations into sex determination



New approaches

Working on long-term sustainable initiatives





- Dune restoration and beach management
- Re-planting of endemic species
- Signaling and marking paths of use
- Continued monitoring of all flora & fauna
- Continued patrolling within these areas for infractions

Participative management with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment

Planning in cooperation with tour operators & businesses
Training in identification and importance of the areas and species





Guardiões do Mar

ILHA  SAL





Fishermen receive training in:

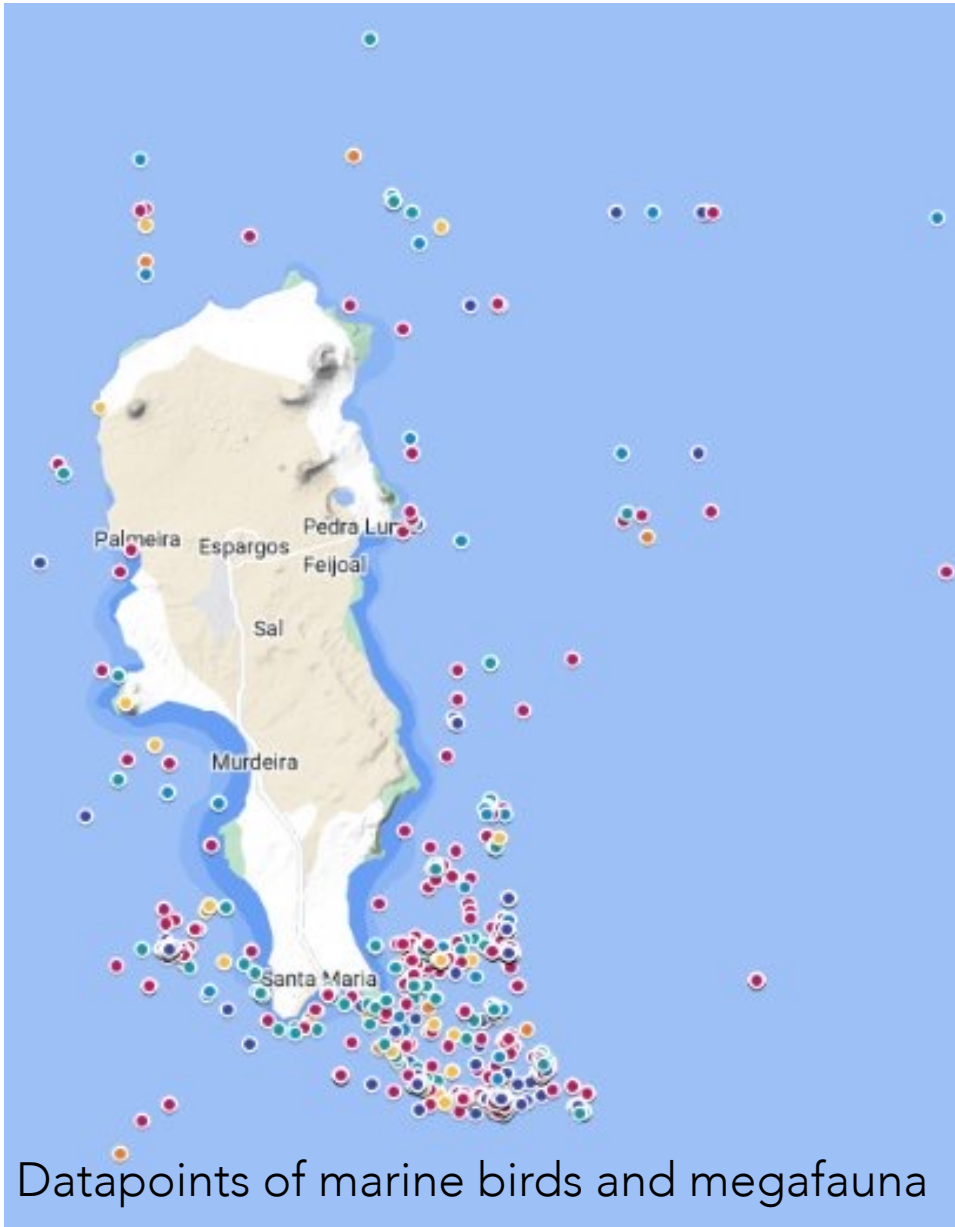
- Marine megafauna identification
- National fishing legislation
- Safety on board and first aid training
- Fish treatment and safety
- Skills – GPS & Sonar use



Assistance in organisation of the association through development of a strategic and action plan for each association

Support with equipment to benefit the fisheries communities.





Datapoints of marine birds and megafauna

54 guardians and 40 boats
Creating a network of **local ambassadors**

Conservation Benefits

- Megafauna monitoring
- Reporting illegal fishing activities
- Record bycatch data
- Sensitisation and engagement of best practices
- Participation in underwater clean-ups

Engagement during the turtle nesting season to conduct voluntary night patrols on their local beaches.



Guardiões do Mar

ILHA  SAL



Parda – Shark Bay



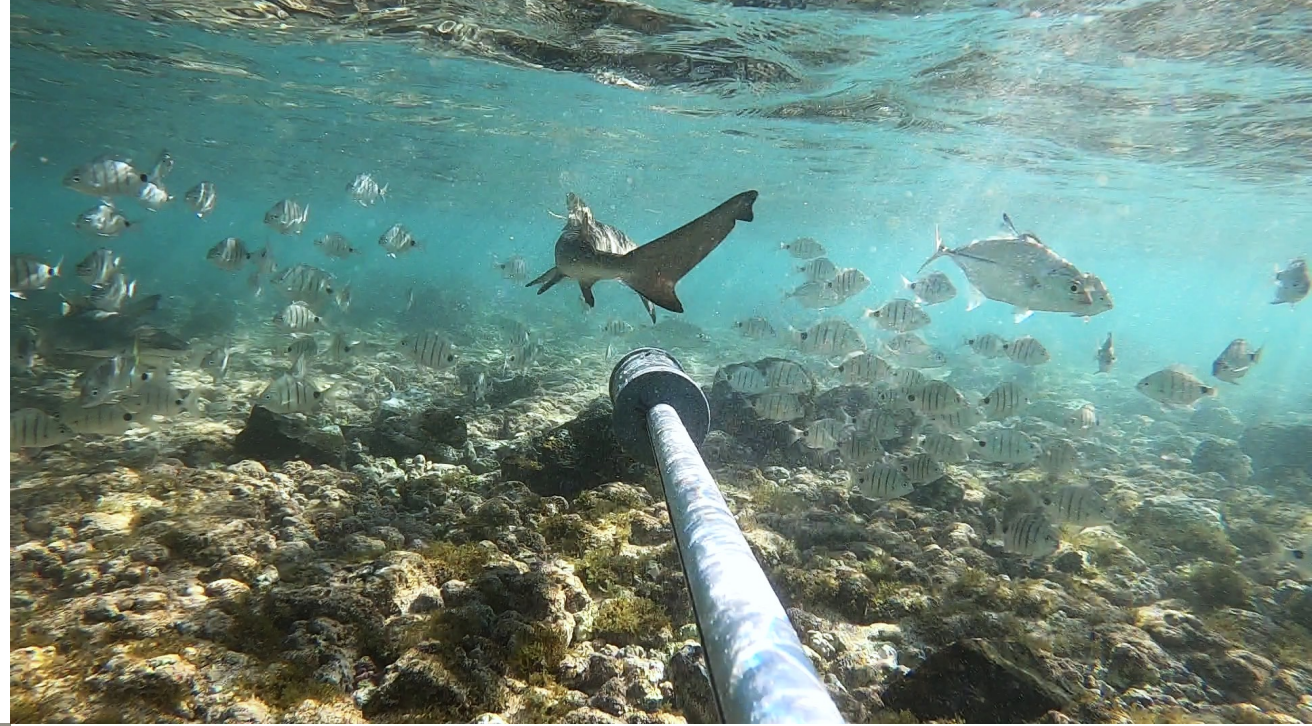
Community Activities

Training on customer services, finances, english, first aid,

Formalisation and legalisation of economic activities

Training on shark biology and ecology and best practices for shark watching

Over 30 people have formalised their businesses or employment situation



Conservation Activities

Shark monitoring activities

Shark tagging, measuring and DNA sampling

Deployment of BRUV

Turtle Patrols



Education & Outreach

Education & Outreach



Primary and Secondary School classes on a range of environmental topics.

Commemoration of important days (eg. Women's day, Turtle day, Ocean week...)

Weekly program on the community radio station

Homestay volunteering in Pedra de Lume

TV series "Mundo Sustentavel"



Education & Outreach

Tour operators/guides training

Tourism outreach

Hatchery information kiosk & public nest excavations

Beach and underwater cleans

Presentations in general





Outreach & Collaborations

Working together with the tourism sector:

Staff training (conservation/environmental topics)

Tourism outreach within hotels

Financial support for the turtle campaign and community initiatives



Member of the Tui Turtle Aid network which supports and connects NGO's worldwide

“Turtle Friendly” hotel certification in partnership with the TUI Care Foundation.



National Activities

Member of TAOLA: national network for turtle conservation

Founding member of TAOLA+, first international network of environmental conservationists

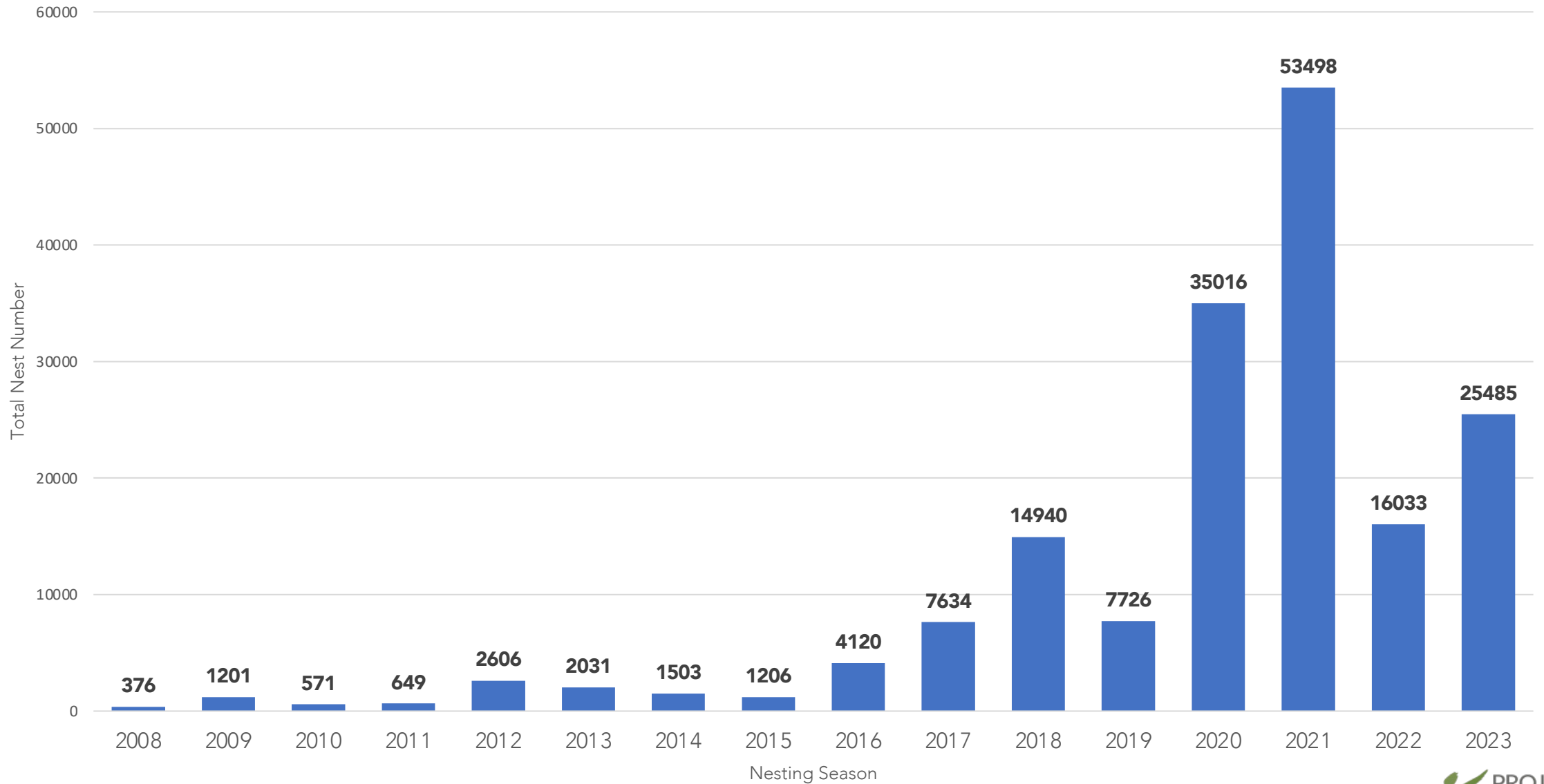


First nationwide study on social drivers of turtle consumption and market dynamics of illegal trade of turtle products.

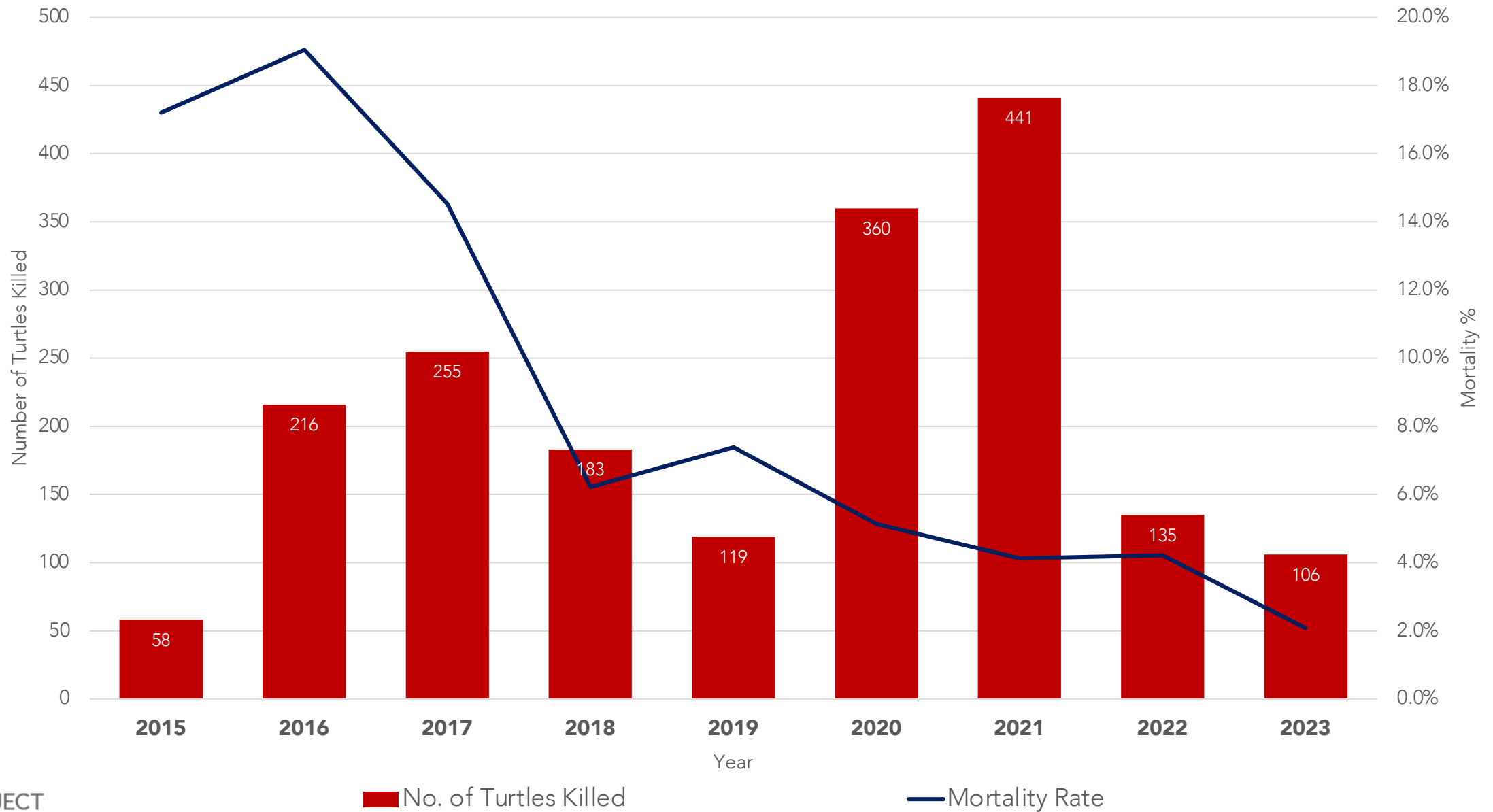
Next steps: design a behaviour change marketing campaign



Nest Tendency of Sal



Mortality 2015-2023



Thank you!

With no doubt we would have not achieved these goals without the support of all our partners and volunteers that make our work possible each year.





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