

**Puerto Rico's Country Report:
Community Leadership in Conservation**

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WIDECAST ANNUAL MEETING, YUCATAN, MEXICO, 2012



**Green turtle
Peje-blanco
*Chelonia mydas***



**Leatherback turtle
Tinglar
*Dermochelys coriacea***



**Hawksbill
turtle
Carey de
concha
*Eretmochelys imbricata***



Historical Background:

-1978: Protected by US Endangered Species Act

-1984: First Long-term nesting surveys (Culebra and Mona Islands)

-1986: Protected by State Law (Ley de Vida Silvestre)

-1987: Designation of Mona Island as critical nesting beaches for hawksbill turtle

-1999: Designation of Critical feeding habitats for Culebra and Mona/Monito Islands



Mona Island, 1984

Institutions:



Government Agencies

- Dept. Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER)
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- US National Marine Fisheries Service



Universities

- University of Puerto Rico (Dept. of Biology-Rio Piedras/CATEC)
- Sea Grant Program
- Atlanta Zoo



NGOs

- Chelonia, Inc.
- Amigos de Amona
- WIDECAST
- Amigos de las Tortugas de Maunabo
- TICATOVE -Vieques
- Amigos del Tinglar-Arecibo



Goals of the program:

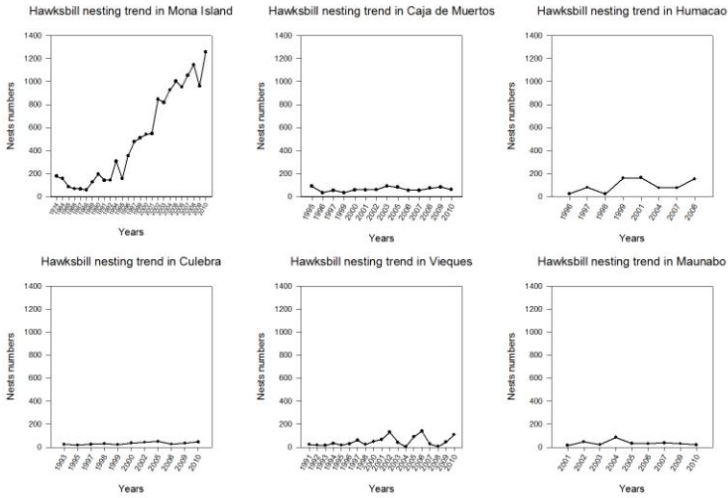
- 1) Status surveys
 - surveys (trends)
 - research (population dynamics)
- 2) Recovery
 - management actions
- 3) Protection
 - education and laws

Major nesting areas for hawksbills (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) in Puerto Rico

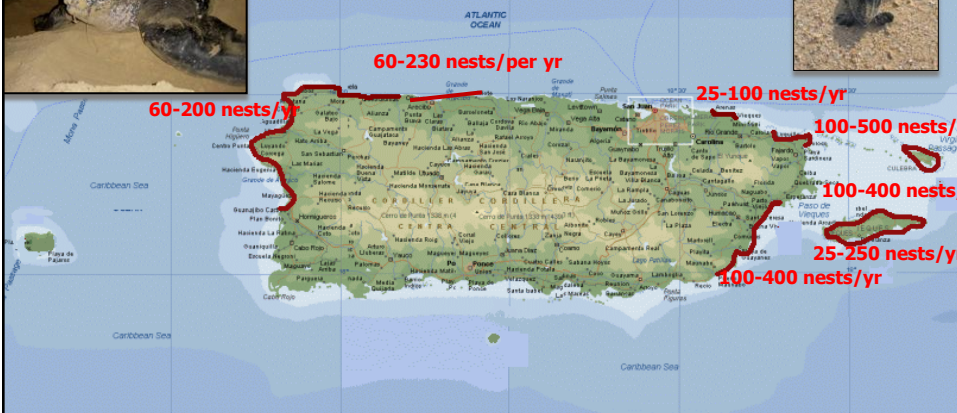


1,600 hawksbill nests were reported during 2011 nesting season in Puerto Rico

Hawksbill nests counts for several study sites in Puerto Rico

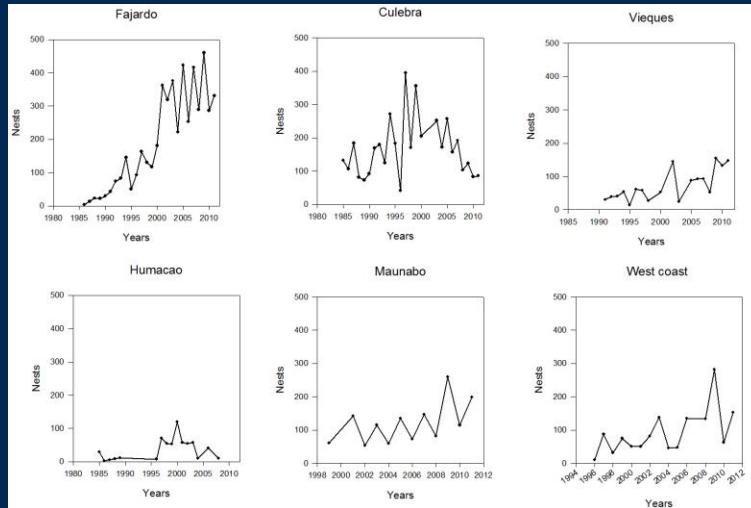


Major nesting areas for leatherbacks (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in Puerto Rico

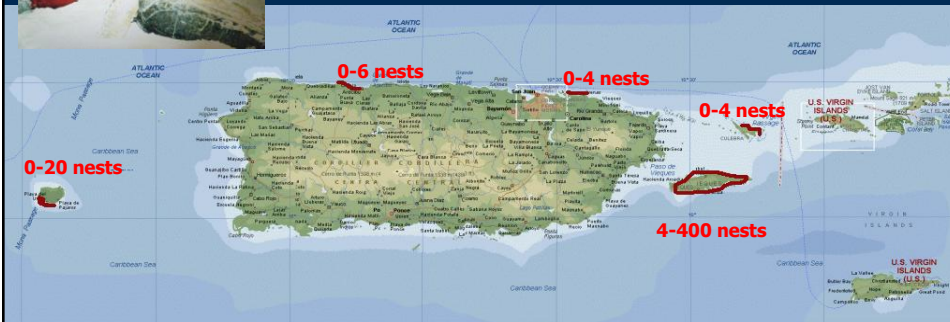


1,400 nests were reported during the 2011 nesting season in Puerto Rico

Leatherback nest counts for several study sites in Puerto Rico



Major nesting areas for green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in Puerto Rico



416 green turtle nests were reported in Puerto Rico during 2010

Principal in-water study areas in Puerto Rico



Major threats

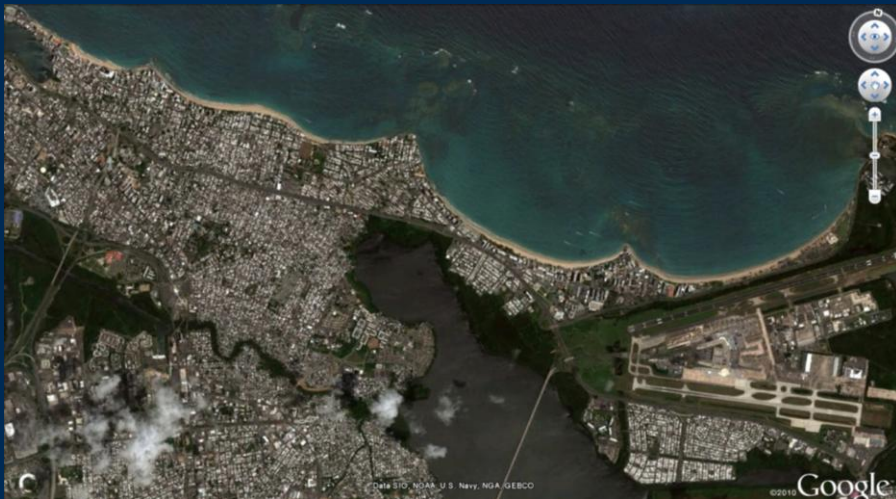


Image from a part of the north coast of Puerto Rico (Isla Verde, Carolina, PR)



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Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network

NGOs

- Chelonia, Inc.
- Amigos de Amona
- WIDECAST
- Amigos de las Tortugas de Maunabo
- TICATOVE –Vieques
- Amigos del Tinglar-Arecibo



ATIPUR



Community Groups collaborates with government on collecting basic important data on nesting activities and hatchling production



Community Groups also assist in management and conservation actions:



Community Groups also assist in management and conservation actions:



Nests protection from tents, fires, ect...





Beach clean-ups



Education

First national meeting with local NGO's
(mainly from the community) held on February 25th 2012



Encuentro de Grupos Tortugeros de Puerto Rico

*Edificio de Agencias Ambientales Cruz A. Matos
4to. Piso Sala de Conferencias
25 de febrero 2012*

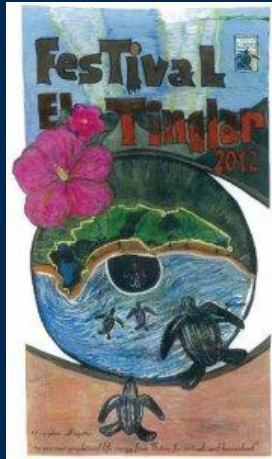
9:30am-10:00am -	Llegada y Registro de Participantes
10:00am-10:15am -	Bienvenida y Propósito del Primer Encuentro de los Grupos Tortugeros de Puerto Rico
10:15am-10:30am -	Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales- Programa de Tortugas Marinas: -Objetivos -Permisos e Informes -Manejo e investigación
10:30am-11:45am -	Presentaciones de Grupos Tortugeros de Puerto Rico: Introducción a la Organización, trabajos que realizan, y Resumen de la temporada 2011 (Cada Grupo tendrá 15 mins para Presentar) <small>ATMAR (Comunidad de Mayagüez)</small>



8 Community Groups and > 80 persons from all over the island participated on the meeting



DNER Secretary, Lesbia Montero, Luis Crespo (ATMAR)



ATMAR



QUESTIONS:

