

St Eustatius Country Report



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Outline



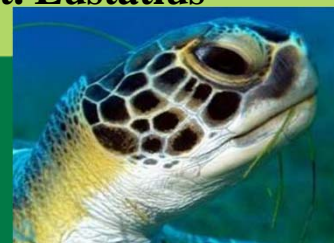
- **Just where is St Eustatius?**
- **Laws protecting turtles**
- **Turtles in the Marine Park**
- **Statia's Role in Sea Turtle Conservation**
- **Research on Statia's Sea Turtles on land and in-water**
- **Questions**





Laws protecting Sea Turtles in St Eustatius

- 1978 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention)
- Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA W) Protocol of the Cartagena Convention
- Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
- Turtles are protected year round on St. Eustatius



Species of turtles in Statia's waters

Leatherback Turtle

Hawksbill Turtle

Green Sea Turtle

Loggerhead Turtle

(unconfirmed sighting in 2003,
confirmed tracks in 2010/13)



Statia's role in sea turtle conservation

Goal: to promote the long term survival of the endangered sea turtles populations of Statia

- Monitor sea turtle nesting and foraging populations
- Protect habitat and reduce impacts on nesting populations
 - Conducting beach clean-ups
 - Limit impacts on nesting beaches (sand mining, erosion, driving)
- Involve the local community





Concerns on index beach:



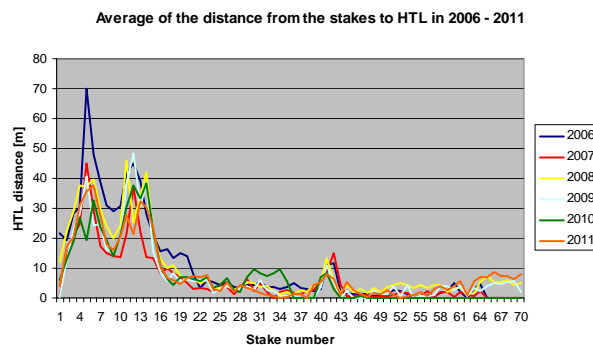
Research and Monitoring past, present, future



Beach Mapping 10 years - ongoing



- Long term record of sand movement and beach erosion
- Facilitates better management of the nests and decisions on relocation or not

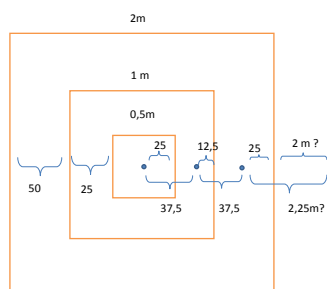


Sand temperature survey – Swansea University

- Black volcanic sand
- Some areas high % of cooked eggs
- Results so far....



Shading experiment – Wageningen University



Palm leaves, white sand, white sheet



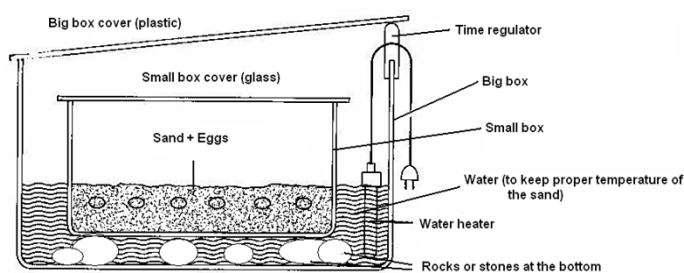
Preliminary results: Palm leaves seem to work the best, dropping the temp by up to 1° after 3 days

Leatherback Hatching Success

- History of low nesting success
- 2009 – pilot nest relocation project
- Hatching success in relocation area was 0%
- Use the shading method advised or ...



Incubation



Program has the equipment and know how but no opportunity yet



Future project: sand analysis



In water surveys



In-Water survey in 2008 and 2011

- Survey is done around the entire island
- Most sightings are on the Caribbean side of the island – the busiest side



In Water Dive Sightings

- Collaboration with the local dive shops to provide data of all sighted sea turtles in marine park
- Started in 2005 and is ongoing
- Size, sex, distribution, activity, environment, periods



G5 Loggers – Swansea University

- G5 's record temperature and pressure
- Learn about movements and feeding behaviour
- Sleeping turtles on the Chien Tong Wreck



Population assessment at Chien Tong

- Results from the G5 logger research continued in follow up population assessment study (40 turtles counted)
- Tagging Sea turtles with all-weather paint stick and the Lincoln-Petersen method will be used



Notable since we last spoke



Albino green hatchlings

- Track – 5 time visitor to Statia
- Miracle nest relocations



Laid Dec 13, hatched March 31

108 days incubation!!!!!!



Thanks to the following:



Closing – Questions and Answers



Thank you for your interest