

Enhancement of marine turtles land habitat quality

Guadeloupe archipelago inshore planning

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WIDECAST

Réseau de Conservation des Tortues marines dans la Région de la Grande Caraïbe

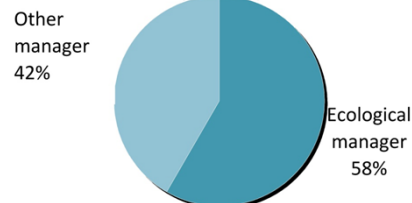


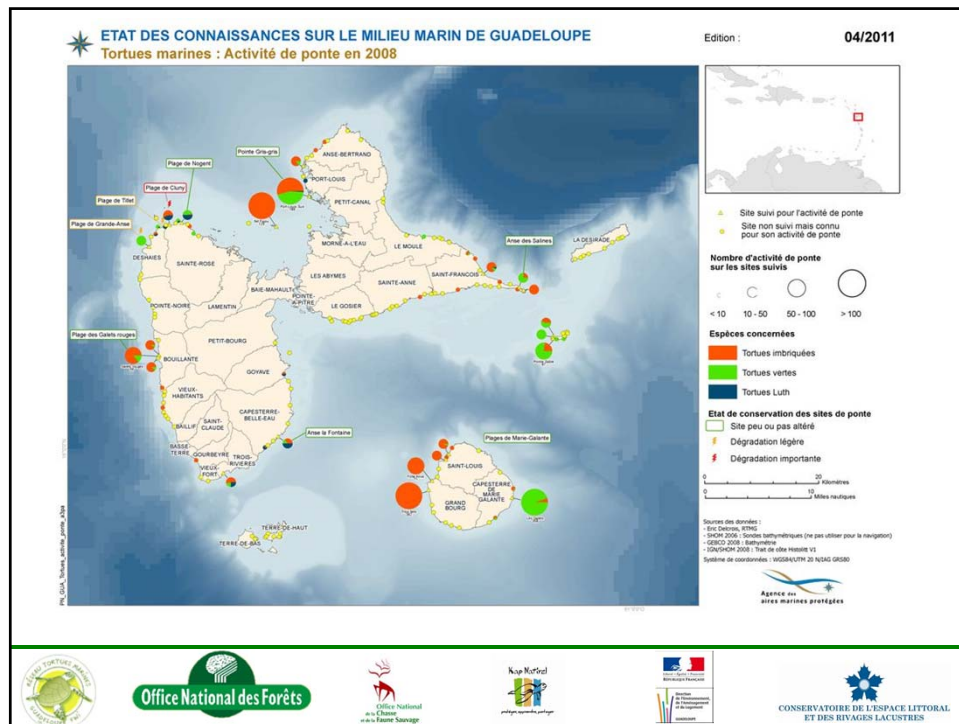
Introduction

- Seaturtles are protected since 1991, and their nesting sites habitats since 2005.
- The littoral is partially managed by ecological managers
- The Recovery Action Plan with a specific program for nesting sites habitats



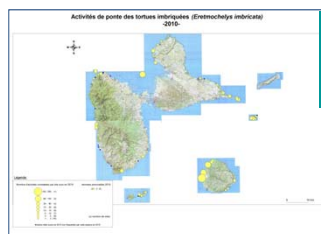
Management of nesting sites
(n=156)



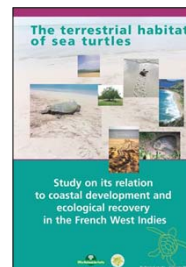


Strategy for restriction of threats

- 1 – Diagnosis of nesting sites : identification and quantification of threats (realized)
- 2 –Determination of priority sites with all stakeholders (in progress)
- 3 – Realization of actions of recovery (in progress) and/or improvement of legislation (to come)
- 4 –Realization and transmission of different documents, atlas and technical reports, and awareness documents

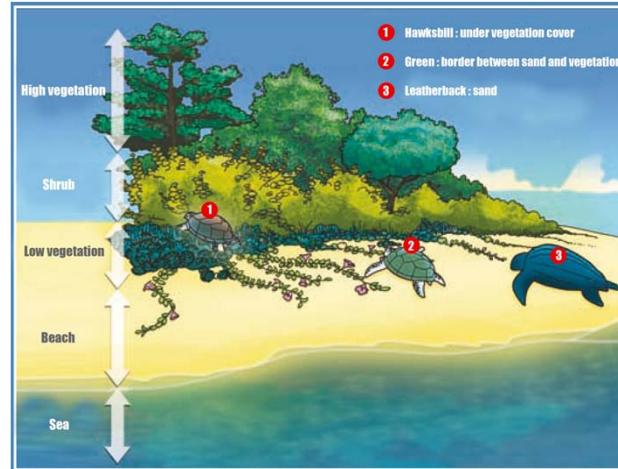


Atlas
available on
website



Ecological land habitats

- Seasonal semideciduous forest on sand soils (volcanic & chalky)
- Mostly degraded by human activities



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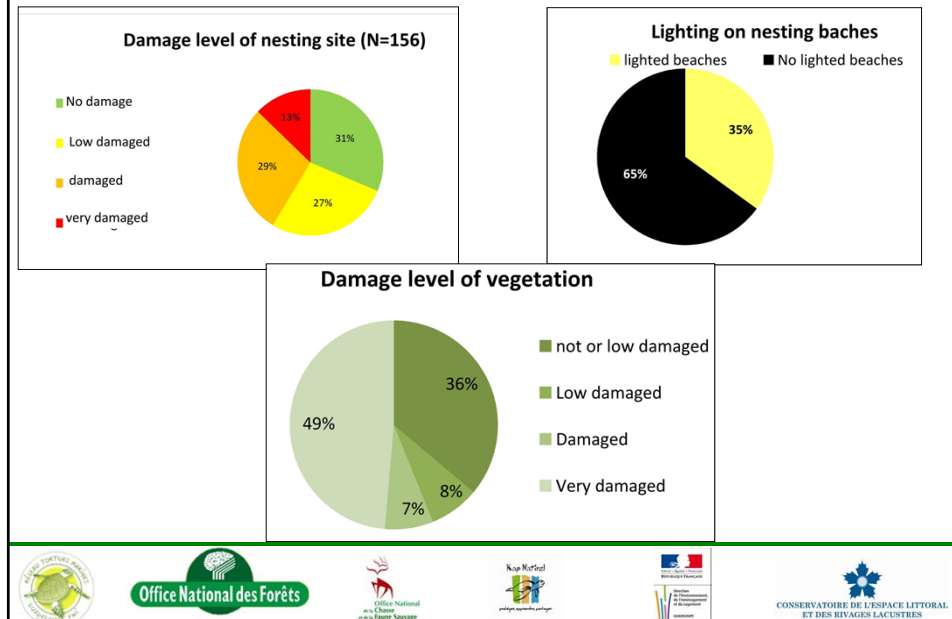


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Ecological state of « nesting sites »



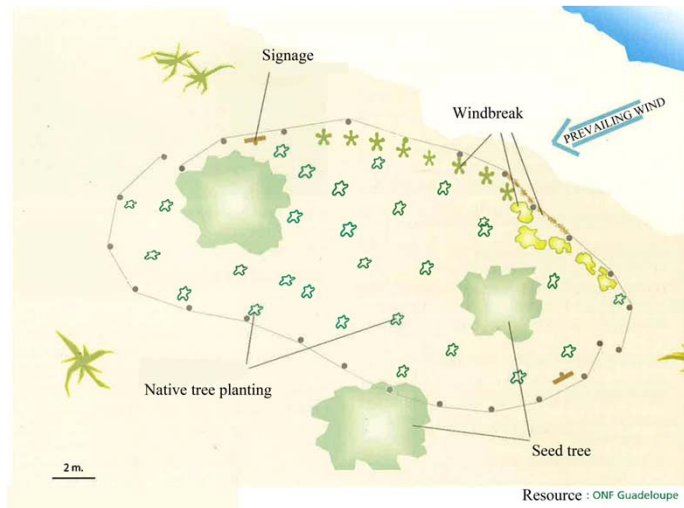
Main Actions

Inshore management plan = reducing human impact

- Reconstitution of the natural coastal plant cover
- Less erosion, buffer zone between sea and urbanized areas, cooler microclimate & less sun impact (sex-ratio)



Restoring plan cover : regeneration enclosures



Results



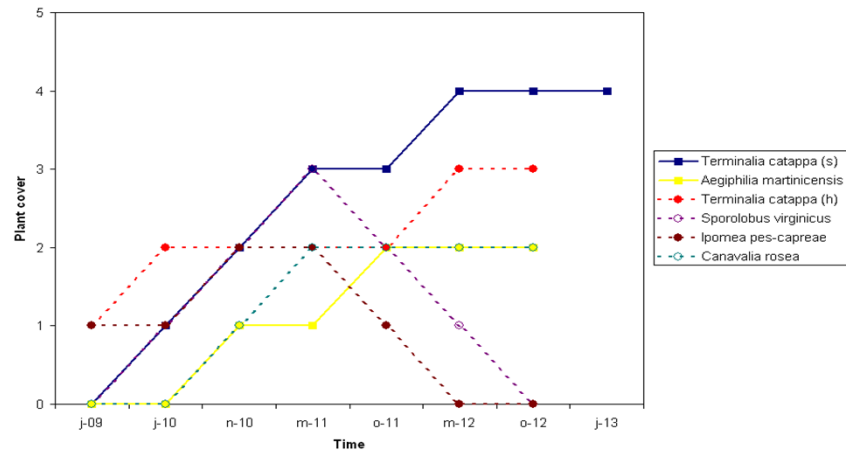
2007

2013





Restoring plant cover



Enclosure assessment

- ++ Vegetal cover, forest structure
- -- Enclosure degradation, invasive and/or exotic species to monitor
- ?? Plant diversity
- Scientific monitoring and regulation enforcement



Wooden fences

- Keep turtles from crossing road
- Live posts (*Bursera simaruba*, *glyceridia sp*)
- Wreathes fence of *Dichrostachys cinerea*



Wooden fences

- Test: 500-meter long fence
- Observation: mortality in fences but strong structure
- Expensive technique though much appreciated for landscape and for traditionnal know how



Complementary works

Reduction of light pollution



Management of vehicle access and parking



Complementary actions

Nesting survey by members of Network

Technical assistance for coastal managers: more than 10 per year

Proceedings: 4 in 2012

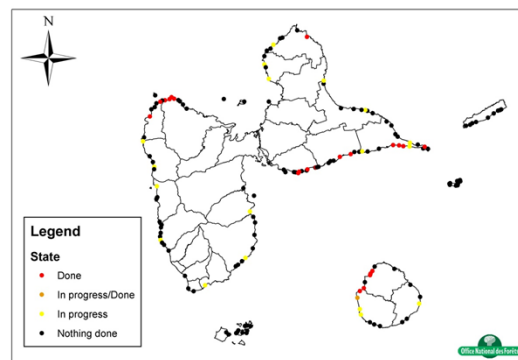
Training, information and outreach



Conclusion

Sea turtles are now better considered in coastal planning

Development of many projects for the recovery of nesting sites



Follow up work on light pollution: solutions for each beach



