

TURTLE VILLAGE TRUST



Kathryn Audroing

2018 WIDECAST AGM

Matura, Trinidad WI

18 -21 March 2018



Turtle Village Trust:



- Independent
- Non-partisan
- Non-profit

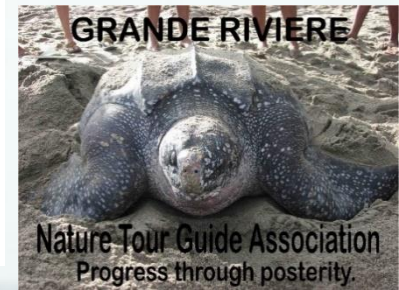
Since 2006, TVT facilitates empowerment and sustainable livelihood development of coastal communities of T&T through knowledge-based sea turtle conservation, protection and monitoring initiatives.

Turtle Village Trust:

Sea turtle
conservation
by communities,
for communities
and in
communities.

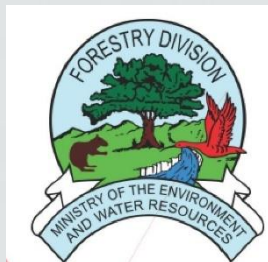


Founding partners



Title sponsor of the NSTCP

Other key stakeholders

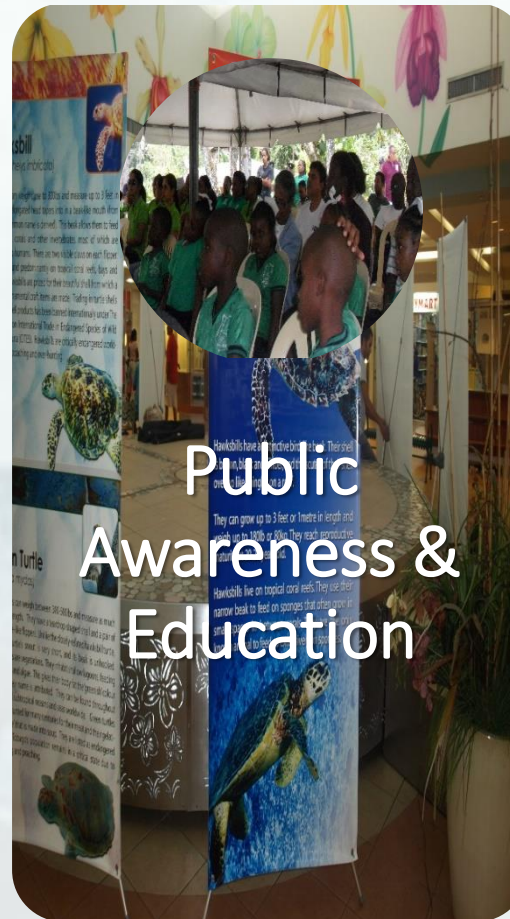


Areas of focus

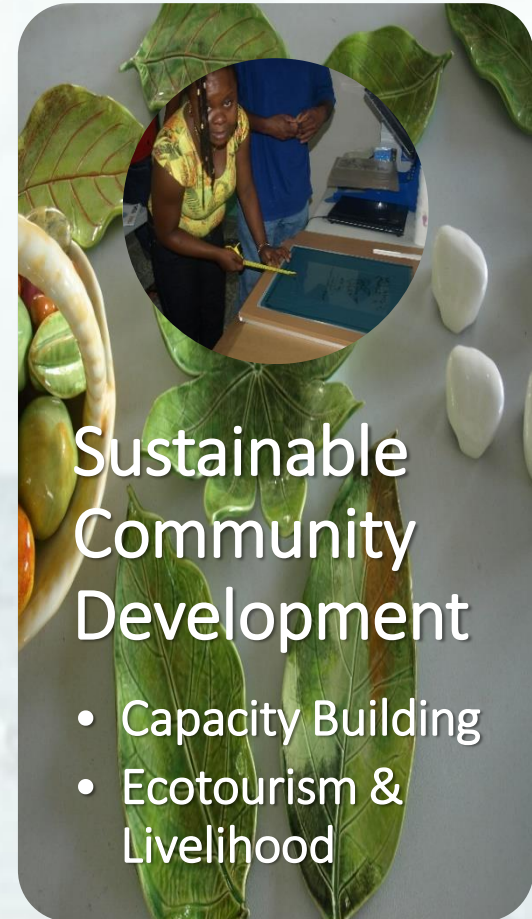


Conservation

- Research & Monitoring
- Protection
- Climate change



Public Awareness & Education



Sustainable Community Development

- Capacity Building
- Ecotourism & Livelihood

Sea turtle conservation by communities, for communities and in communities.

Conservation



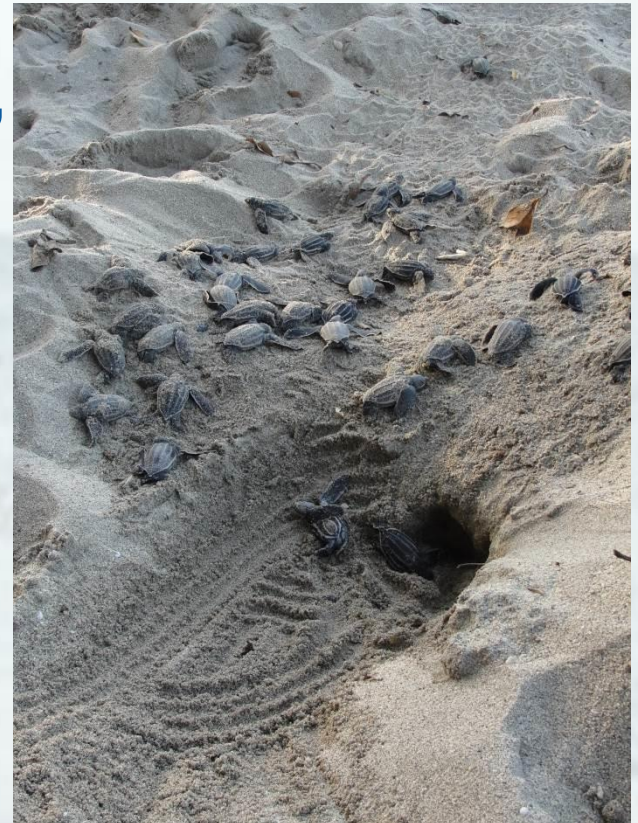
Patrols, tagging, data collection and study are carried out on a nightly basis consistently throughout the nesting season:

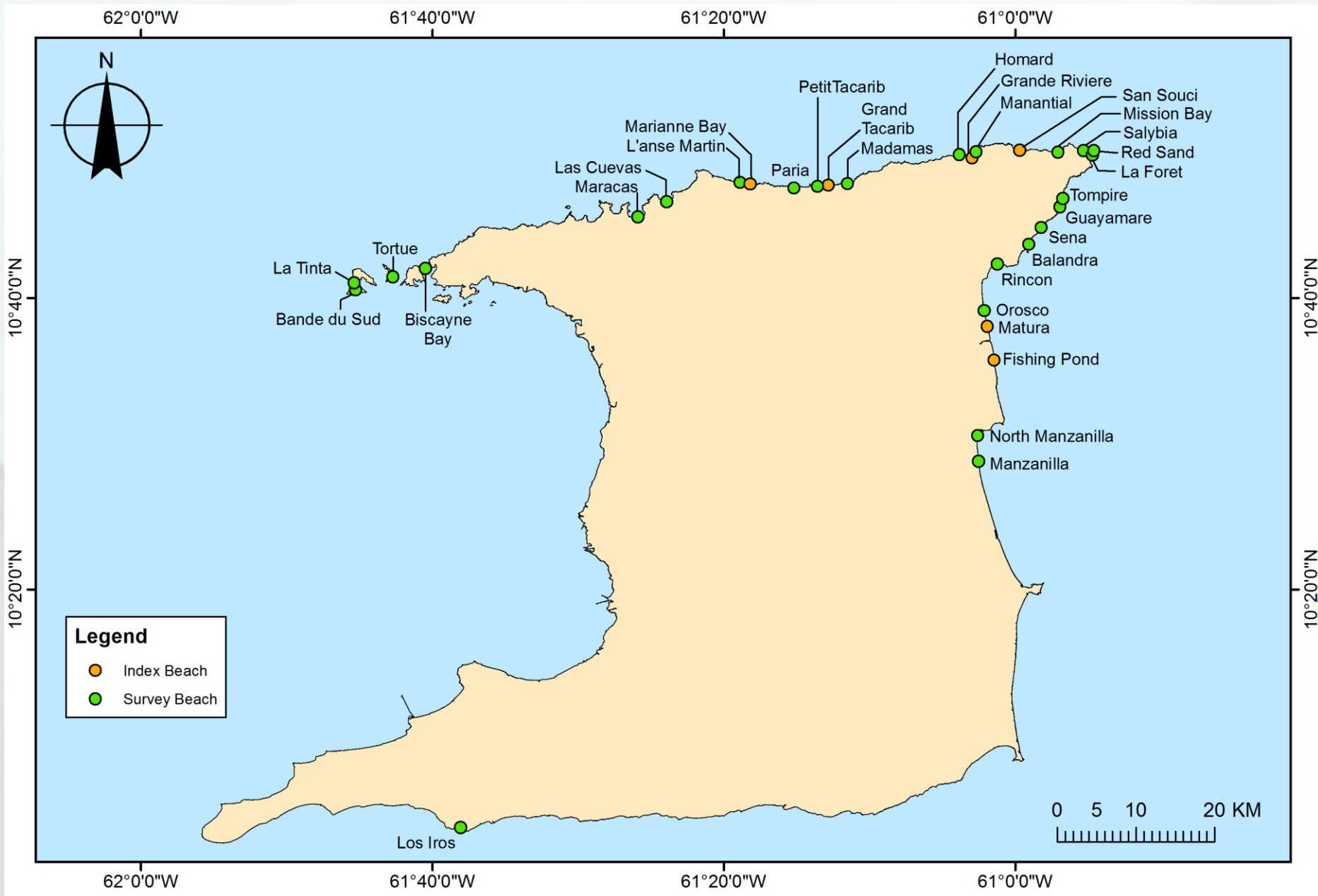
- Index beaches

Trinidad: Grande Riviere, Matura, Fishing Pond, Grande Tacarib, Manzanilla, San Souci/Big Bay, Blanchisseuse Bay

Tobago: Turtle Beach, Back Bay, Grafton/Stonehaven, Star Wood Bay and Bacolet Beach

- Survey beaches: 36+





60°50'0"W

60°40'0"W

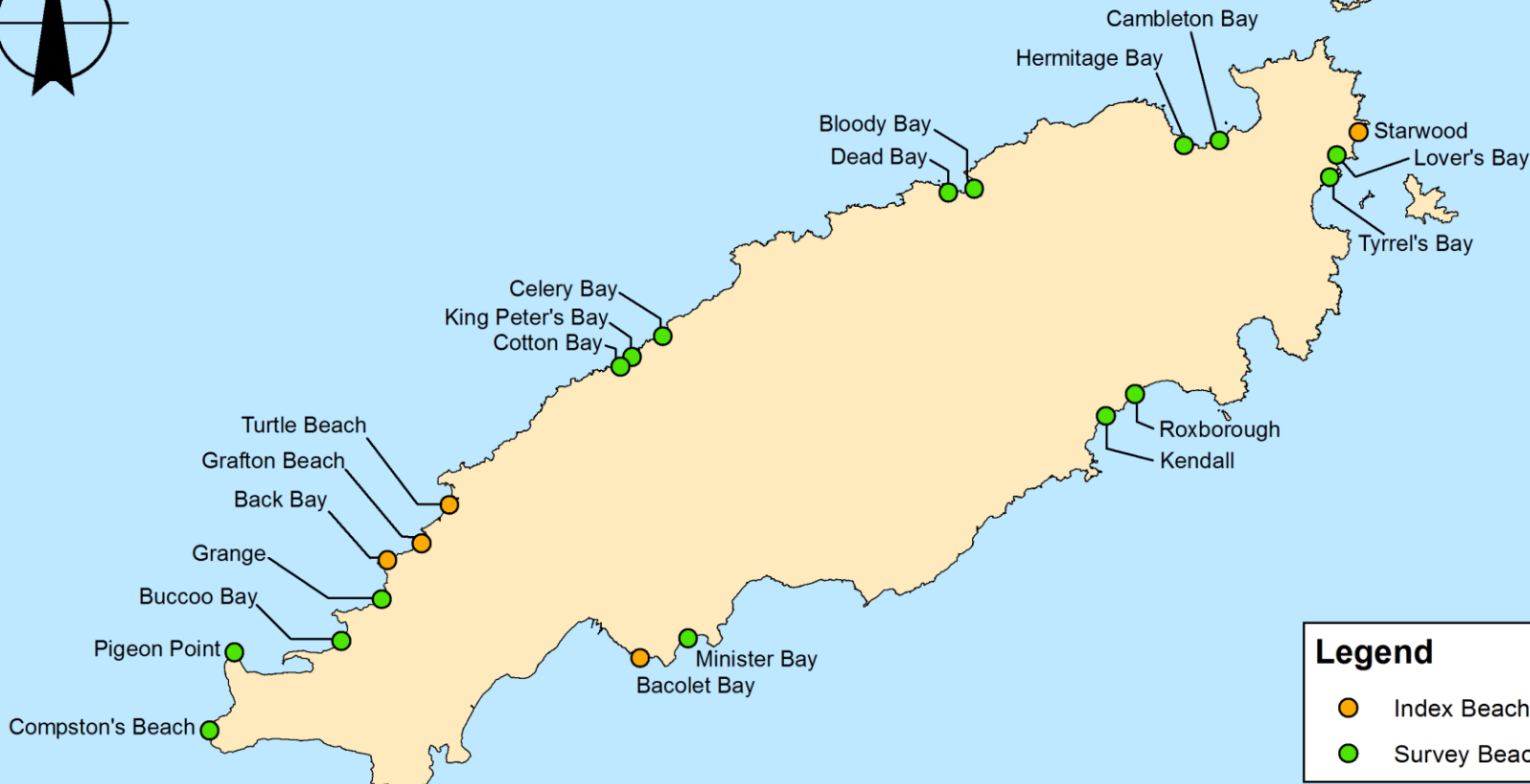
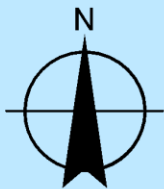
60°30'0"W

11°20'0"N

11°20'0"N

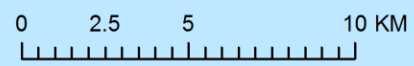
11°10'0"N

11°10'0"N



Legend

- Index Beach
- Survey Beach



60°50'0"W

60°40'0"W

60°30'0"W

Conservation

389 Project Participants –
Under 25 years: 12 female,
21 male

Community persons trained in

- sea turtle tagging and data collection
- nest excavation and evaluation
- beach profiling
- offshore sampling and in-water
 - SCUBA
 - Kayak
- satellite telemetry

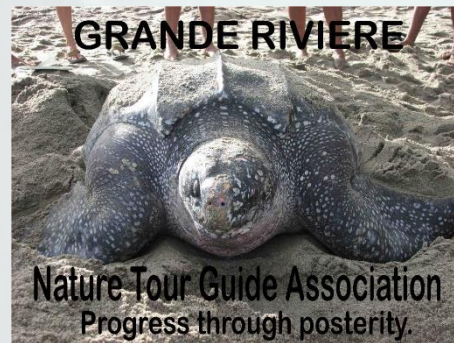


Engaging Communities

Tobago: 7 CBOs across 29 beaches

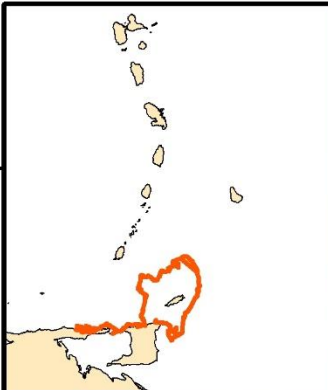


Trinidad: 10 CBOs across 19 beaches

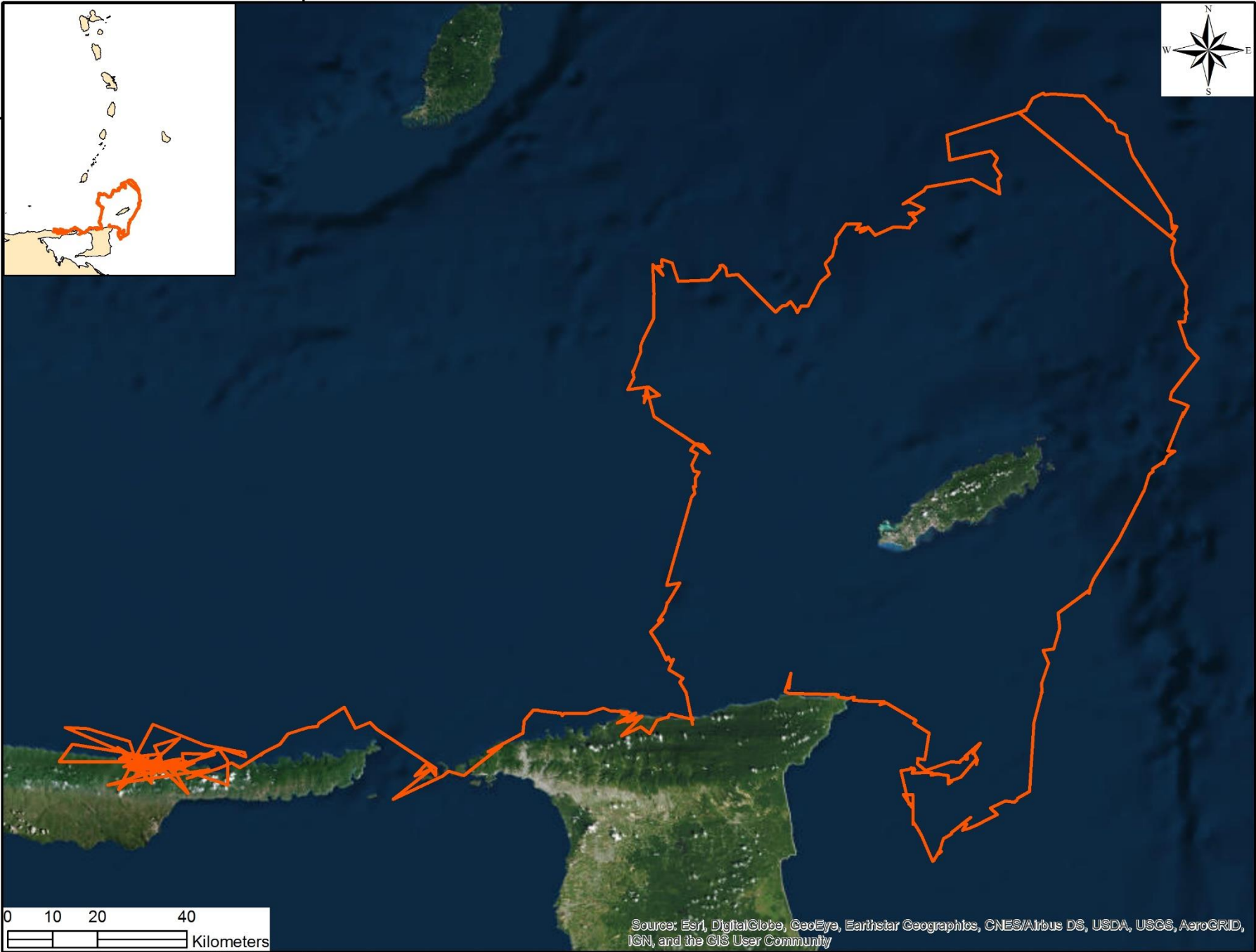


12°0'0"N

62°0'0"W

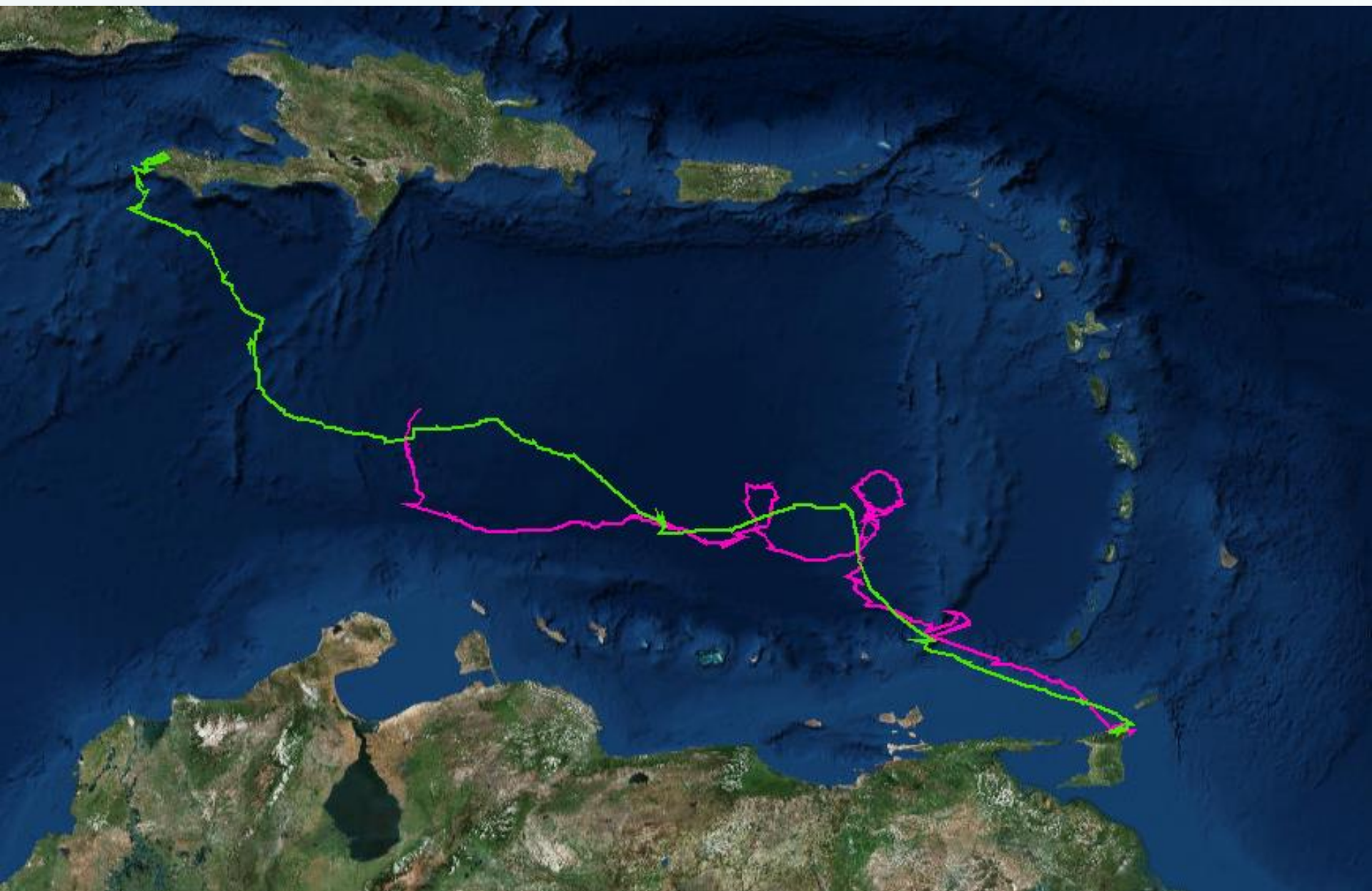


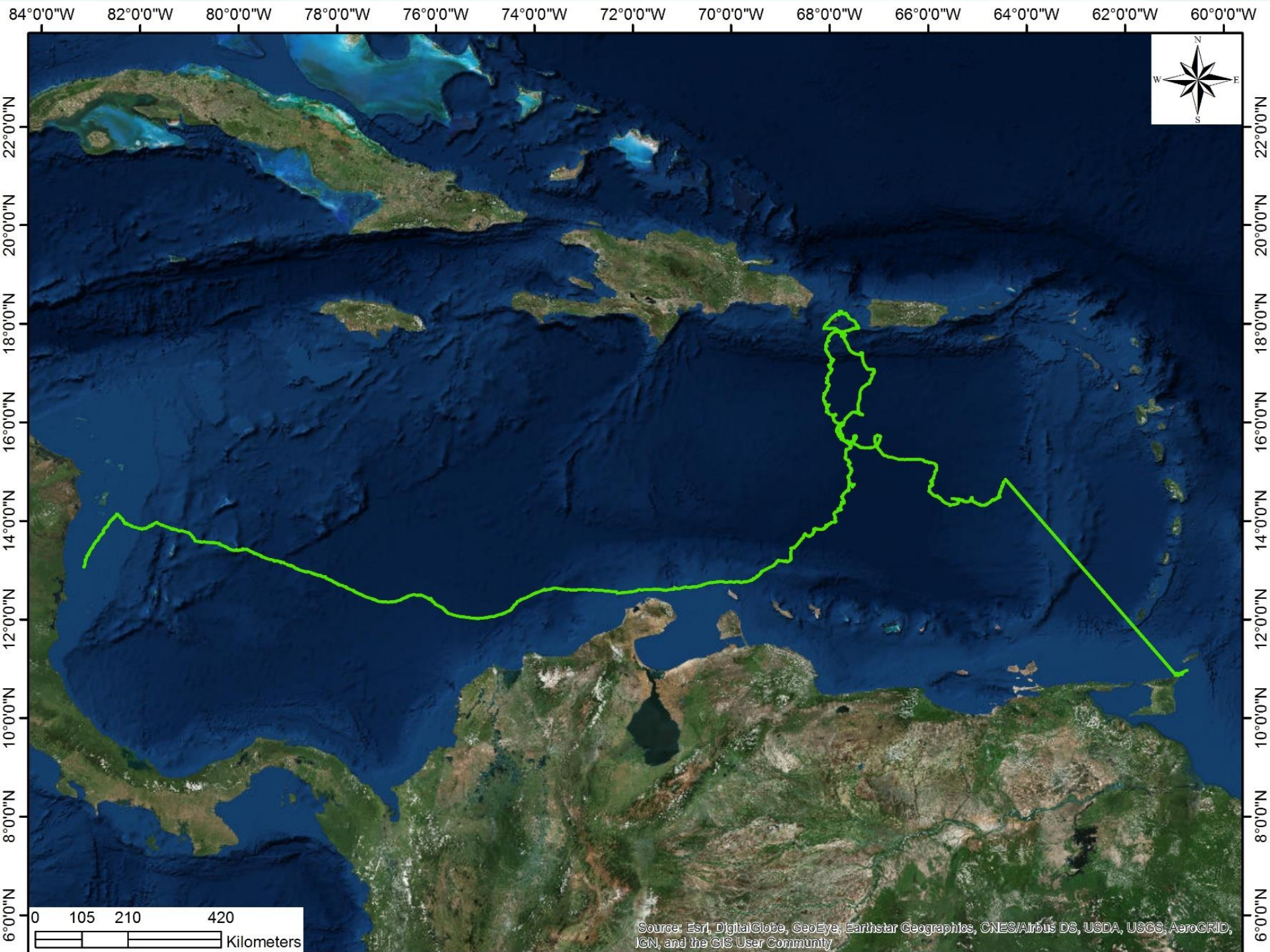
12°0'0"N



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

62°0'0"W





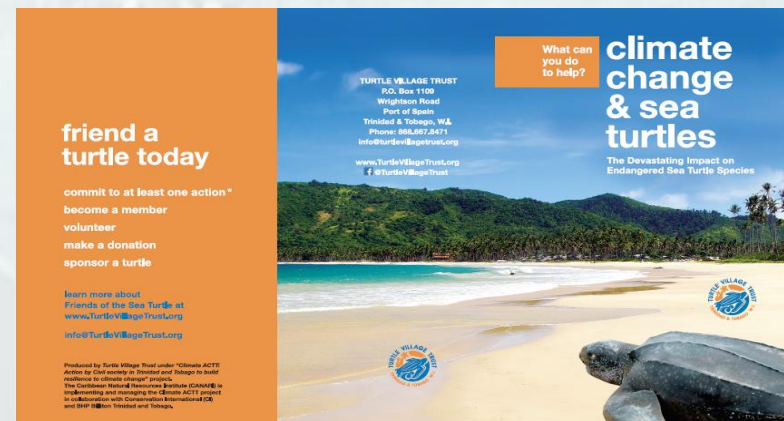
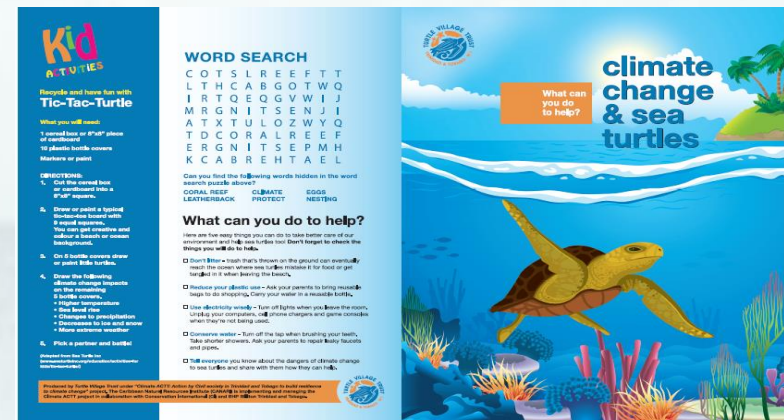


Climate Change

“Climate ACTT: Action by Civil society in Trinidad and Tobago to build resilience to climate change”

Practical Adaptation Project

TVT developed communication materials to educate the public on the impact of climate change on society and sea turtles as well as measures to reduce and adapt to the impact of such changes





Climate Change & Sea Turtles

Oceans cover 70% of the Earth's surface, play an important role in our climate and are significantly impacted by climate change.

Save about 25% of fuel use



Approx 95% of the heat energy from warming of the Earth has been stored in the oceans.

The Warming Earth



Sea turtles are truly resilient animals that have survived millions of years of global changes, not only due to their ability to migrate but to the environmental pace of climate change and other human-mediated impacts. Sea turtles are bioindicators, whose message to man is that slowing and reversing climate change is urgent.

INCREASED AIR TEMPERATURE



INCREASED CO2 LEVEL

INCREASED SEA TEMPERATURE

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What can you do?

Reduce your greenhouse gas emissions and friend a sea turtle today



Recycle & reduce use of plastics



Turn off lights when you leave the room



Use compact fluorescent light bulbs



Conserve water



Hang dry your clothes

Sea turtles including those that nest in Trinidad and Tobago have survived climate fluctuations throughout history. However, their ability to do so again is uncertain since current climate change rates are much faster today and there are many other human-caused pressures to cope with as well.

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What is Climate Change?



Climate change is a change in the normal pattern of weather and climate over an extended period of time (decades or centuries).

What causes climate change?

Climate change results from the increase in the Earth's temperature – also called global warming – caused by a build up of carbon dioxide and other atmospheric greenhouse gases due to human activity.

Climate or weather?

Climate is the average weather over a long period of time, typically decades or longer. Weather describes the atmospheric conditions – temperature, rainfall and winds – over a short period.

What does climate change look like in the Caribbean?

Climate change will impact sea turtles ability to successfully nest in the Caribbean, including Trinidad & Tobago.

The Caribbean Sea has already warmed by 1.5°C in the past century!

Increased rainfall leading to severe flooding in Guyana and Haiti.

Decreased rainfall has led to severe droughts in Jamaica, Cuba and Belize and water shortages in Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, St Kitts & Nevis and Tobago.

More unusual and frequent extreme weather like Hurricane Ivan 2004, Katrina 2005, Sandy 2012 and Matthew 2016 that have hit Caribbean islands.

1. World's Sea Levels Raising 30cm Over 100 Years

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climate change & sea turtles

The Devastating Impact on Endangered Sea Turtle Species

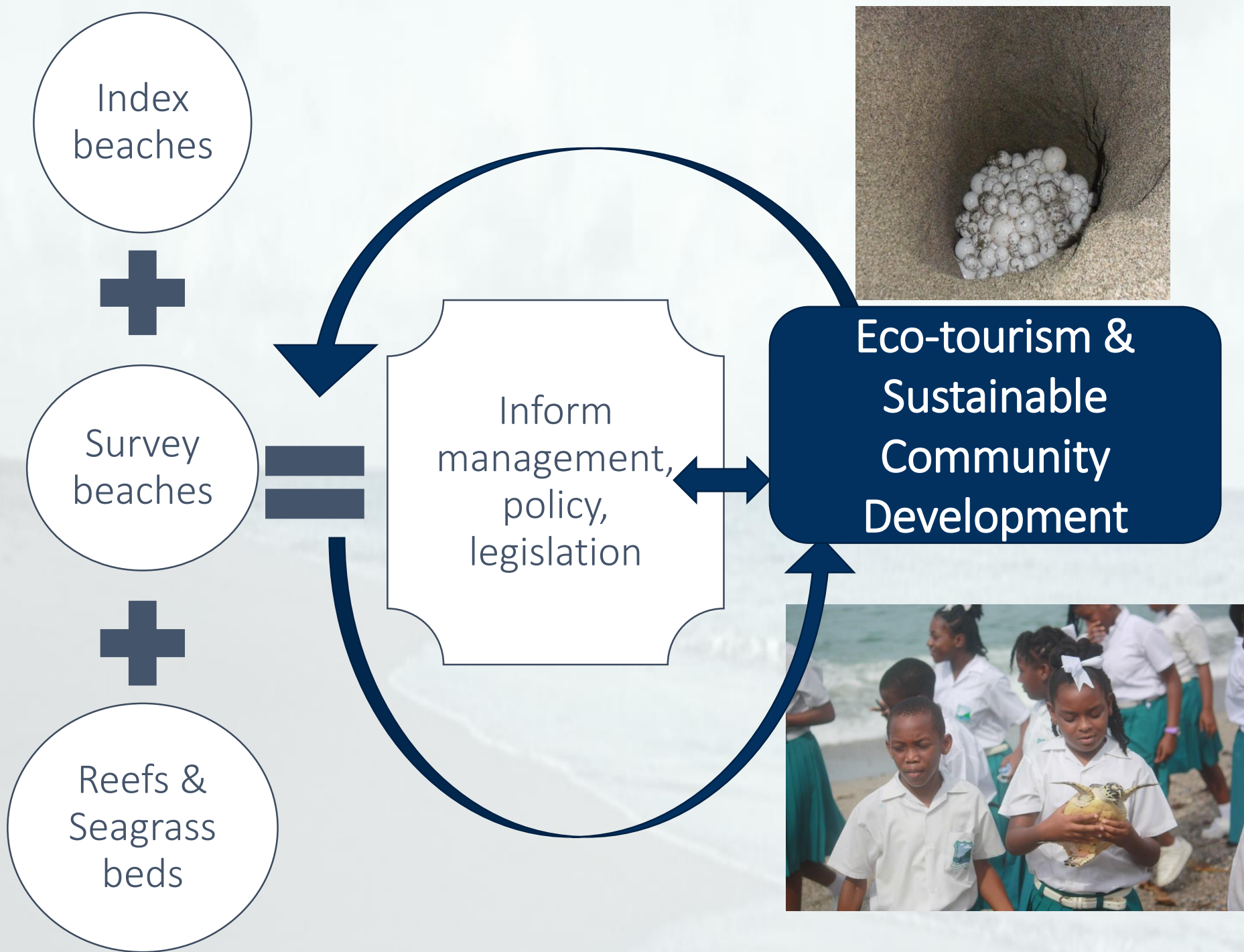


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Conservation

OUTPUTS

- The **protection and monitoring** of our marine turtle nesting populations and gather information to provide the most **accurate assessment of the population size** of leatherbacks, hawksbills and greens and strengthen the National Sea Turtle Database that will inform management, policy and legislative decisions.
- Information will be gathered about the **resident population** of hawksbills and greens, foraging on the reefs and sea grass beds around Trinidad & Tobago that will inform management decisions.



Index
beaches



Survey
beaches



Inform
management,
policy,
legislation

Eco-tourism &
Sustainable
Community
Development

Reefs &
Seagrass
beds



Overcoming challenges

- ‘Natural’ phenomena:
 - Erosion
 - Sea level rise
 - Flooding
 - Dogs & predators
 - Sargassum





Overcoming challenges

- Safety of beaches
- Pollution
- Regulation of beach use:
 - Camping
 - Vehicles
- Coastal Development



Legislative support

- Amended Fisheries Act in 2011
- Designation Environmentally Sensitive Species April 2014 under ESS Rules

NOTICE

MADE BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY UNDER SECTION 41 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT

THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE SPECIES (OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE) NOTICE, 2014

1. This Notice may be cited as the Environmentally Sensitive Species (Olive Ridley Turtle) Notice, 2014.

2. In this Notice—

Interpretation
Chap 35:05

"Act" means the Environmental Management Act;

"Authority" means the Environmental Management Authority established under section 6 of the Act;

"disturbance" means any act that would affect the animal (whether on land or in the sea) or its habitat. It includes any action that affects the life of the animal and the animal's ability to swim, reach the shore, nest, return to the ocean and migrate onwards. These actions may include but not be limited to instances of poaching, touching, prodding, restraining or feeding the animal, obstructing the animal in the sea, standing or sitting on the animal, riding the animal as well as the use of flash photography or light sources near the animal during its nesting process;

"ecosystem" means a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit;

"environmentally sensitive area" or "ESA" means any defined portion of the environment so designated under section 41 of the Act;

"environmentally sensitive species" or "ESS" means any species of living plant or animal so designated under section 41 of the Act;

"hunt" has the meaning assigned to it in Rule 3(5) of the Rules;

"indigenous" means native to a particular area (may exist in other areas);

Sustainable Community Development

Capacity Building

Tour Guide Training –

17 community persons trained in March 2014 with the TTHTI



Leadership Workshop- Min. of Community Development –
30th April 2014

Community Small Business Training– 18 persons trained in
introductory elements of small business development

Sustainable Community Development

Capacity Building



Sea safety certification- 10 persons in March 2015 with CFTDI
Basic First Aid (CPR & AED) certification- 22 persons; BHP
sponsored 60 persons- April 2015
Defensive driving- BHP sponsored 60 persons-May/June 2015

Sustainable Community Development

Eco-tourism & Livelihoods



Lessons learned

- Our own identity
- Getting to know our funder
- Bringing together a range of stakeholders from varied backgrounds and expertise
- Limiting nature of geographical locations. Going forward the development of inter-connectivity.
- Forum for CBO's to air concerns
- Creating sustainability in communities- ?
- National Sea Turtle Committee, which went defunct in 2014
- Government relations

Local recognition

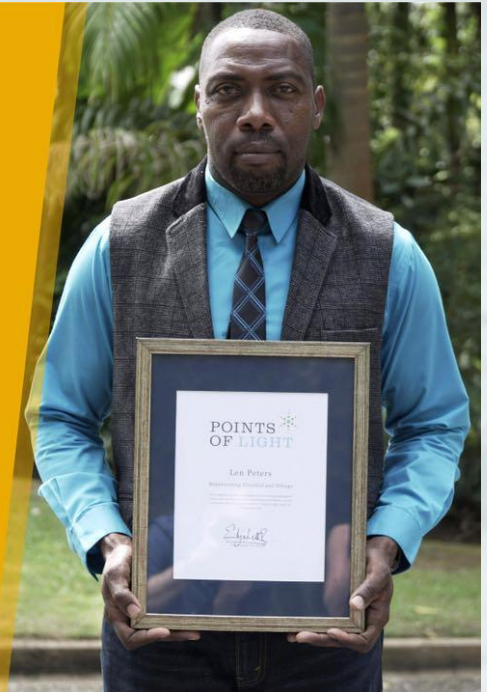


British
High Commission
Port of Spain

“ On behalf of the dedicated members of my organisation I am **honoured** to accept this Points of Light award. This award recognises many years of dedicated voluntary service by me and members of my community to protecting the environment and creating sustainable livelihoods. My acceptance of this award, on their behalf, will in some small way **inspire** others to see the value of voluntary service. I am truly honoured. ”

LEN PETERS

1st Commonwealth Points of Light Award Recipient 2018
President, Grand Riviere Nature Tour Guides Association



Moving forward



Conservation

- Sustaining Monitoring Programme
- Offshore-satellite, GPS
- Nest relocation & Hatchery



Public Awareness & Education

- Climate change booklet
- School Education Programme



Sustainable Community Development

- Capacity Building
- Ecotourism & Livelihood

Moving forward

Partnership for a Sustainable Future

