



2019 REGIONAL LEATHERBACK BY-CATCH PRIORITIZATION WORKSHOP

PARAMARIBO, SURINAME

17 – 18TH MARCH 2019



COUNTRY PRESENTATION:
GUYANA

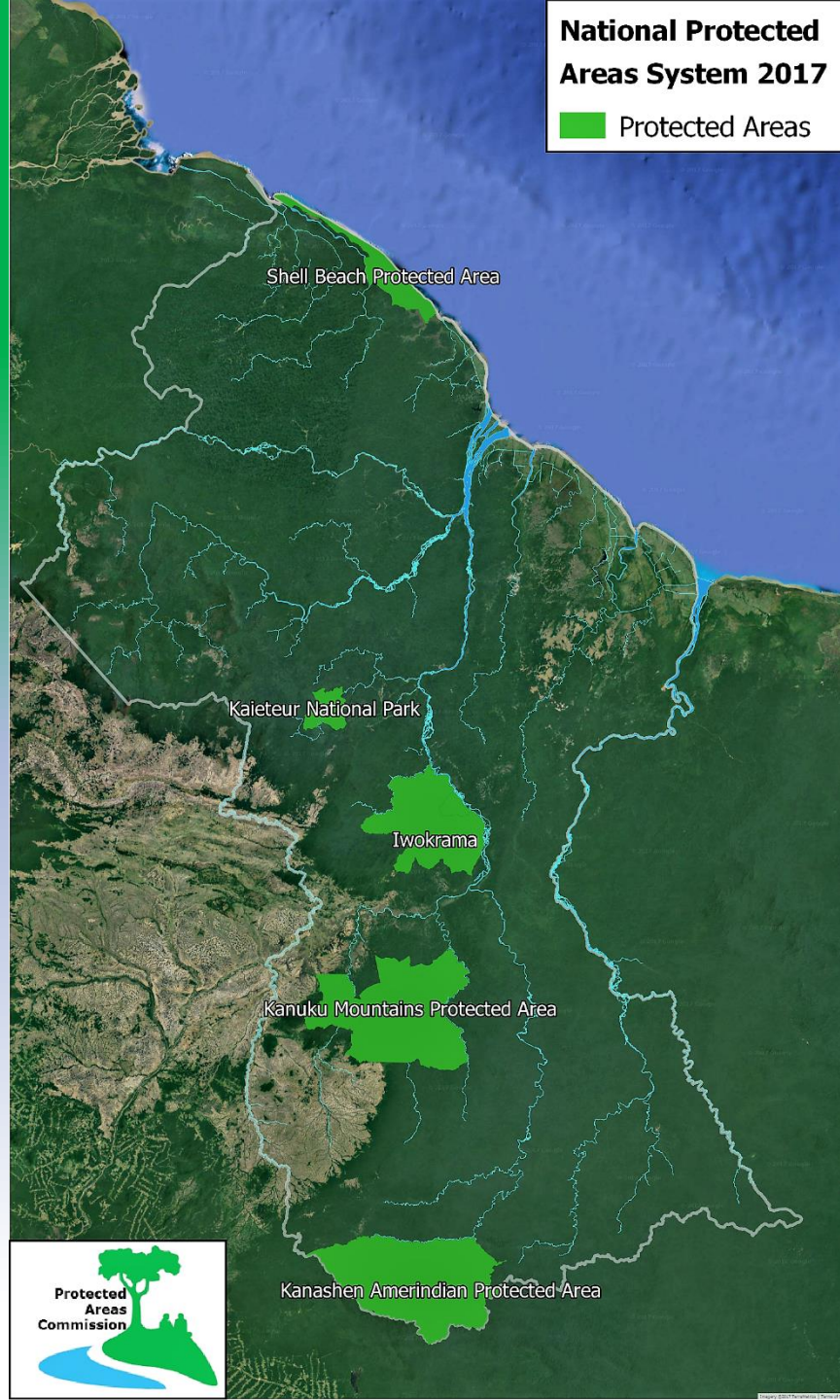
Organizations:

Protected Areas Commission
Ministry of Agriculture – Fisheries Dept.
WWF Guianas

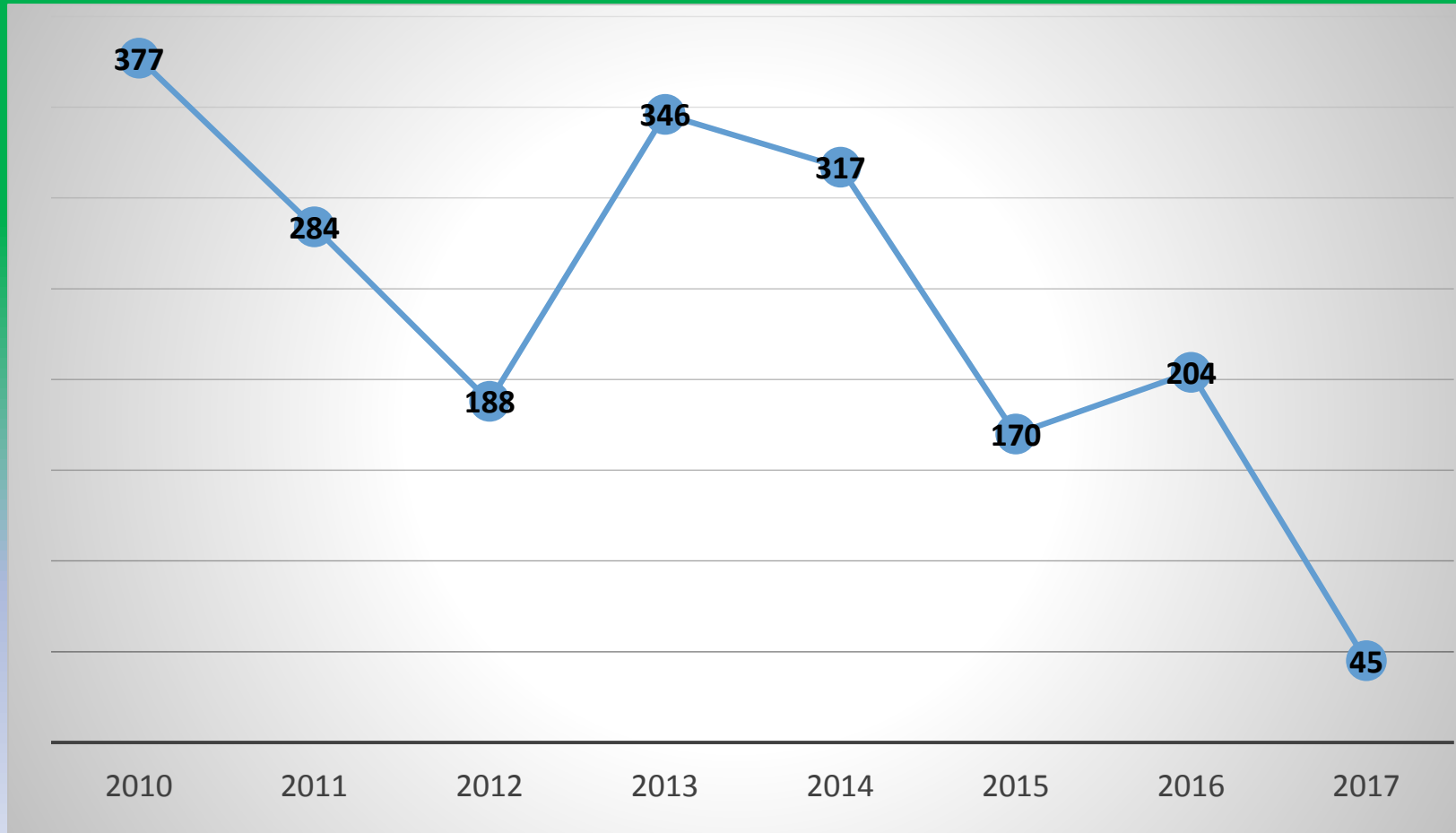
National Protected Areas System 2017

Protected Areas

- ❖ Established in 2011 - 123,055 ha
- ❖ Approximately 120 km of beach, mudflats, mangroves
- ❖ 4 sea turtle species nests (Green, Hawksbill, Olive Ridley, Leatherback)
- ❖ Important place for fishing, hunting, gathering, and other important traditional activities for local and indigenous communities



30+ YEARS OF SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION



2010-2015
GMTCS

2016-2018
PAC

**2018 - 56
INDIVIDUALS**

LEATHERBACK MONITORING AT SBPA

	Nest	False Crawls	Newly Tagged	Incidental Capture	Jaguar kills	Nest poached/ predated	Erosion	Monitoring Period
2010	377	33	77	7	0	2	0	Feb-Aug
2011	284	52	63	0	0	0	0	Feb-Aug
2012	188	23	63	1	0	0	0	Feb-Aug
2013	346	124	143	6	7	18 (dogs)	0	Feb-Aug
2014	317	60	90	1	0	64 (dogs)	0	Feb-Aug
2015	170	70	48	2 (injured); 1 (dead)	0	2 (poached); 6 (dogs)	0	Feb – July
2016	204	72		2	0	10 (5 dogs)	0	Feb-July
2017	45	15	9	3	0	1 (dog)	6	Feb-July
2018	56	21	3 (SAT)	0	0	4 (humans)	0	Feb - Aug



Migration Results

	Green	Leatherback
Average Speed (km/hr)	1.3 (0.6)	1.6 (0.7)
Maximum Speed (km/hr)	3.3	3.7
Minimum Speed (km/hr)	0.0	0.1
Distance from Shore (km)	23.1 (27.8)	764.9 (397.3)
Water Depth (m)	13.7 (10.2)	4,359.2 (1,333.7)
Dive Depth (m)	8.2 (5.9)	29.1 (43.1)
Maximum Dive Depth (m)	37.0	560.5
Tracking Duration (d)	75.0 (12.5)	41.0 (49.2)
Territorial Seas (country)	GY, SR, GF, BR	GY

- ❖ There is no systematic collection of Leatherback Bycatch data
- ❖ Not all fisheries by-catch are reported
- ❖ NNZ bulletins Published every year for SBPA

“NO NETTING ZONES” ALONG SHELL BEACH PROTECTED AREA, REGION 1

Incidental capture in gill nets (drift seines) set along the Shell Beach Protected Area continues to be a major threat to sea turtles that frequent the area. Since 2000, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Department, has implemented “No Netting Zones” along major nesting sites at Shell Beach in response to the high incidence of turtle mortality, mostly due to entanglement and drowning in fishing nets.



Incidental capture in fishing nets are a major threat to turtle mortality as they make their way inland to nest
© WWF



By catch in fishing nets of particular concern, particularly during the nesting season
© The Star



Turtle Excluding Devices (TED) are required by law. They have proven successful in reducing turtle by-catch and incidental capture.
© Turtle Island Restoration Network

The public, Fishermen in particular, are advised that from April, 2018 to August, 2018 “No Netting Zones” are implemented along Almond Beach and Tiger Beach, at the Shell Beach Protected Area, corresponding with the peak of the turtle nesting season.

It is **ILLEGAL** to take, harm, kill, sell, or consume sea turtles and their eggs. All bycatch must be released immediately.

A message from the Fisheries Department, the Protected Areas Commission, and the WWF-Guianas



“NO NETTING ZONES” ALONG SHELL BEACH PROTECTED AREA, REGION 1

Be advised that the No-Netting Zones are in effect between April, 2018 to August 31, 2018 along Almond and Tiger Beaches at the Shell Beach Protected Area, corresponding with the peak of the turtle nesting season.



During this period, Fishermen in particular, are asked to adhere to the following:

The use of long seines extending more than 2 miles ARE NOT allowed within the zones.
Pole seines ARE NOT allowed AT NIGHT!
Trawlers must use *Turtle Excluder Devices (TED)*.

During this time hook-&-line fishing and smaller seines ARE allowed, but must be checked at least every 3 hours.

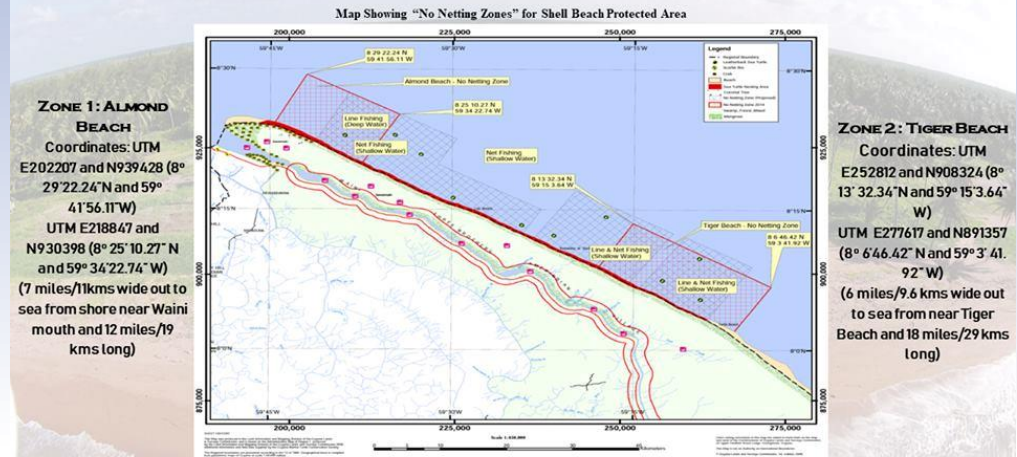
THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT OUR SEA TURTLE POPULATIONS ARE PROTECTED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

It is **ILLEGAL** to take, harm, kill, sell, or consume sea turtles and their eggs. All bycatch must be released immediately.

A message from the Fisheries Department, the Protected Areas Commission, and the WWF-Guianas



“NO NETTING ZONES” ALONG SHELL BEACH PROTECTED AREA, REGION 1



A message from the Fisheries Department, the Protected Areas Commission, and the WWF-Guianas





OVERVIEW OF LOCAL FISHERIES

- ❖ Fishing activities (shrimp + ground fish resources)
 - Shrimp trawlers - Artisanal(wooden vessels)
- ❖ There is limited exploitation of pelagic resources over the continental shelf and towards the continental slope
 - Industrial trawl fishery (115 vessels)
 - Deep slope fishery (semi-industrial/ - red snapper fishery)
 - Small-scale artisanal fishery (Approximately 1315 vessels).

AREA OF OPERATION AND GEAR TYPE

❖ Industrial trawl fishery

Operate between 8 and 18 fathoms

- Trawl nets
- Deep slope fishery

Operates above 18 fathoms

- Traps
 - Hooks (long lines)
 - Small-scale artisanal fishery
- Operates throughout the fisheries





IUU FISHING AND ITS IMPACTS

There are approximately 1315 artisanal fleets, using several types of fishing gears.

# of Fleet	Licensed (2018)	Operating Illegally
1315	748 (56.6%)	43.4%

- Lack of reporting and data collection
- Foreign vessels fishing in our territory



LEATHERBACK BYCATCH DATA

- ❖ There is no Leatherback Bycatch data being collected specifically by the Fisheries Department or PAC.
- ❖ However, the Department collects data from the Industrial Fleets only for Endangered Threatened and Protected Species (ETP), which are either caught or interacted with. This therefore shows that, turtles in some cases, are either caught or sighted.
- ❖ Lack of comprehensive sufficient data collection processes that, addresses leatherback bycatch, in other fisheries (Artisanal and Semi-Industrial).

COUNTRY EFFORTS

- ❖ In 1994, the department, implemented the use of the Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs)
- ❖ The 2018 Fisheries Regulations, Under the Fisheries Act (CAP 71:08) further made the provisions for the use of TEDs, more robust, with heavier fines.
- ❖ In 2013 - all industrial vessels be equipped with Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs),.
- ❖ Ongoing research
- ❖ PAC, WWF Guianas provided training





REGULATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

- ❖ The Regulation 23 of 1994, Under the Maritime Boundaries Act, that mandates trawlers to use TEDs.
- ❖ The 2018 Fisheries Regulation, Part VII, that speaks to Protection of Sea Turtles.
- ❖ Periodical coastal and at sea surveillance, in collaboration with the Coast Guard of the Guyana Defence Force.
- ❖ Aerial Reconnaissance with the Air Corps of the Guyana Defence Force.
- ❖ Observer programme



GOAL FOR LEATHERBACK BYCATCH REDUCTION

- ❖ Implement a more structured system to manage the artisanal fishery with improved data collection system, licensing, and compliance by the operators.
- ❖ Implementation of a system to encourage data recording of bycatch (inclusive of sea turtles) by the artisanal fishers, and to possibly implement an observer programme for the said fishery.
- ❖ Correlating by-catch data with turtle monitoring data collected at SBPA. To better inform impacts on population

URGENT PRIORITIES

- ❖ In keeping with the Fisheries Regulations, the Department intends to implement a specific data collection programme that addresses bycatch or interactions, for the industrial, semi-industrial and the artisanal fisheries.
- ❖ The PAC together with WWF Guianas and other research agencies to implement annual long term by-catch surveys for all sea turtle species.



CLOSING REMARKS

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