



SEA TURTLE CONSERVANCY

November 2017

ECO-LABELING HOTELS RESPECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

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The Sea Turtle Conservancy (STC) is driving an eco-friendly project to certify those establishments that participate in the protection of the sea turtles in Tortuguero.

The participating businesses that show they completed the proposed requests will be awarded a sticker of "Gold, Silver or Bronze" in line with their level of implication.

This type of logo for ecological certification can be placed in the entrance of the business or on their social networks, in order for the clients to identify which businesses are collaborating with the conservation of the sea turtles.

Given that in Tortuguero, tourism is engaging people in the conservation of the environment, this ecological certificate adds value to the businesses and makes them easier to be selected by this type of tourist.

This gives value to the actions related to the separation of trash, lighting, reduction of plastic, as well as other measures of conservation.



Photo 1. Eco-Awards Gold, Silver, and Bronze

CAMPAIGN "NO STRAWS" STOP PLASTIC

Straws and other single use plastics are a threat to wildlife. Tons of plastic waste is found each year on beaches around the world. To be specific, last year they found more than half a million plastic straws during the International Coastal Cleanup. If we stop using these types of plastic, we are helping to save sea turtles and other animals by protecting their habitat from a huge amount of waste.

As the Sea Turtle Conservancy, we have a

campaign that promotes raising awareness to reduce the use of these plastics in restaurants and hotels, in this way we contribute to the improvement of the habitat of the sea turtles.

Would you like to collaborate with this campaign? When you order a drink, think about if it is really necessary to use a straw and don't forget to ask: "no straw, please."

With all of us, we can make a big difference.

5 REASONS TO GO STRAWLESS

SAVE SEA TURTLES

Like humans, a sea turtle's mouth cavity is connected to its nasal cavity; if accidentally ingested, a straw may become lodged in the turtle's nose. Less straws in the environment helps sea turtles stay alive!

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

According to Nielsen data, global online consumers were willing to pay more to shop from companies that are socially and environmentally responsible. Knowing that restaurants skip the straw may encourage customer loyalty.

ORDER LESS STRAWS, SAVE MONEY

Many restaurants use more than 1 million plastic straws a year. By skipping the straw or only offering them upon request, restaurants can save thousands of dollars every year.

NONPROFIT PARTNERSHIP

By adopting a straw-upon-request policy, restaurants can align with nonprofits that are helping to save wildlife, such as the Sea Turtle Conservancy and the Ocean Conservancy.

REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS

Straws and other plastics are made from petroleum, which emits carbon dioxide into the atmosphere during its production, contributing to global warming. Less straw production = less carbon emissions.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Great Teamwork

Each year new research assistants come to Tortuguero ready to work hard the length of the sea turtle nesting season. This year there were three groups that came between the months of March and November to collaborate in the program, participating in the night patrols to collect biometric data from the sea turtles, daily track surveys and with the environmental education activities developed in the community.

They come from all over the world, forming a multi-cultural team with distinct



backgrounds and customs but the same goals and hope to work in the field with sea turtles.

This year we had research assistants from Columbia, Mexico, Spain, Philippines, Australia, United States, New Zealand, Venezuela and Belgium.

We would like to thank all of you for your effort and dedication while you were here with us, also for your good teamwork, making each season in the STC a big family.

Thank you all and good luck.

Photos 1-3: Research Assistants

FAREWELL TO THE MANAGER

Change of Course

In the next month of December, the manager of the biological station of the Sea Turtle Conservancy in Tortuguero, David Aparici, will say goodbye to us after four years of work and dedication to the organization.

During these four years, David has been in charge of making sure everything in the station was always in order, also implementing necessary improvements to make the station more comfortable and sustainable.

In charge of all the staff of the station, always professional and decisive.

Not only involved in work inside the biological station, but also with the development of the community, forming part of a local emergency committee that rapidly and



Photo 4: Passionate about the turtles

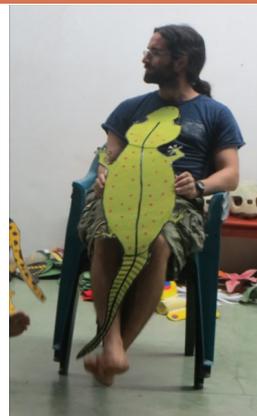


Photo 5: David & iguana

efficiently coordinated the evacuation of the habitants of Tortuguero during Hurricane Otto last year.

A great colleague, always thinking of the well-being of others, and good friend, that looks for new personal and professional challenges.

In the name of the whole team we would like to thank you for your years of dedication to the STC and wish you lots of luck in your new adventure.

Have a good trip!

Photo 6: David, always safe



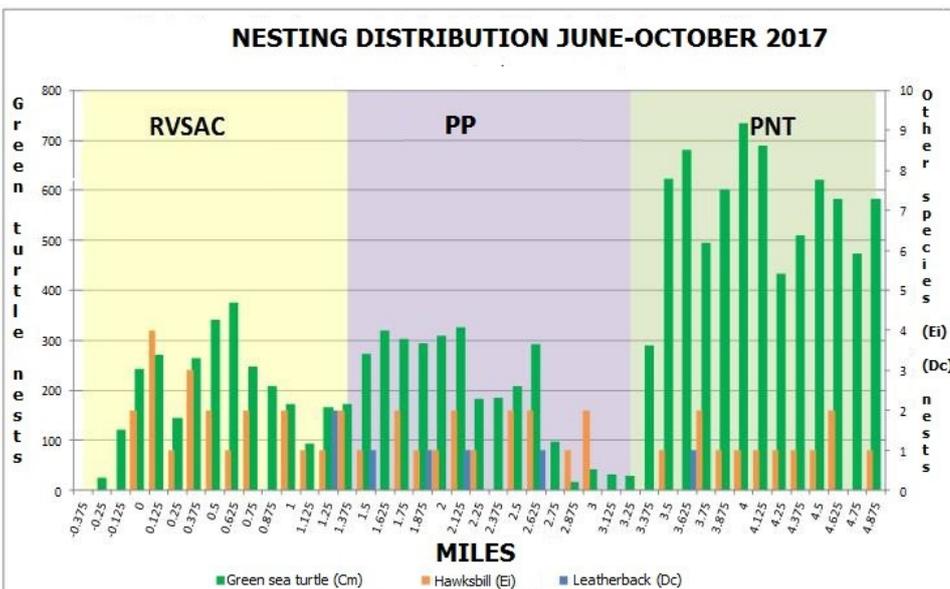
RESULTS OF THE GREEN SEA TURTLE PROGRAM 2017



Photo 7: Green sea turtle

This year, the green sea turtle nesting season in Tortuguero started early. In February we found the first green sea turtle track in the 18 miles of beach, and in May the first track for the 5 miles in the north.

During the whole season (June to November) we counted more than 13,000 green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) nests in the 5 miles of study, working with 1,564 turtles, of which, 816 were tagged for the first time this year. In addition to these green sea turtles, we worked 14 hawksbill sea turtles



In this figure, you can see the distribution of nests for the 18 miles of beach for the three species of sea turtles, separated by sections:

- RVSAC: Archie Carr Wildlife Refuge (Ei)
- PP: Public beach (Dc)
- PNT: Tortuguero Nacional Park

(*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and recorded 48 nests from this species.

Unfortunately, in the research data we also counted the number of nests and turtles poached for illegal sale and consumption. The data from poaching this season between June and November in the first 5 miles is as follows:

- ⇒ 119 green sea turtle nests
- ⇒ 9 hawksbill sea turtle nests
- ⇒ 7 green sea turtles poached
- ⇒ 3 hawksbill sea turtles poached

⇒ 58 days with poaching on the beach

While looking at this data, we can confirm that there still is much to do in raising the consciousness to conserve these magnificent animals.



Photo 8. Green sea turtle leaving the nest