



SAL ISLAND  CABO VERDE

Project Biodiversity
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Marine Turtle Protection Campaign Results 2020

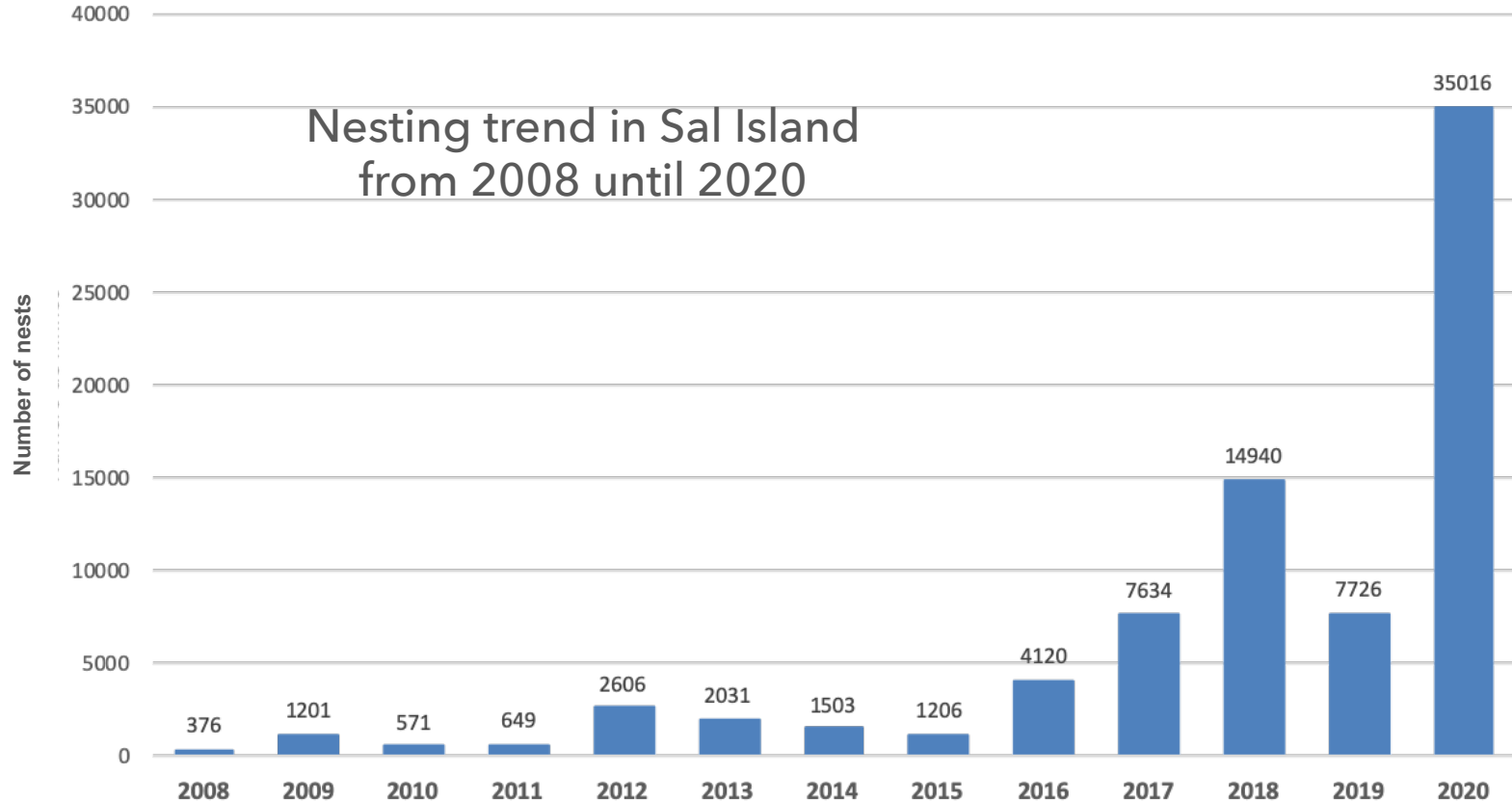


NESTS: 35.016
N° of females*: 7.003

With 35.016 nests recorded, **2020 nesting season is the busiest season ever recorded.** This is more than twice the number of nests recorded during the last record season of 2018, that saw 14.940 nest recorded.

*Estimating 5 nests per single turtle

Nesting results 2020



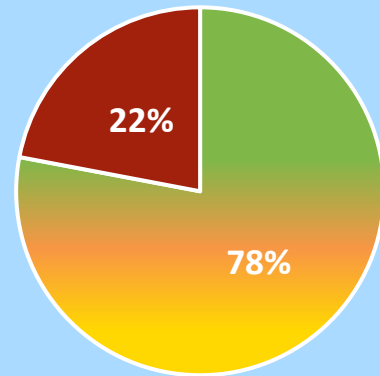
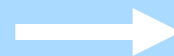
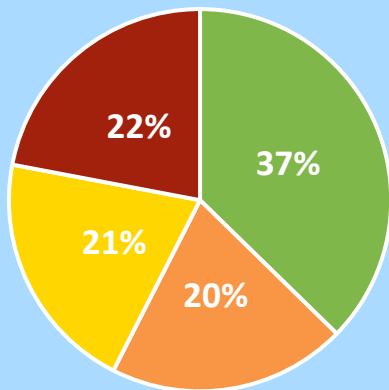
Nesting results 2020



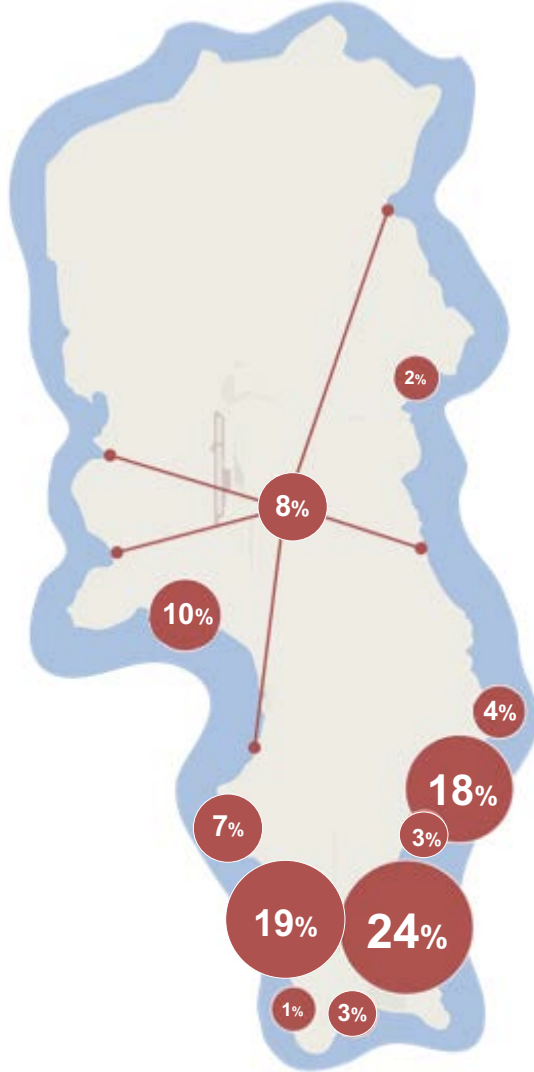
Patrolled and surveyed areas in 2020

	Night Patrol	12,2 Km
	Partial Patrol	6,6 Km
	Morning Patrol	6,7 Km
	Weekly Survey	7,2 Km

25,6 km of beaches
patrolled



Nesting results 2020

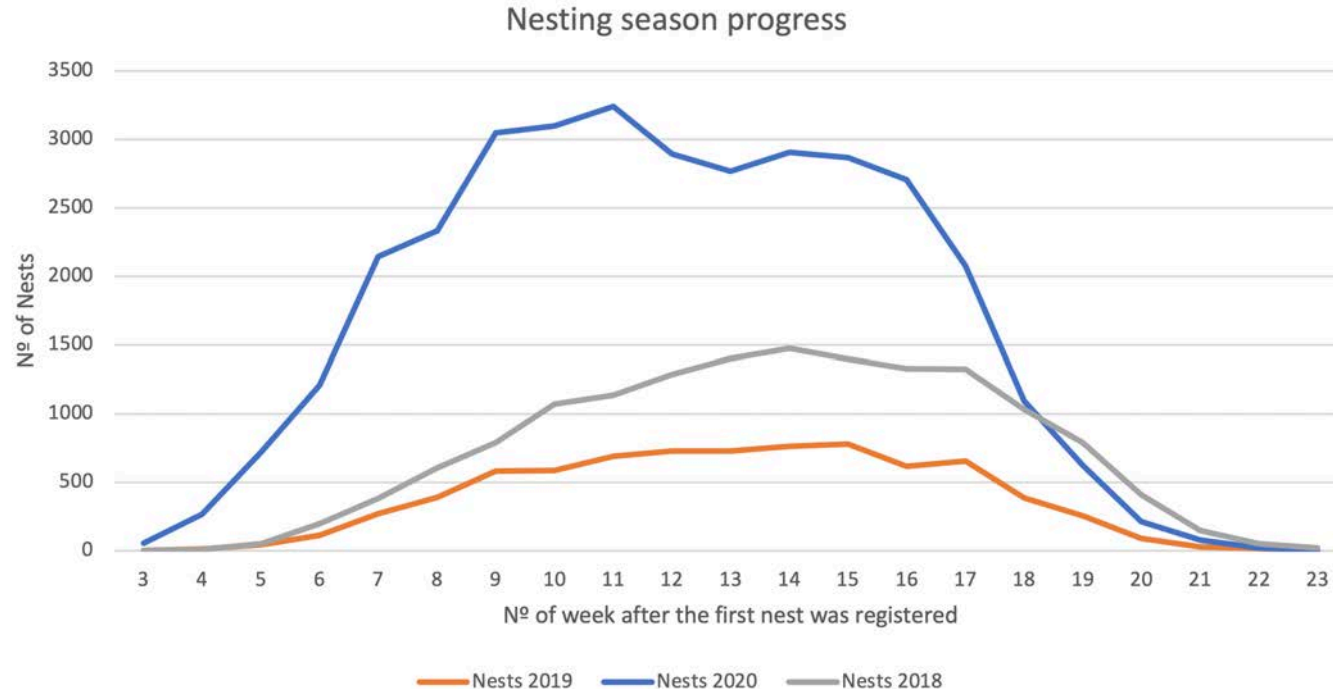


Similar to previous years, **the main nesting beach was Costa da Fragata with a total of 8.537 nests**, representing 24,4% of all nests in the island.

The beaches of **Serra Negra and Algodoeiro**, although they welcomed less nests than Costa da Fragata, were the two nesting areas with higher nest density (nests/length of beach), with **6.264 (18%) and 6.686 (19.1%) nests, respectively.**

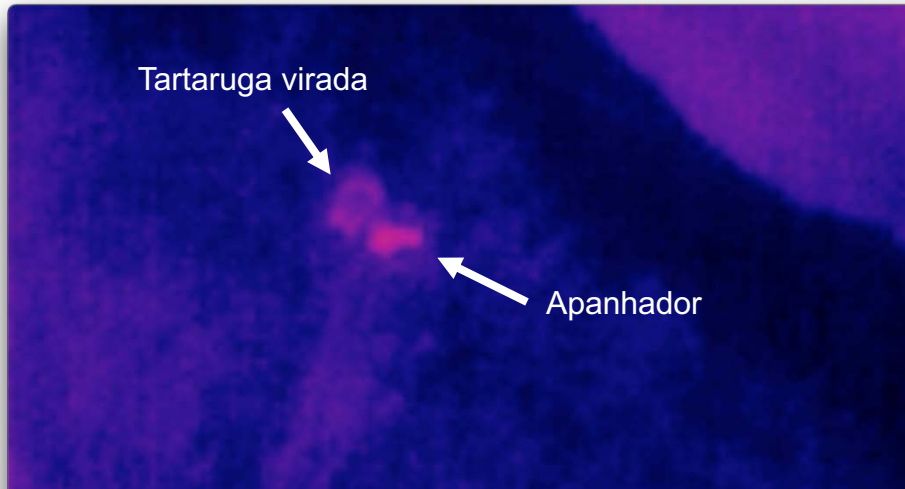
Nesting results 2020

The nesting season started on the 6th of June with the first activity, a nest in Santa Maria. The pick of the season was between the second half of July and the first of August.



Start of patrols with a drone with thermal sensor camera:

- 3.651 km of beach patrolled;
- 2 turtles saved directly from poachers;
- For the first time we could see new poaching strategies and the predation of nests by stray dogs.



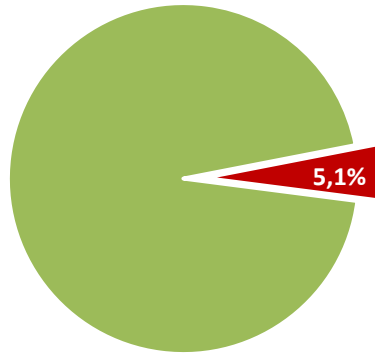
DEAD*: 357
RESCUED: 99
MORTALITY Rate: 5,1%

A total of 99 turtles were saved, from which **23 were saved from poachers**, 66 were lost due to dune degradation and light pollution, 4 were stuck in rocks, 1 entangled in ghost nets and 5 that were attacked and injured by stray dogs.

*Deaths with evidences such as found carapaces, drag marks, traces of blood and others.

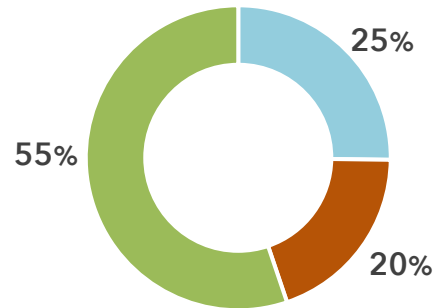


Turtle Poaching Mortality Rate



■ Poached Turtles

Location of Poached Turtles



■ Protected Beaches

■ Partially Protected Beaches

■ Beaches Not Protected

Although **2020 saw the highest number of turtles poached ever registered**, the mortality rate (n° of dead turtles / total of nesting turtles) was lower than previous years (5,1%).

From the 357 poached turtles, **120 were registered in beaches in the north of the island, 73 of which in the beach of Cadjetinha**, on the north-east coast of Sal.

90 were killed on the beaches with night patrol, 70 on beaches with partial protection and 197 were killed in beaches without protection.

This season we managed a total of **6 hatcheries**

Total of nests in hatcheries: 2.888

% of nests in hatcheries : 8,3%

Nest success in hatcheries*: 72,5%

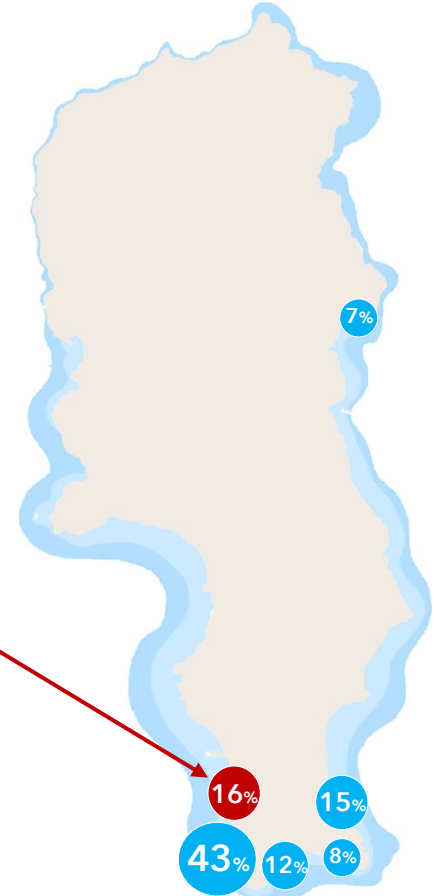
Baby turtles released
from the hatcheries:
144.695

*Median of nests success: n° of hatched eggs/total of eggs



Nest Protection on Sal

A semi-open hatchery was used in Algodoeiro, for the first time on Sal. New-born turtles crawled to the ocean after hatching with no assistance.

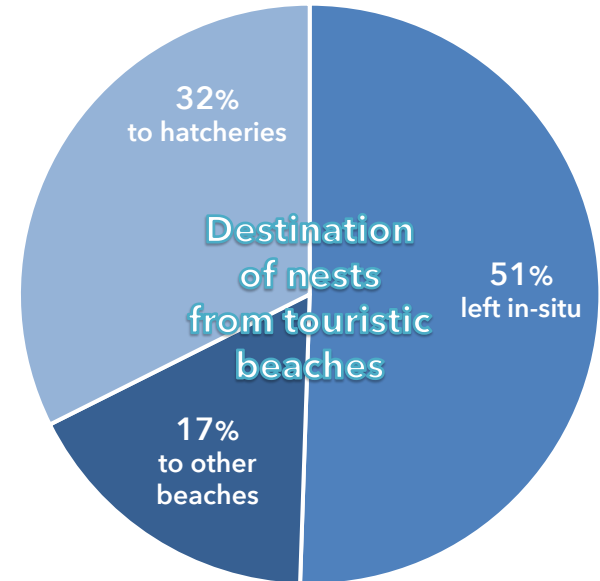


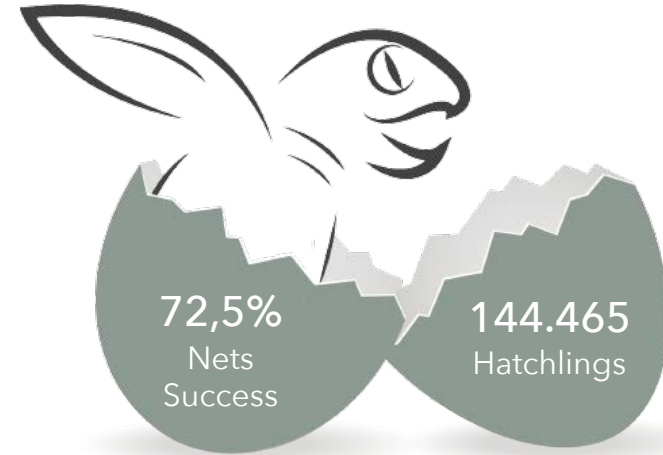


A total of 2.689 nests from Algodoeiro, Ponta Preta and Santa Maria were transferred to hatcheries because of light pollution or dog predation, which if left in-situ would be doomed.

This year, on the northern part of Algodoeiro were in previous years all nests were relocated, nests were left in-situ after deciding that nests threatened by dog predation would be protected. This decision came after realising that we could not handle the record amount of nests being laid.

Additionally, some initiatives were taken to reduce predation, such as informing dog owners and the use of a cage to take the wild dogs to the Municipal kennel, both in partnership with the City Hall.





The average nest from all hatcheries was 72,5%. This is the number of eggs that hatched from the total of eggs. In 2020 more than 144.000 hatchlings were released to the sea from our hatcheries!

Field Camps: 1
Field Coordinators: 3
Staff: 63 Cabo Verdeans
International Volunteers: 4
Local Volunteers: 83

Unlike previous years, in 2020 it was not possible to welcome international volunteers during the nesting season.

Therefore, and thanks to emergency funds received, the field team this season was formed solely by national staff with a huge support of local volunteers.

It is important to note the constant logistic support from the Delegation of the Ministry of Environment, the City Hall and from some tour-guides that made their time and vehicles available for the transport of the patrols.



Several groups of local volunteer from the communities of Espargos and Palmeira organised patrols for the first time ever in the beaches of Palmeira, Joaquim Petinha and Fontona.





Through a partnership with the project “Social network for the equality of women and youth in the socio-economic development”, **10 youth** from less favoured areas of Santa Maria, were **trained and participated** on the Marine Turtle Protection Campaign.



União Europeia



Africa '70



A meeting to coordinate the beach patrol strategy was held at the beginning of the season together with the **National Police** and the **Delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment**.

At least **20 people were apprehended** in Sal by the National Police, found in-flagrante-delito poaching turtles, with turtle meat or selling it on the streets.

Some of these detentions were after anonymous reports.





After the ban of public gatherings we had to cancel our traditional beach cleanings.

To counteract this we launched the campaign **#limpabôsó** or **#cleanalone** on the social networks, where we engaged the people of Sal to clean the beaches on their own and gain a Limpabôsó t-shirt.

More than **30 people** joined the campaign.

O comércio de animais selvagens é responsável
por **75% DAS NOVAS DOENÇAS INFECCIOSAS,**
incluindo **COVID-19.**



O consumo de tartarugas marinhas é proibido pelo Decreto-Lei nº 1/2018.

**TU NÃO O VÊS,
MAS O PERIGO ESTÁ LÁ**



**MANTENHA-O LONGE
DO TEU PRATO.**

Together with national and local authorities, we launched a nation-wide awareness campaign about the consumption of protected marine megafauna.