



Technical Report Nesting Season 2025

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Summary of project

Program	Marine Turtle Conservation Programme
Project Title	Protection of Loggerhead Turtles in Cabo Verde
Organization	Associação Projeto Biodiversidade (APB)
Location	Sal Island, Cabo Verde (Africa)
Primary species	Loggerhead Turtles (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)
Summary	<p>Loggerhead turtles are an endangered species according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Cabo Verde is, probably, the largest nesting site in the world for this species; nevertheless, many threats are compromising the survival of this sub-population. Poaching of nesting females and in-water mortality due to by-catch and marine pollution, are the main direct threat to adult turtles. While loss of habitat, artificial lighting, predation, and Climate Change are also risking the long-term survival of the species in Sal Island and Cabo Verde in general. Through our Marine Turtle Conservation Campaign, we ensure the survival of the Loggerhead turtles of Sal Island by reducing its more direct and urgent threats. At the same time, we increase the awareness of the local population, especially the coastal communities and the tourism sector.</p> <p>In 2025, we registered 16,830 nests representing an estimated 3,366 nesting Loggerhead turtles. More than 200 people participated in the monitoring of over 25km of nesting beaches, from which 53 were directly employed by the organization. 55 turtles were registered poached, from which “only” 2 were taken in monitored beaches. Mortality rate of nesting turtles on monitored beaches was 0.07%, while on the entire island was 1.6%. This is the lowest number of killed turtles recorded to date. Drones continued to show their efficiency deterring poachers, both working independently and with joint missions with the military. Only 6% of all the nests of the island were protected in hatcheries, with a combined median of 82.6% of nest success.</p>

2025 Loggerhead Nesting Season

16,080 Nests recorded **~3,080** Turtles nesting



3,836 Turtles worked
Average carapace length **78.5CM**

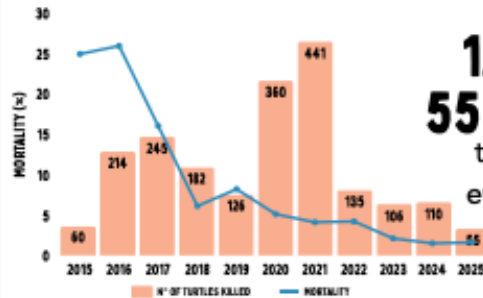


1,599
Turtles tagged

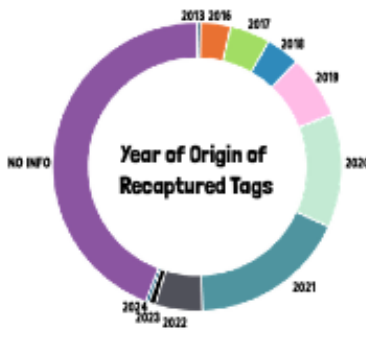
60 Turtles Saved!



10 from dog attacks, 8 from poachers, 24 lost turtles and 15 stuck in rocky areas



1.6% Mortality &
55 Turtles killed
the lowest number
ever recorded in Sal



267 Recaptured tags
Most tags originated from 2021 or 2020, with 118 tags with no information, likely originating from other islands.

2,689 Nest Relocations Total
1,606 To Hatcheries
1,083 Tran-Situ (in the beach)

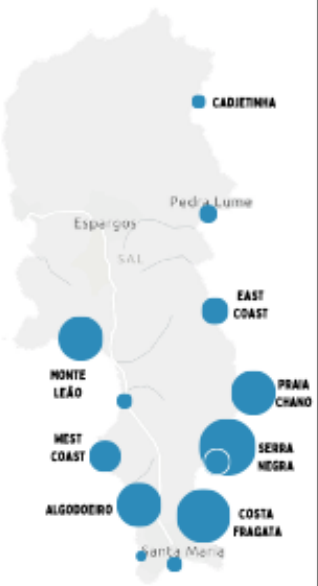
82.6% Hatchery Nest Success
85,503 Hatchlings Released from Hatcheries

64

Staff
6 Coordinators, 42 national patrol leaders, 12 international interns, 2 national drone pilots and 2 national drivers

26 Patrols every night
Covering 25.5km of beaches

495 Drone Flights
Covering 26.5km of beaches



145

Volunteers
109 International volunteers and 35 national volunteers, including fishermen & youth ambassadors

Key Nesting Beaches
Serra Negra (21.5%)
Costa Fragata (17.5%)
Algodoeiro (12%)
Monte Leão (12%)
Praia Chano (11%)
West Coast (10%)

Area of Implementation

Sal Island, Cabo Verde
 16.625490° / -22.899434°

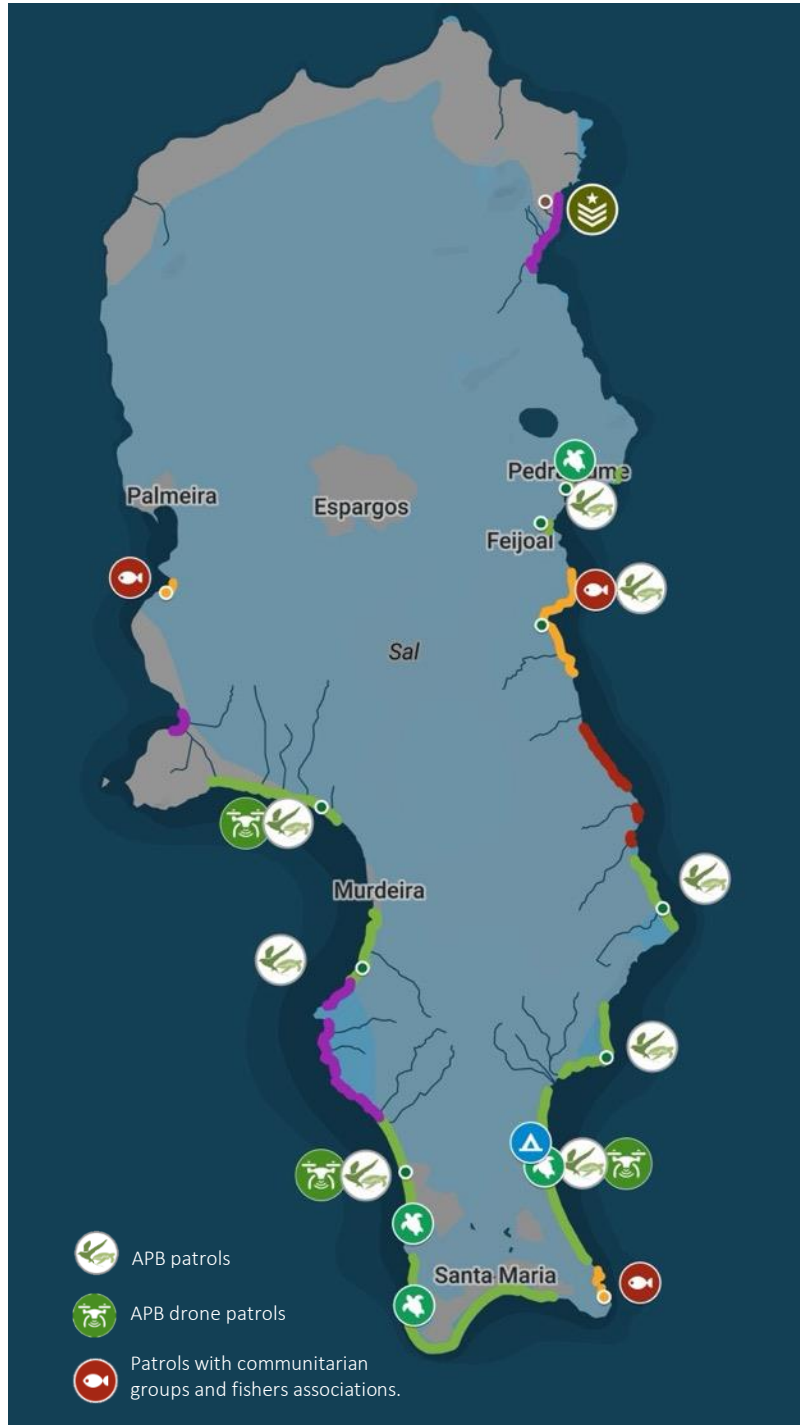


Figure 1 – Map of intervention areas: regular night and/or daily patrols (**green**), communitarian patrols (**orange**), beaches with drone patrols (**purple**) and beaches visited only during weekly census (**red**).

Project Objectives 2025

- Maintain poaching levels near zero on the three main nesting beaches (Serra Negra, Costa Fragata, Algodoeiro).
- Maintain protection coverage and near 0 poaching levels in Monte Leão, Madama and Murdeira.
- Maintain coverage and near 0 poaching levels in Praia Chano.
- Consolidation of a committed and motivated team of local staff and strengthen their performance skills and capacities.
- Consolidation of the communitarian team of guards and volunteers in Pedra de Lume.
- Empower and support communitarian initiatives in Palmeira to protect Fontona beach.
- Support the local fisheries community of Santa Maria to protect the local beach of Igrejinha.
- Protection of endangered nests in the southern beaches of Sal and Pedra de Lume.
- Implementation of educational activities with schools, high schools, children associations and other communitarian groups.
- Support marine turtle conservation in Santo Antão.

Main Goals

- Prevent poaching of nesting females on the main nesting beaches and beaches with highest poaching levels and, therefore, reduce consumption of turtle meat.
- Increase hatchling recruitment.
- Incite participation of the community and local stakeholders in the turtle protection strategy
- Strengthen local capacity building on turtle conservation competencies.
- Support marine turtle conservation on other islands of Cabo Verde.
- Strengthen the national network for marine turtle conservation (TAOLA).

Methods and Activities

- Direct protection of nesting females through beach patrols. 24.5km of beach was patrolled by foot nightly, covering 77% of nesting beaches. Two smaller beaches (Fontona and Igrejinha) were patrolled nightly but lasted for the first half of the night.
- Drone patrols assisted foot patrols and covered unpatrolled, isolated beaches nightly. Drone patrols also conducted random night missions on unpatrolled beaches to deter poaching.
- Doomed nests were relocated and protected in one of three hatcheries throughout the island.
- Outreach campaign and awareness activities with schools, high schools, youth associations, fishermen associations and public and local businesses were conducted throughout the nesting season.
- Capacity building with local authorities, namely the military and national police, both of whom support the protection campaign.
- Employment and capacity building of local staff from all communities on the island.
- Support funding of the protection campaign in Santo Antão

Results and Highlights

Nesting trend

- The first turtle activity of 2025 was a track recorded on the 11th of April in Costa Fragata, followed by the first nest in Serra Negra on the 11th of June. The main nesting season began on the 24th of June with Serra Negra and Costa Fragata being the first beaches with regular nesting activity.
- The 2025 nesting season started later than 2024, with nesting peaking once at the end of August/beginning of September.
- In total **16,830 nests were recorded on Sal Island in 2025**.
- The main nesting beach in 2025 was Serra Negra with 21% of nesting (3,614 nests), followed by Costa Fragata with 28% of nesting (2,950 nests). Baia Negra, a group of small bays located between these two beaches represented 2% of nesting (1,978 nests).
- Similarly to 2024, Algodoeiro (12% nesting, 1,978 nests), Monte Leão (12% nesting, 1,943 nests), and Praia Chano (11% nesting, 1,795 nests) showed similar levels of nesting, with Praia Chano and Monte Leão having historically high poaching records.
- In Pedra de Lume, 196 nests were recorded (1% relative nests).
- Due to the reduction in activity from 2024, all track and nest data was collected on the main nesting beaches.
- Weekly surveys on unpatrolled beaches were performed throughout the season with the final survey completed on November 20th. An extrapolation of nests on these unpatrolled beaches was calculated based on the weekly nest numbers. It was estimated that the total nests laid on non or partially protected beaches was approximately 2,990.
- 2025 continued to see the application of PIT tags without the use of metal tags.
- 1,599 turtles were tagged with PIT tags in 2025.
- 548 turtles were found with PIT tags throughout the season. Of those, 281 were from the same year (2025) and 118 were without original information, assumed to originate from other islands. Of the 149 tags from previous years in Sal, 47 originated from 2021 and 34 from 2020, with the oldest tag found originating from 2013.
- 3,366 females are estimated to have nested on Sal Island in 2025 (estimation accounting for 5 nests per turtle).

Poaching

- A total of **62 dead turtles were recorded on Sal Island in 2025**. This number relates only to deaths with evidence and therefore is considered to be below the real count.
- 55 of those deaths were due to **poaching**. two turtles were killed by **dog attacks**, and the remaining were from natural causes such as being lost or stuck in rocks.
- 53 of the 55 killed turtles were on beaches without night patrols. Of those 55, 39 were recorded on the beaches of Cadjetinha and neighbouring Agua Doce on the Northeast coast of Sal.
- Two of the 55 killed turtles were taken on beaches with night patrols. Both were taken in Madama, in the area bordering the two patrol groups.
- A total of **60 turtles were saved during patrols**. Eight of those were saved directly from poachers, that is poaching events that were disturbed by our patrols. 24 of those saved were found disorientated and lost behind nesting beaches and were subsequently returned to the ocean. 18 were saved from natural causes such as being trapped in rocky areas.
- 2025 saw a continued dog presence on the beaches, with remaining 10 turtles saved were from dog attacks, with attacks leaving open wounds on the flippers/shoulders and/or eyes missing. Newly for 2025, dogs adapted to break the rear of the carapace leaving the turtles with irreparable wounds.
- The mortality rate of females (dead turtles / total estimated females) as a result of poaching in 2025 was 1.6%, compared to 1.5% in 2024. Although mortality increased by 0.1%, 2025 recorded the **lowest number of killed turtles** to date.
- The continuation of a drone patrol in Monte Leão and Murdeira contributed to the continued low mortality on those beaches (2 turtles taken, 0.4% mortality rate). This drone patrol also intermittently covered the beach of Joaquim Petinha, which has no foot patrol, where 5 turtles were killed in 2025.

- On the beach of Prainhas and Calheta Funda, 2 turtles were killed by poaching (0.6% mortality), the lowest mortality recorded to date, attributed to the continuation of irregular drone flights in this area.
- On the beach of Fontona, 5 carapaces were found. Although there is a patrol on this beach, it covers only part of the night, conducted by the volunteers of the nearby fishing community.
- Missions were conducted by the drone team, and occasionally with the collaboration of the military, on the beaches of Prainhas, Cadjetinha and Agua Doce in an attempt to deter poaching on these unpatrolled beaches. In total 14 missions were conducted throughout the season.
- In total, **seven poachers were apprehended** by our patrols and the authorities, and more were found on nesting beaches with clear intent to poach nesting turtles (with knives/buckets) and were removed by the authorities or ran away from the patrol. It is important to note that these are our registers and there potentially more people apprehended or expelled from nesting beaches that we are unaware of.

Nest Protection

- Three hatcheries were constructed for the 2025 season. Two of those hatcheries were in the South of the island: one near Santa Maria town in Ponta Sino and one in Kite Beach. The third was in Pedra de Lume, on the North-Eastern coast.
- The fourth hatchery usually located in Tortuga, on Algodoeiro beach, did not operate in 2025 due to the lower nesting numbers it was not necessary to use a fourth hatchery.
- Due to the usual high volume of relocations, only those affected by light pollution were relocated.
- A total of 517 nests were found in the areas of Ponta Preta, Santa Maria and Ponta de Sinó. 100% of these nests were affected by light pollution from the town and hotels so were relocated one of the nearby hatcheries.
- Of the 1,978 nests located in Algodoeiro, 1,020 were relocated to one of the hatcheries due to the threat of light pollution. 85 nests were relocated tran-situ to another safer beach, that is those nests at the beginning and end of the nesting season (which were not relocated to the hatchery for logistical reasons) and the overflow of nests when the hatcheries were full.
- The hatchery of Ponta Sinó, the largest of the four, held 1,201 nests, from which 70,283 hatchlings were released. This hatchery was split into two structures, one shaded and the other unshaded. The median nest success of the shaded and unshaded areas was 88.6% and 87.4% respectively.
- The Kite Beach hatchery hosted a total of 339 nests (228 from Algodoeiro, Santa Maria and Ponta Preta and 111 from Kite Beach). From this hatchery 12,782 hatchlings were released with a median nest success of 53%.
- The Pedra de Lume hatchery held nests from that beach which are threatened by light pollution as it is an isolated urban area. In total 66 nests were protected from which 2,438 hatchlings were released with a median nest success of 55.4%.
- In total **85,503 hatchlings were released** from all hatcheries with a combined **median nest success of 82.6%**.
- In Costa Fragata 862 nests were relocated to other sites on the same beach (Tran-Situ), 29.2% of nests on this beach. 92% were relocated due to light pollution and the remaining for natural causes such as inundation or insufficient nest chamber sizes. A further 35 nests were relocated for natural causes in Serra Negra (1% of nests).
- In total, **1,606 nests were moved into the hatcheries, which represents 6% of the total nests on the island**, and 1,083 nests were relocated Tran-Situ (10%). That is, **2,689 nests across the island had to be relocated to other more secure locations** (16% of the total nests).
- The average nest success for Kite Beach decreased from 65.9% in 2024 to 53% in 2025 despite using the same location and relocation strategy. In 2026, this hatchery will be adapted to allow greater air flow, with aims to increase gas exchange, and reduce humidity within the hatchery.
- The average nest success decreased slightly in the main hatchery at Ponta Sinó in 2025 (88.2% overall) compared to 2024 (89.5%), however remains a relatively high nest success overall.
- 2025 continued to see dog predation recorded on all beaches of Sal. With such a high level of predation covering a vast area, relocations and hatcheries are an unsustainable and unrealistic

solution for all nests. Alternative mitigations will continue to be explored to reduce the dog population and the threat of predation throughout the island.

- At the end of October, track direction was recorded for naturally hatching nests on Costa Fragata, one of the main nesting beaches heavily affected by light pollution. The results show that, especially on the sections closer to the city, the impact of light pollution was much greater than anticipated, with an **average of 25% of hatchlings orientating to the city instead of the ocean**, even on nests that would have been considered “safe” from light pollution. These results showed the gravity of the situation for hatchling survival and the need to implement alternative solutions in place of unrealistic relocation strategies.

Patrol Logistics

- For the first year since 2016, the main camp was not located at the Mitu&Djo Kite School. The camp was situated at the nearby Surf Hub Kite School on Kite Beach (Costa Fragata), facilitating camp logistics and living conditions.
- Night patrols started the June 11th in Costa Fragata and Serra Negra and finished on the 31st of October.
- The remaining patrols of Algodoeiro, Murdeira, Monte Leão, Praia Chano and Pedra de Lume started on June 16th and finished on October 20th.
- Night patrols of Fontona and Igrejinha beach continued, consisting entirely of volunteers from the local fishermen community of Palmeira and Santa Maria.
- **A total of 25.5kms of beach were protected by foot patrols** in 2025.
- The drone patrols continued on the beaches of Costa Fragata, Algodoeiro, Murdeira, Monte Leão, Madama and Joaquim Petinha. Drone flights also extended to cover the nearby beaches of the West Coast. Over the season an estimated total of **495 flights were recorded, covering an approximate length of 25.6 kms**. Drone patrols started on June 1st and finished on October 31st.
- Drone patrols continued to play a key role in detecting both poacher and dog presence on the beaches, preventing attacks on nesting females.
- In 2025, continuing from 2024, regular patrols had a lack of support from the Military in Monte Leão, Murdeira and Praia Chano, increasing the need for budget and recruitment to complete the team. The military continued to support the weekly missions, targeting unpatrolled beaches, alongside our drone team.

Staff

- The permanent patrol team was comprised of six coordinators (four local and two international), 42 local field assistants, 12 international field assistants, two drivers and two drone pilots.
- In 2025, the turtle protection activities were supported by 110 international volunteers.
- A total of 35 national volunteers were involved in 2025. Many from the fishermen’s associations of Santa Maria and Palmeira joined the nesting season, mainly on the beaches of Fontona and Igrejinha. 10 of these volunteers were youth ambassadors, ages 18-22, as part of the ongoing project from the education and outreach program.
- In total, **209 people were involved** in the patrol strategy of 2025.

Education and Community Activities

- In 2024, a new approach to the educational was established, increasing the direct participation of youth in environmental initiatives. The Second Youth and Environment Forum was organized in Santa Maria, with the participation of over 80 young people from the different schools that gathered to discuss environmental issues in the island. 14 cleanup campaigns, including 2 underwater, mobilized 500 participants, resulting in the collection of more than 20.000 kg of waste.
- This year, we launched a programme of summer professional internships, with a three-month paid placement, with the Young Environmental Ambassadors that had finished education. Three of those placements were in the Sea Turtle campaign and were joined by five other volunteers.

Turtle watching excursions and related impacts

- The strategy introduced by the Delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment in 2023 aimed at reducing the numbers of tours taking place, limiting the number of guests per tour, number of tours per hour per beach and illegal excursions continued in 2025. In 2025, tours to Serra Negra were stopped early September to protect hatching nests due to the high density of nesting, which had a positive result on the survival of emerging hatchlings.
- Tours remained primarily on the beaches of Costa Fragata, Serra Negra and Algodoeiro, with “illegal” tours occurring on Monte Leão, Madama and Murdeira in the first half of the season.
- Whilst the relationship between the patrol teams, tour guides and guards on the beach remained mostly positive, 2025 saw an increased number of “conflicts”, presenting challenging conditions for the team at times, including both the local and international patrol leaders.
- No training was given for tour guides in 2025, considering the majority of the guides/companies were the same licensed groups from 2024 and had received training in the previous year.

Protection on the other Islands

As we did in previous years, in 2025 our organisation supported the local NGO Terrimar, in Santo Antão. The funding provided allowed the organization to monitor the nesting beaches of Tarrafal de Monte Trigo, as well as conducting boat survey in more isolated beaches along the northeast coast of the island.

Challenges

- Regular protection of isolated beaches is a challenge in terms of logistics and security. Currently, several of these beaches are covered either by irregular volunteer patrols or drone patrols.
- Dog predation, of both nests and nesting turtles, is an increasingly grave problem on Sal Island. Dog predation occurs on all nesting beaches throughout Sal, isolated beaches included, on some of which predation is destroying 100% of the nests. With such a large level of predation, relocation to hatcheries is an unrealistic solution to this problem.
- Protecting nesting beaches, especially in the south of the island, is increasingly challenging due to the expansion of the town and touristic industry. Where possible, threatened nests are relocated to a hatchery or to a safer location but at a great cost financially, logistically, and energetically. In Costa Fragata, for example, “safe” locations and the hatchery are currently exhausted under the current conditions, meaning it is crucial to improve and protect this area.

Project Impact

- 24.5km of beach fully or partially patrolled by foot nightly for 4.5 months (full nesting season).
- Full island census conducted weekly covering all nesting beaches (33.9km total).
- 16,830 nests recorded in total, an estimate of 3,336 nesting females.
- 60 turtles directly saved through patrols.
- 2,689 nests relocated to a safer location 1,083 of which went to one of three hatcheries, from which 85,503 hatchlings were released.
- 209 people involved in the protection campaign, including 35 local fishermen and volunteers, 110 international volunteers and 64 employees and interns.

Collaboration and Stake Holders

Projeto Biodiversidade has established strong partnerships with the local and national governmental institutions: The National Directorate of Environment, the Delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Sal (responsible of the Protected Areas), the City Hall in Sal, the Delegation of Education in Sal, the National Police, the 2nd Regiment of the Army based in Sal, and the Maritime and Ports Agency.

We have a positive and dynamic collaboration with many local businesses that play a direct or indirect role in conservation on Sal Island, and we have succeeded in stablishing a cooperative partnership with three of the biggest resort companies and tour operators in the island. These kinds of partnerships set an example of sustainable tourism on the island that supports conservation activities, some including direct funds for the campaign.

Fishers associations are among the collaborators, extending the work of Project Biodiversity in the water and patrolling some smaller nesting beaches. The programme Guardians of the Sea is a clear example of collaborative efforts, with up to 54 fishers actively protecting sea turtles and seabirds out in the sea, including their release from ghost fishing nets.

International collaboration with The Queen Mary University of London continued in 2025, with biological sampling of nesting females and hatchlings as has occurred in previous years. Recent publications include:

- “Chromosome-level genome assembly and methylome profile enables insights for the conservation of endangered loggerhead sea turtles”, (E.C Yen et al, 2025) on [Giga Science](#)
- “DNA methylation reveals evolved buffering responses to climate-driven sex ratio skew in sea turtles”, (E.C Yen et al, 2026) on [BioRxiv](#)
- “Warming-induced sex bias fuels deceptive conservation success in sea turtles”, (F Nugraha et al, 2026) on [BioRxiv](#)

Discussion and Way Forward

In 2025, dog presence is still a great threat to nesting turtles and their nests. Dog attacks on nesting adults continued to occur in 2025, mainly in Costa Fragata, with dogs adapting to break through the rear of the carapace causing fatal injuries. Dog predation continues to occur on all beaches of the island, including isolated beaches.

Alternative solutions continue to be explored regarding the loss of suitable nesting habitat, both through the turtle protection campaign and in collaboration with other campaigns run by Project Biodiversity working within the coastal protected areas. Dune protection and regeneration are already underway on Costa Fragata, regularly the main nesting beach of Sal. Trails are marked to limit vehicle use through the dune ecosystem, barriers and parking areas have been created, and native vegetation has been replanted to support the dune ecosystem. These initiatives are already taking effect with visible improvement on certain areas of the nesting beach of Costa Fragata. In 2026, this work will continue in Costa Fragata, with the focus on using sand barriers and re-planting to encourage new dune generation and stabilisation. Proposed for 2026 is to continue similar work in Serra Negra, with the introduction of fencing to mark the beach limit and parking area and introduce information signs to encourage sustainable use of one of the most important nesting beaches on the island.

In 2025, we introduced a barrier in hopes of preventing disorientation of hatchlings in Costa Fragata, at the area most affected by the lights of Santa Maira. The fence proved successful in protecting those nests immediately in front of the fence, however it would need to be expanded to be more successful in following years.

Financial summary

Category of Expenses	Amount CVE	Amount EUR
Communication	73 100 CVE	663 €
Community support	597 398 CVE	5 418 €
Equipment	1 776 228 CVE	16 109 €
Field Supplies	169 599 CVE	1 538 €
Food	1 086 032 CVE	9 849 €
Internships	892 672 CVE	8 096 €
Maintenance & Construction	36 097 CVE	327 €
Salaries	11 587 290 CVE	105 086 €
Transport	1 662 909 CVE	15 081 €
Field camp	1 317 366 CVE	11 947 €
Grand Total	19 198 691 CVE	174 114 €

This financial report only includes direct costs associated with the sea turtle protection campaign. It does not include indirect costs such as vehicle use, administration costs, work insurance or rent of facilities, with the exception of the facilities of our field camp. It does not include neither the expenses associated with our international volunteering programme, such as apartment rent, commodities or the coordination salary. In any case, those costs are fully covered by the participation fees paid by the volunteers.

Fund Source	Amount CVE	Amount EUR
Fundação Hans Wilsdorf	5 342 740 CVE	48 454 €
PRCM	4 165 655 CVE	37 779 €
WUEL - Walter Und Eileen Leder	2 779 224 CVE	25 205 €
Tui Care Foundation	2 155 588 CVE	19 549 €
Riu Hotels	1 636 948 CVE	14 846 €
DNA – Direção Nacional do Ambiente	1 000 000 CVE	9 069 €
Cultures of Resistance	716 723 CVE	6 500 €
No Limits	457 710 CVE	4 151 €
Project Biodiversity – Unrestricted Funds	391 044 CVE	3 546 €
Explore Cabo Verde	330 000 CVE	2 993 €
Sal Ecotours	224 000 CVE	2 031 €
Grand Total	19 198 691 CVE	174 114 €

Annexes

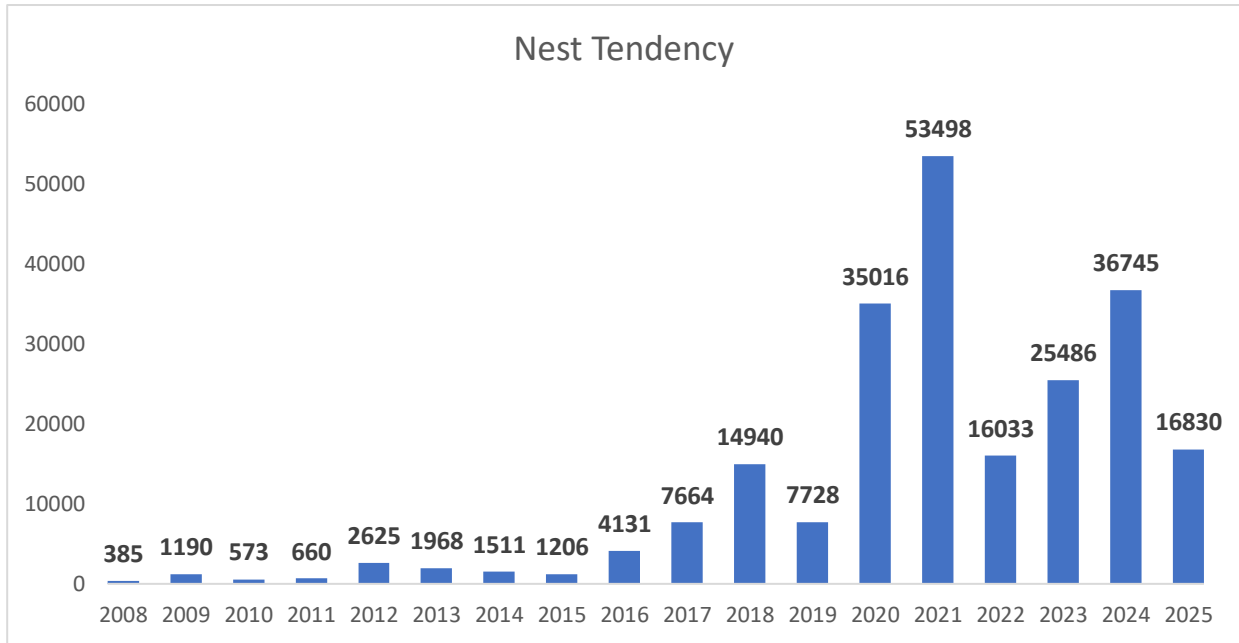


Fig. 1 Comparative graph of the number of nests per season in Sal Island (2008-2025).

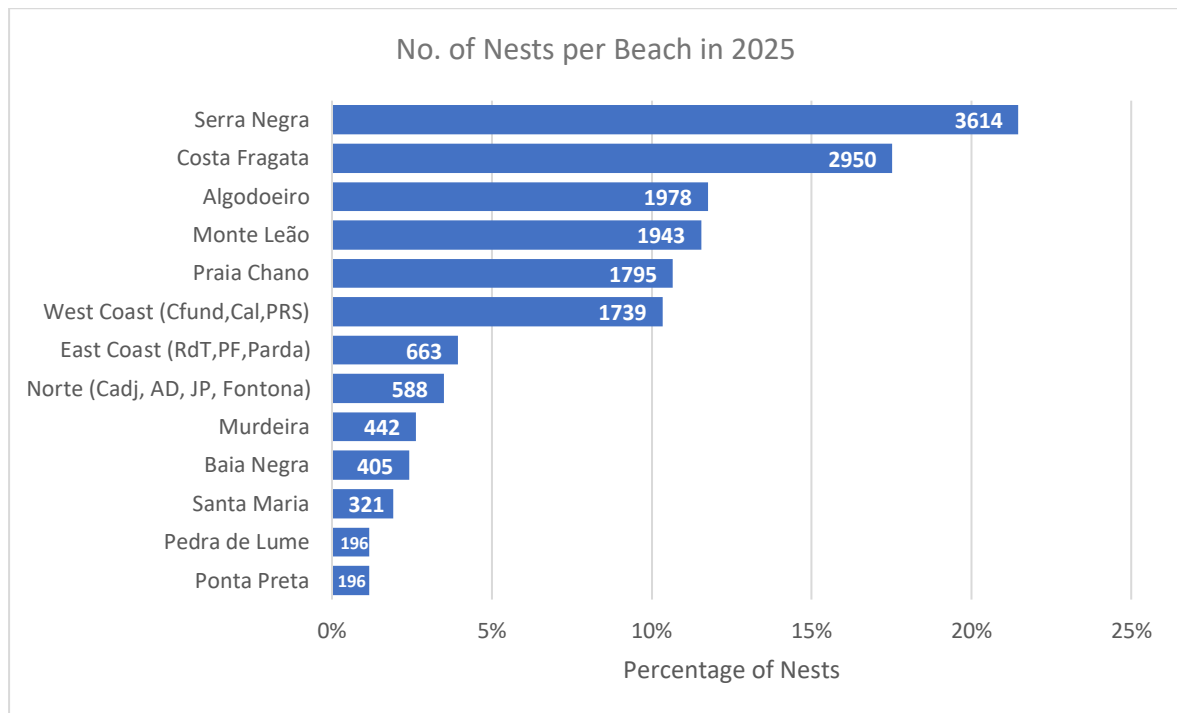


Fig. 2 Number of nests registered and/or estimated per beach. For the second year, Algodoeiro, Monte Leão and Praia Chano have similar nesting numbers for the season.

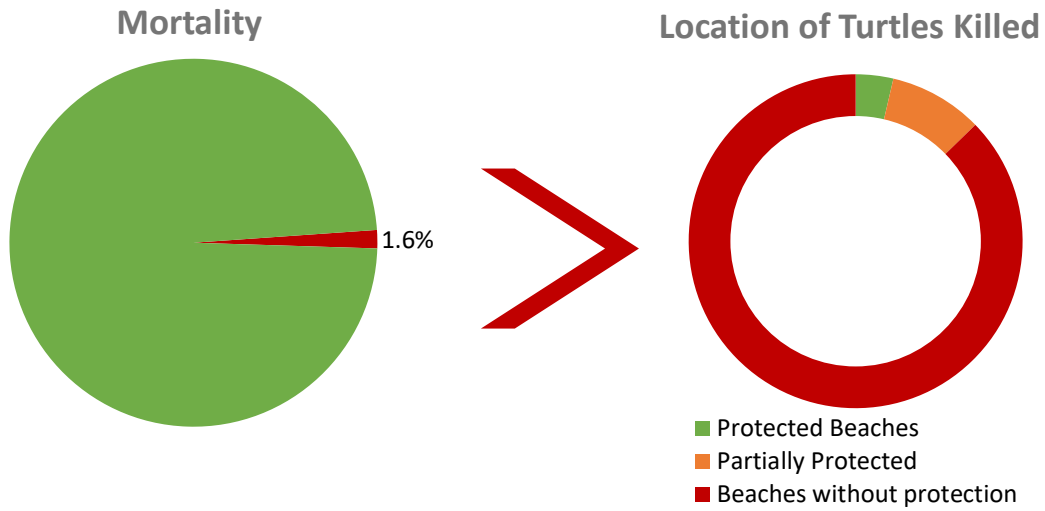


Fig. 3 In 2025, a total of 55 turtles were killed by poaching in Sal, a mortality rate of 1.6%. Of those, 3.6% (2 turtles) were killed on beaches with full protection and 9% (5 turtles) were killed on beaches with partial protection.

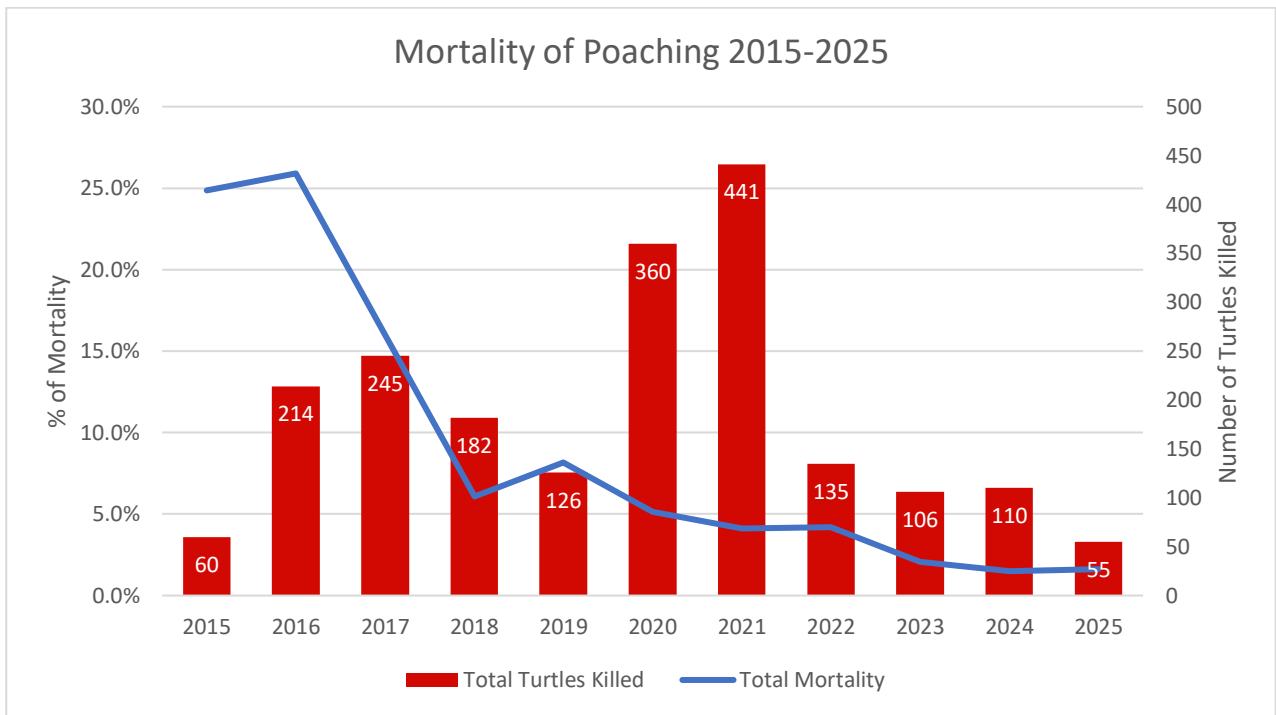


Fig. 4 Mortality and number of turtles killed in Sal from 2015-2025. Mortality has decreased from 24.9% in 2015 to 1.6% in 2025, with 2025 having the least number of turtles killed to date.

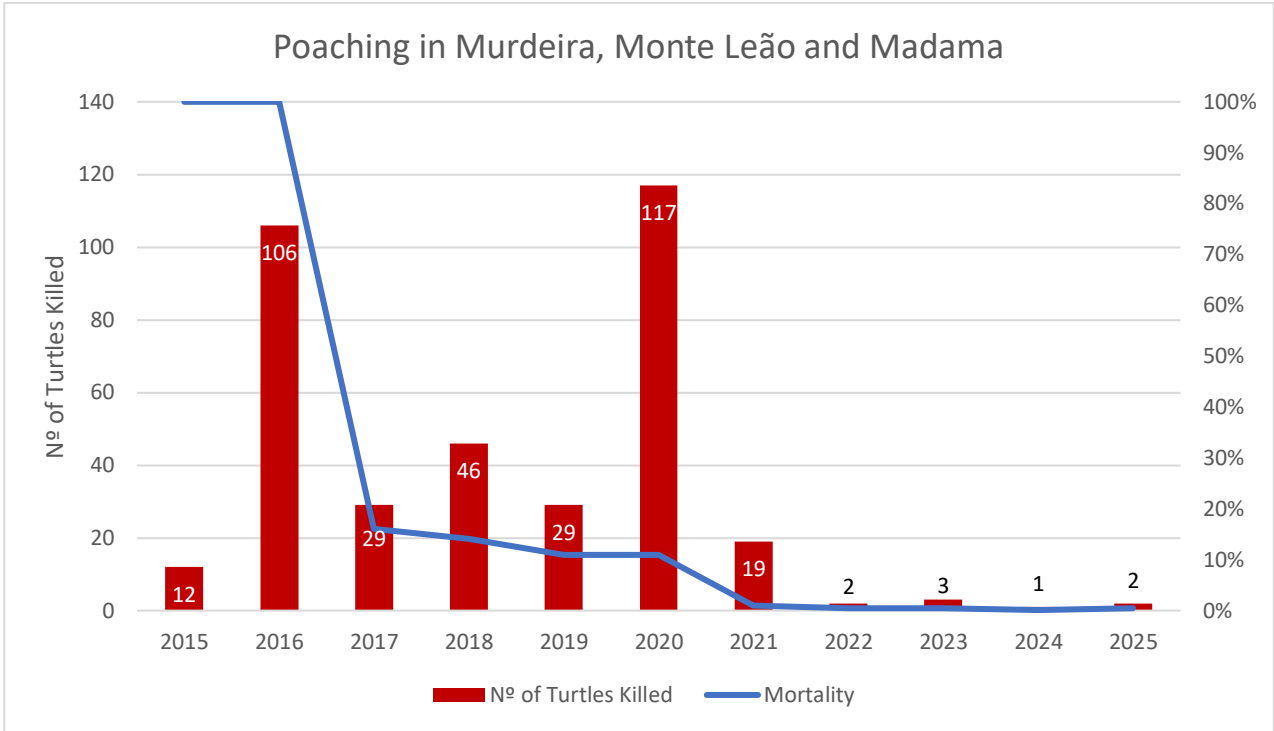


Fig. 5 - Highlight of the past 11 years of poaching in the key area of Murdeira and Monte Leão, with poaching reducing from 100% in 2015 to close to 0% for the past four years. A crucial strategy, in addition to the introduction of foot patrols in Murdeira in 2020, was the introduction of the drone patrol in 2021.

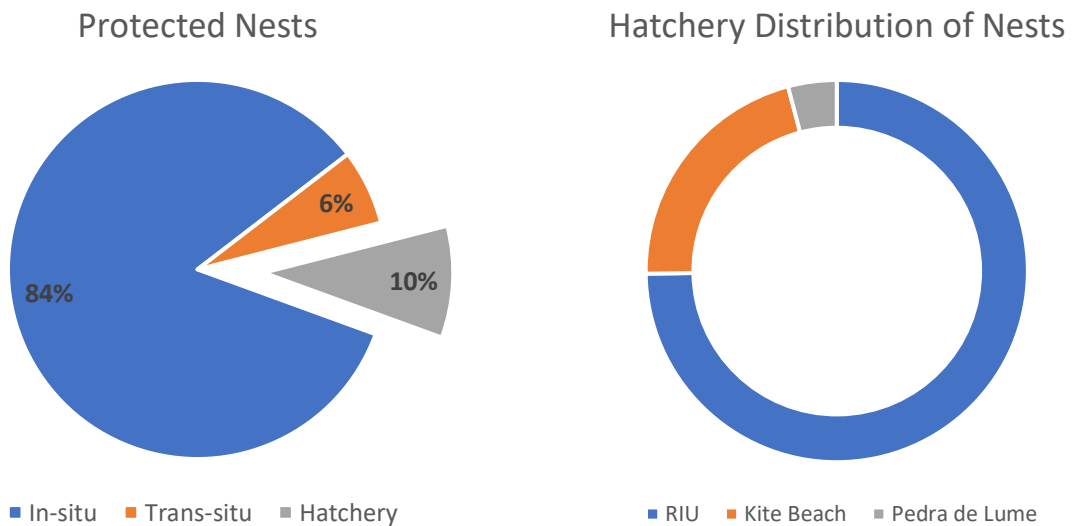


Fig. 6 84% of all nests laid on Sal remained in their natural location, with 6% being relocated trans-situ (1,083 nests) and 10% being relocated to one of three hatcheries (1,606 nests), the majority of which were relocated to the Riu hatchery (1,201 nests, 75%).

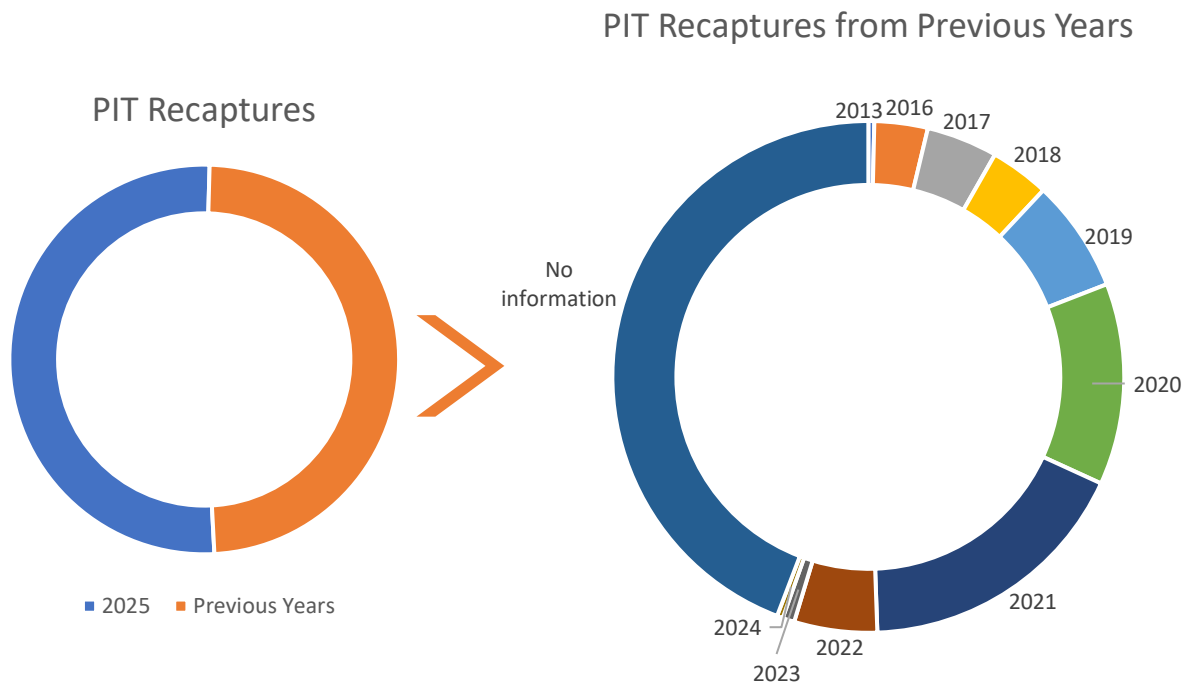


Fig. 7 Of the 548 PIT tag recaptures, 51% were from the same year, with 49% originating from other years or without information, assumed to originate from other islands. From the 149 tags originating from Sal, the years with most originating tags were 2021 (47 tags) and 2020 (34 tags) with one tag originating from 2013, the oldest tag found in 2025.

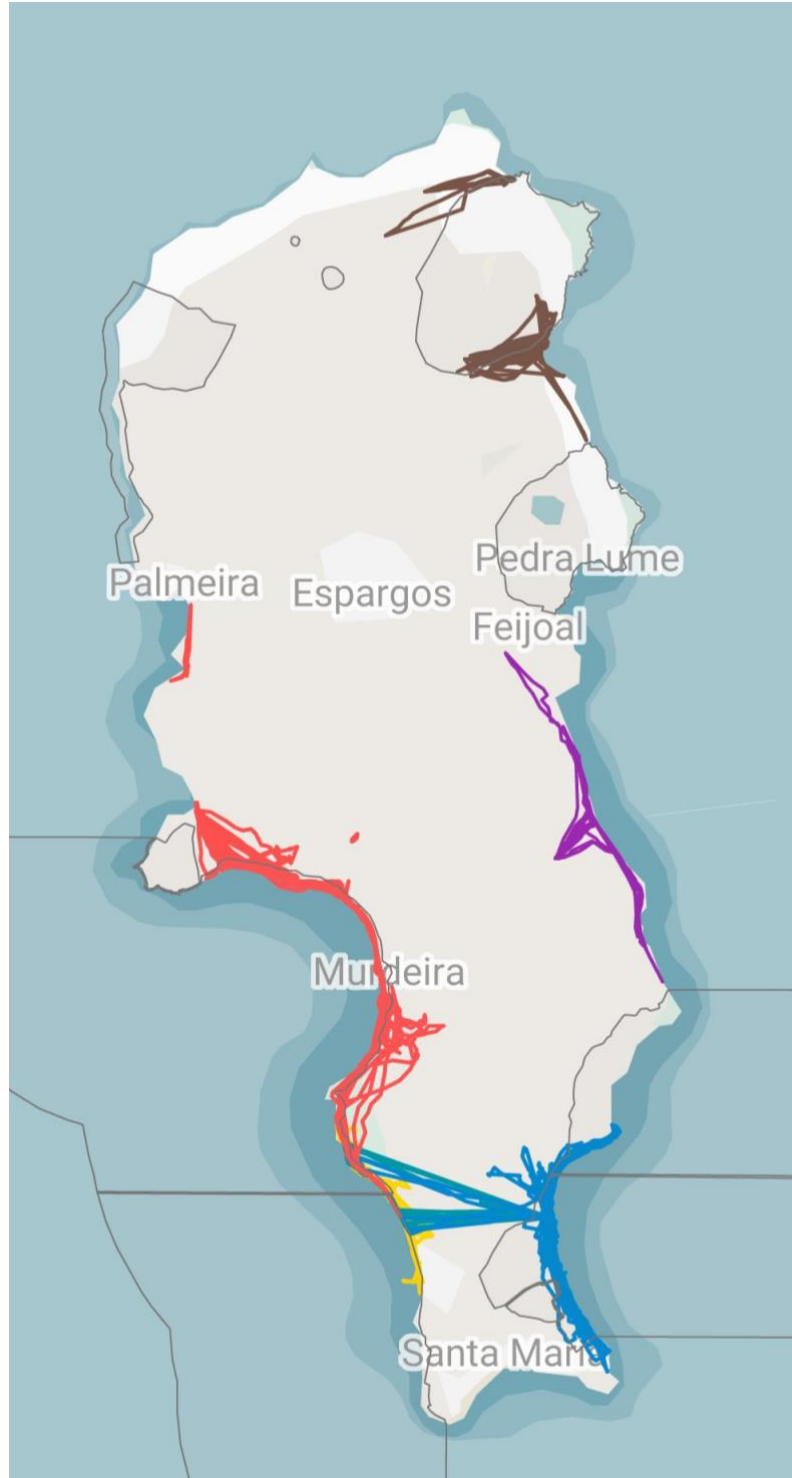


Fig. 8 Map showing all drone flight paths conducted during the nesting season of 2025. Missions on unpatrolled beaches are shown in brown (Cadjetinha and Agua Doce), purple (east coast). Other unpatrolled areas, such as Calheta Funda, Prainhas (both in west coast) and Joaquim Petinha are included in the flights launched from Murdeira (orange). Regular patrols are shown in orange, light blue and yellow (in the south of the island) covering the beaches within the four MPA's (shaded areas). For the first time, unpatrolled beaches in the south of Murdeira Bay were covered from the field camp, easing the logistics, and thanks to the purchase of a new drone.



Fig. 9 The local team of Murdeira and Monte Leão (top) and of the camp team (bottom) including coordinators, volunteers and local and international assistants.



Fig. 10 One of the three hatcheries on the island, pictured is the hatchery of Pedra de Lume



Fig. 11 Measuring a nesting female after successful egg laying. Here the curved carapace width (CCW) is being measured by one of the local coordinators.



Fig. 13 Nest relocation training given by the camp coordinator to one of the local international field assistants.



Fig. 12 Morning drone flight of one of the drone pilots based at the field camp, covering the beaches of Costa Fragata and Baia Negra.



Fig. 14 One of the sand captures placed in September of 2024 (photo taken February 2025) showing the accumulation of sand in a previously open space in the front line of dunes.



Fig. 15 The barrier placed in Ponta Jelonga, Costa Fragata, an area with high exposure to light pollution from Santa Maria, with the objective to block light pollution and prevent disorientation of hatchlings.