



SAL ISLAND  CABO VERDE

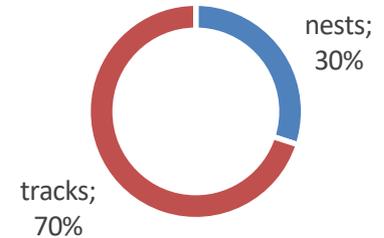
Project Biodiversity  
[www.projectbiodiversity.org](http://www.projectbiodiversity.org)

## Sea Turtle Conservation Campaign 2019 - Sal Island Results

# Nesting Results – Sal Island



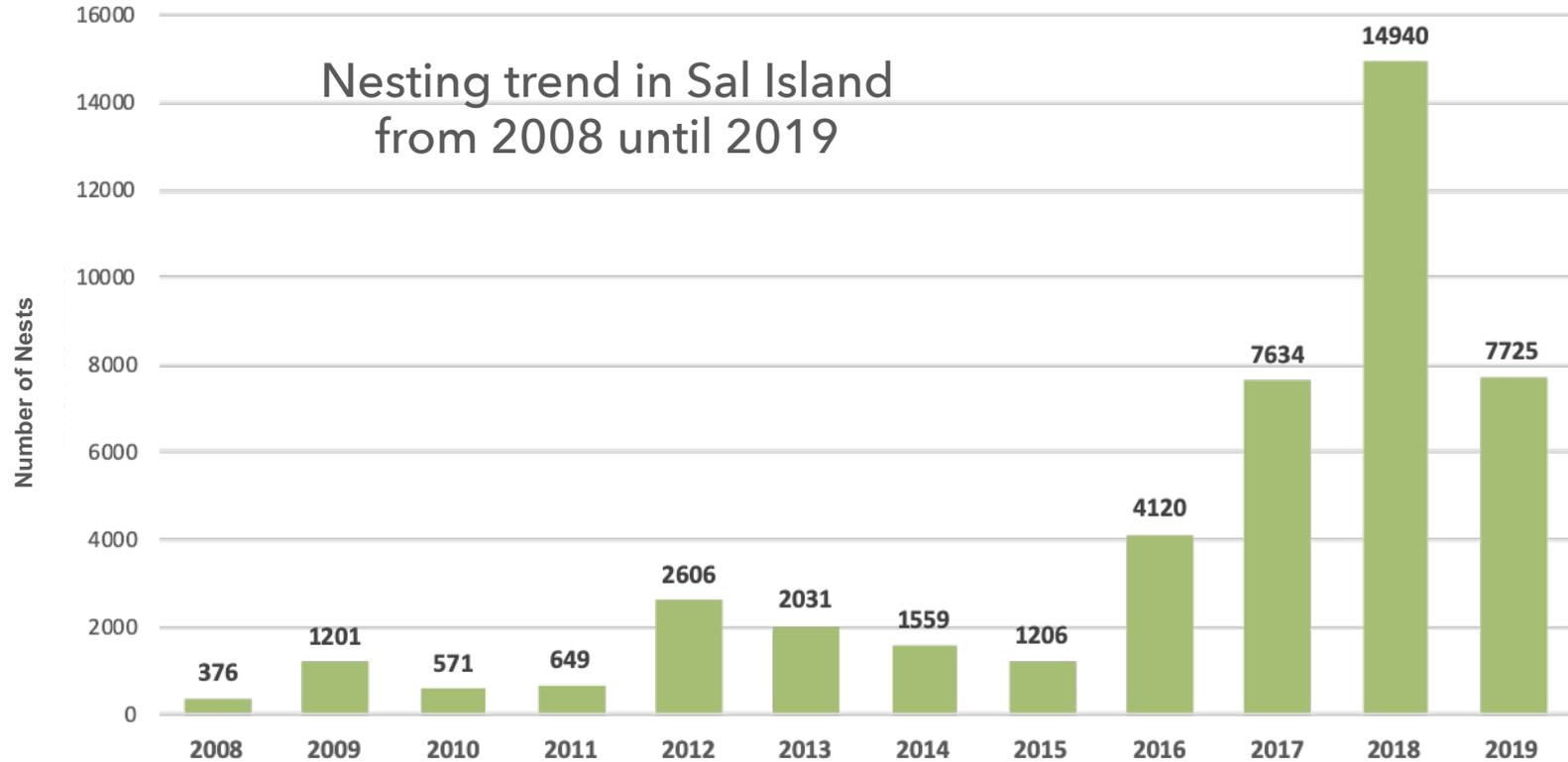
Nests: 7.725  
Tracks: 17.622  
N° of females\*: 1.612



After the record in number of nests in 2018, with a total of 14.940 nests, in 2019 we registered **7.725** nests, which represent 52% of the previous season and the second highest year but very similar than 2017.

**\*Accounting 5 nests per turtle**

# Nesting Results – Sal Island



# Nesting Results – Sal Island

Buracona

Salinas de Pedra de Lume

Pedra Lume

Palmeira

Espargos  
Aeroporto  
Amílcar Cabral

Feijoa

Sal

Murdeira

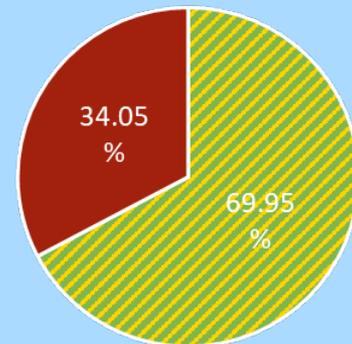
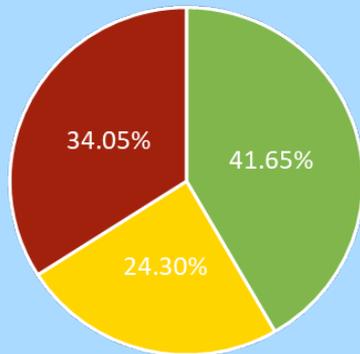
Santa Maria

## Areas of patrol and census in 2019

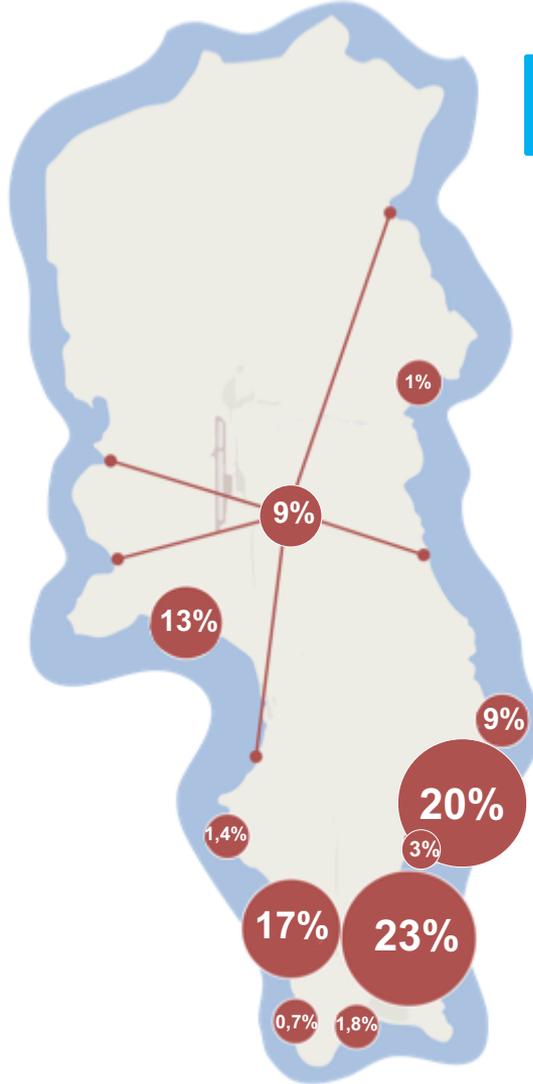
	Night patrol	13,54 Km
	Morning patrol	7,9 Km
	Weekly census	11,07 Km

21 km of beaches

patrolled



## Nesting Results – Sal Island

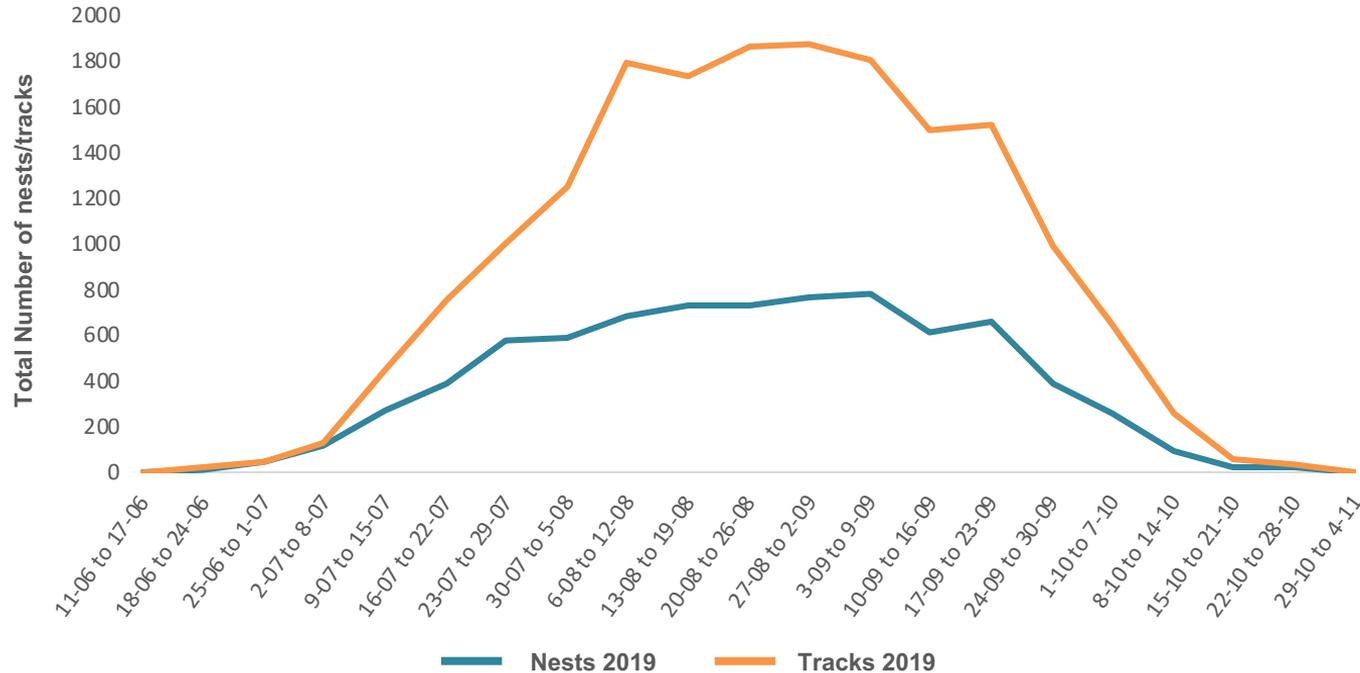


Like in the past years, the **main nesting beach** was **Costa de Fragata** with a total of 1.806 nests, representing nearly 23,5% of all the nests in the island.

On the other side, the beaches of **Serra Negra** and **Algodoeiro**, although registered less number of nests than Costa Fragaata, where the two nesting site with **highest density of nests** (nests/beach length) with 1.582 (20,5% of the total of nests) and 1.298 (16,8%) nests, respectively.

# Nesting Results – Sal Island

The first registered activity of the year was a nest on the 24th of April, followed by another on the 9th of May on one of the beaches in the north of the island (Cadjetinha). A part of those activities, the nesting season started on the 14th of June with the first activity, an attempt, in Costa Fragata. The pick of the season coincided with the second halve of August.



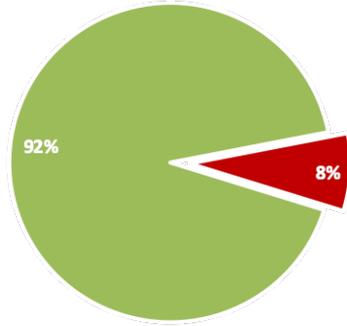
DEAD\*: 122  
RESCUED: 41  
MORTALITY rate: 7,4%

A total of 41 turtles were rescued from poachers or turtles that were found lost far away from the ocean (as a consequence of light pollution) or stuck in the rocks.

\*Deaths with evidences found such as empty carapaces or other traces like blood, drag marks in the sand and others.

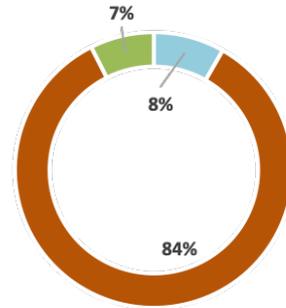


### Mortality Rate



Poached Turtles

### Location of Poached Turtles



Protected Beaches  
Not Protecte Beaches  
Beaches Partially Protected

From a total of 122 poached turtles, 80 were registered in the beaches in the north of the island, 31 of those in the beach of Cadjetinha, in the north-east coast of Sal.

19 of them were killed in the beaches with night patrol, 8 of them in the beach of Monte Leão during the very beginning of the season when the patrols were not deployed efficiently.

# Nest Protection in Sal Island

Total of nest in the hatcheries: 1.504

% of nests: 19%

Hatchery success: 62,7%

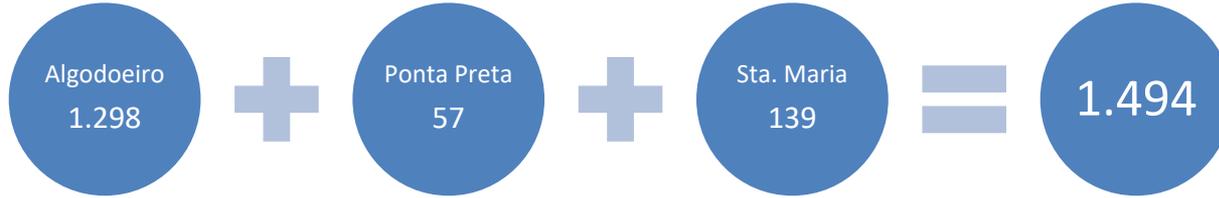
Hatchlings released  
From hatcheries: 68.362

1.183 were relocated to the main hatchery in Ponta Sinó.  
296 nests were relocated to Kite Beach hatchery.

This season was the first that we implemented a nest relocation strategy in the community of Pedra de Lume, where we relocated 26 nests threatened with light pollution and dog predation.

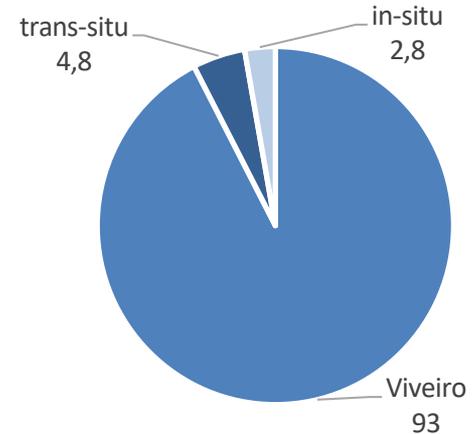


# Nest Protection in Sal Island



All the nests found in the beaches of Algodoeiro, Ponta Preta and Santa Maria are threatened as a consequence of light pollution and predation of stray dogs. If left there, there is a high probability that all the hatchlings or eggs would die.

1.183 nests from these areas were transferred to the hatchery in Ponta Sinó. Due to a limitation of space, another 210 nests were taken to the hatchery in Kite Beach and 67 nests were relocated trans-situ in the beach of Costa Fragata. 34 nests were left on the beaches after we could not locate them for different reasons.





For the second year in a row, the success of the two main hatcheries decreased. We think it may be due to the repeated use of the same space.

In 2020 the sand will be removed and left untouched with the aim of airing it.

Field Camps: 2  
Camp Coordinators: 8  
Staff: 5 Intl + 30 Nationals  
International Volunteers: 84  
Local Volunteers: 8

A total of 30 local guards and 8 coordinators were employed during the nesting season. Sal City Hall funded two of the guards of Pedra de Lume.

5 international interns joined the permanent team.

Another 84 international volunteers from 19 different countries also join the team during the season.





During the pick of the season, there were **44** people involved in the beach patrols every single night, with the addition of 3 drivers.

The patrols in the beaches of Monte Leão, Madama, Calheta Funda and the small bays of Algodoeiro had the support of the Military from the 1st of July until mid-September. **8** soldiers joined the patrols every night and a total of **40** received the training about sea turtle conservation.



In 2019, Project Biodiversity organised **9 beach cleanings** and **2 underwater cleanings**. With the participation of **454 volunteers** we collected **6,5 tonnes** of marine rubbish.

The City Hall of Sal was the main partner, with the collaboration of the Army, the diving centres of Santa Maria, social centres, and the support of the RIU Hotels, Hotel Morabeza, Hotel Oasis, Hilton Hotel, APP and other partners.

We started a collaboration with volunteers and fishermen of Palmeira for the protection of the beaches of Joaquim Petinha and Fontona.

Field camp on Joaquim Petinha for 2 days with the participation of 7 volunteers from the community of Palmeira.





We conducted several activities with kids and other groups with the use of Virtual Reality to raise awareness about the problem of marine pollution. This activity had the collaboration of Queen Mary University of London.

**7 new tour guides were certified** with the course on Good Practices for turtle watching excursions.

More than 467 turtle watching excursions were registered with the participation of more than 4,000 tourists during 68 nights on the beaches of Kite Beach and Algodoeiro. Those excursions joined voluntarily a cooperative initiative between tour guides and the NGO.



# Partners



Our work would not have been possible without the support of all our partners and volunteers. We thank all of them!



National Police & Maritime Police

A large sea turtle is resting on a sandy beach. The turtle's shell is covered in a layer of sand. In the background, waves are breaking on the shore under a cloudy sky.

**SEE YOU NEXT SEASON!**

**Thank You!**