

## **Project Update: September 2015**

September is peak season for sea turtle nesting activity. The two nest monitoring camps we work with have reported a record year. ASUPMATOMA, has over 1000 nests already and still counting. This third year of nest coordinates will be a great compliment to our nest density study. The other nest monitoring beach with the ATV tours has also had a record year, however this is the first year. ATV companies constantly report to the Mexican Government that nesting does not exist, claiming their activity was causing no impact. However, this year with the addition of a new monitoring group and our workshops, we have proven that there are almost 200 nests. Now we have scientific evidence from both camps to make recommendations on construction set-back buffers and reduced or no ATV activity in nesting beaches. We now have good data for our Model for Conservation Tourism to safeguard nesting beaches.

All of our success is not possible nor valuable unless it is sustainable and can be carried on and improved. We encourage university students to learn more in the field with real life accounts of coastal development and other issues affecting sea turtles. We held three workshops for university students from the University of Baja California Sur, Mexico studying marine biology, alternative tourism, and wildlife veterinary medicine.



Class photo of last semester Marine Biology students in a mandatory Coastal Management and Planning Class learning about sea turtles and coastal development.



Dr. Monica Lara Uc from the University of Baja California Sur giving a hands-on demonstration of the anatomy of a sea turtle from a preserved skeleton that will be donated into a local museum.



Students from the University of Baja California Sur working together to put the remains of a sea turtle carapace found on the beach that will be cleaned and put in a new tourism museum.