

Project Update: November 2022

Since receiving the grant, we have registered 10 new turtles and one recapture, a low number compared to previous years, however, ocean conditions this year have not been the best, so fishermen's diving activity has been low. Nevertheless, community outreach has increased; on June 18th 2022, we had a meeting with the local fishery cooperative, where both project and cooperative members reaffirmed our compromise to keep working on turtle conservation (Fig. 1).

Rancho con cooperativa Tehuamixtle
18-Junio-2022

Nombre	Apellido	Talla
Rafael Torres	Bonanza	G
Fernando Gomez Garcia	Robioso	G
Jaime Sanchez	MELUIN	mediana
Jorge Vazquez	DUENDE	Grande
Maria Juana		Grande
Wonal		Grande
Tono	Pini	Grande
Fernando Joya R		Grande
Juan Carlos	Banana	Grande
Cande Joya	cande	L
Gilberto Gomez	Gil	L
Manuelito Gomez	Chileno	Grande
Juan Ruiz	Jufo	Grande
Jorge de la Cruz	Bon Bon	Grande
Davis Joya Lopez	LA POMA	XXL
Arturo Rodriguez	TURIN	Grande
ATVARO DE LA CRUZ		Grande
Indomito	Quito	Grande
Lucas	Chile	XL
Silvestre	Chile	XXL
Alfonso	Chile	X
Alfonso	Chile	Grande
Alfonso	Chile	G
Alfonso	Chile	M

Figure 1. Meeting with Fishery cooperative assistance. (Picture by Michael Farid Zavala)

Our environmental education outreach has also increased by carrying out workshops with volunteers, locals and tourists, where we measure, mark and release captured turtles; this way we present the project to more people and have a higher reach (Fig. 2-3).



Figure 2-3: Workshop and release of hawksbill turtle with locals, tourists, and volunteers. (Pictures by Sebastian Ramírez)

Sharing our work with our turtle colleagues has always been important to us, reason why we presented our results at the ICAPO (Eastern Pacific Hawksbill Initiative) workshop, during the 40th International Sea Turtle Symposium (ISTS) during March (Fig. 4), as well as at the 2022 annual Grupo Tortuguero de las Californias (GTC) regional meeting during May (Fig. 5).



Figure 4-5: Power point presentation of the Mayto-Tehuamixtle hawksbill conservation project, during ISTS40 and GTC 2022.

During the last week of August 2022, Dr. Catherine E. Hart, a frequent collaborator, invited the team to participate in an expedition to Islas Marias, an archipelago off the coast of Nayarit, Mexico, which worked as a former prison and is now in the process to be a touristic resort/museum. Historic data suggested that Islas Marias was an important nesting and foraging site for the hawksbill turtle in the Mexican Pacific, the expedition consisted in visiting nesting and foraging sites in search of adults to measure, tag, get samples and if adequate, place a satellite transmitter. This expedition was a collaboration of Red Tortuguera A.C (RETO), CIIDIR IPN, The national commission of natural protected areas (CONANP), WWF-Telmex/Telcel Foundation and Eco Mayto A.C (Fig. 6).



Figure 6: Islas Marias expedition team in Puerto Balleto, Islas Marias, Nayarit. (Picture by Catherine E. Hart.)

During the first week of November 2022, we had one of the greatest discoveries the project has made to date. Oscar Peña, a local teenager, and recreational diver/fisher captured a peculiar turtle. This turtle had already been tagged; however, the tags did not belong to our project. After asking a few colleagues, we found out it had been tagged in Chalacatepec, a fishing village about 70 km south of our study site (Fig. 7). This discovery gives us a hint of the connectivity between foraging sites as well as giving us a clue of the origin of the hawksbills in our study site, as the nearest nesting beach is just 30 km south of Chalacatepec. This also opens a new opportunity to collaborate and expand our current work to another fishing community.

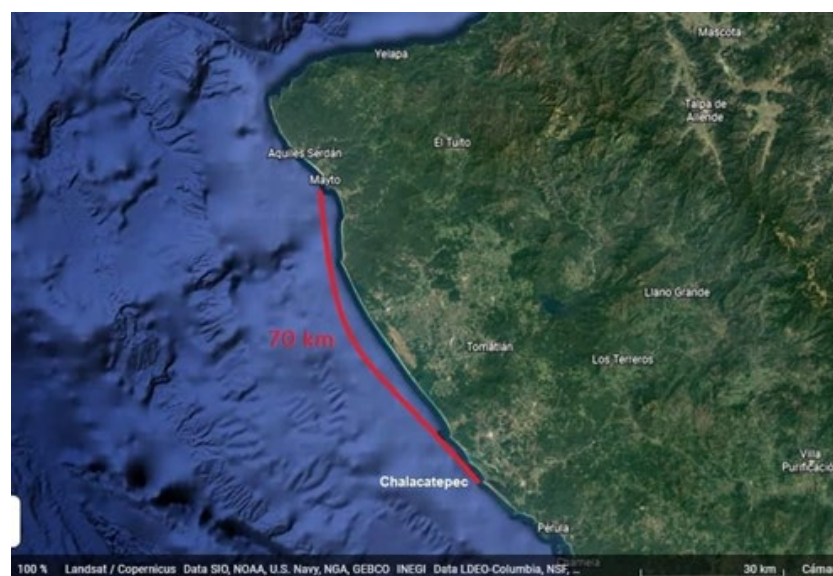


Figure 7: Distance traveled by Spimbert, hawksbill turtle marked in Chalacatepec and posteriorly captured in Tehuamixtle, about a month later. (Taken from Google Earth)

Finally, to have a better reach and making it easier for locals, tourist, volunteers, and general population, to identify the project, we created a logo (Fig. 8), this will be printed in t-shirts and other articles that will be given to fishers as well as in stickers that will be placed in vehicles, boats, etc., giving the project more visibility.



Figure 8: Carey Mayto-Tehua project logo, the coral represents the hawksbill's habitat, while the hand at the bottom, represents the participation of local fishers in the specie's conservation.

Below: Workshop and release.



