

Sea turtle conservation in the Yucatan Peninsula, México.



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The logo for Pro Natura Península de Yucatán, A.C. is centered on a green, leaf-shaped background. It features the text "pro natura" in a white, lowercase sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a circular icon containing a stylized bird with a black head, a white eye, and a body with green, yellow, and blue stripes. Below the main text, "Península de Yucatán, A.C." is written in a smaller, white, uppercase sans-serif font.

Conserving representative ecosystems, their species, and environmental services in areas of high biodiversity inside and outside Natural Protected Areas, using different tools:



Biodiversity and
associated
environmental services



Environmental standards
in public policy



Best environmental
practices in economic
and social development



Protect and conserve critical habitats



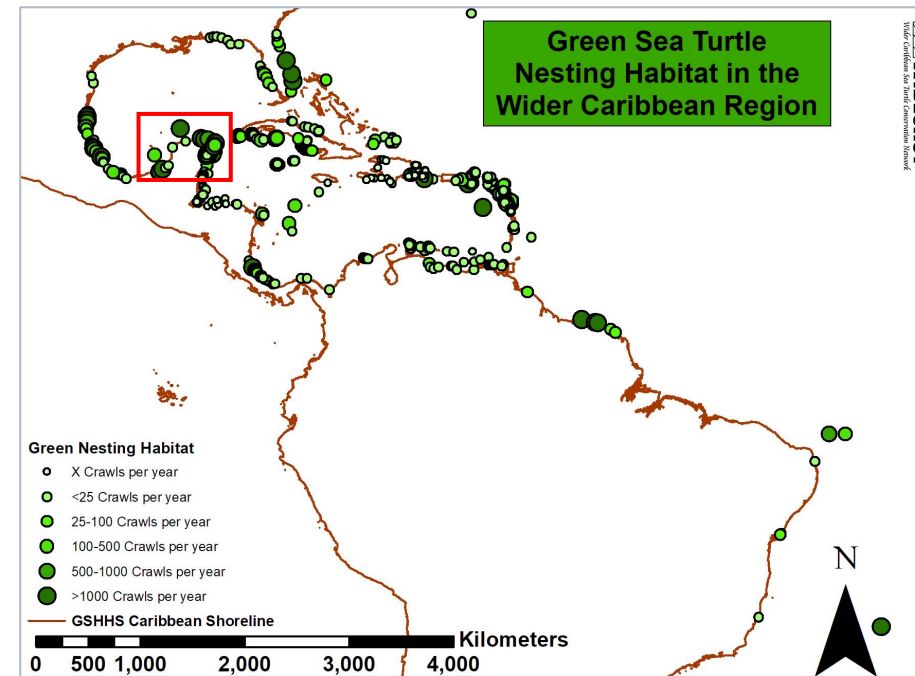
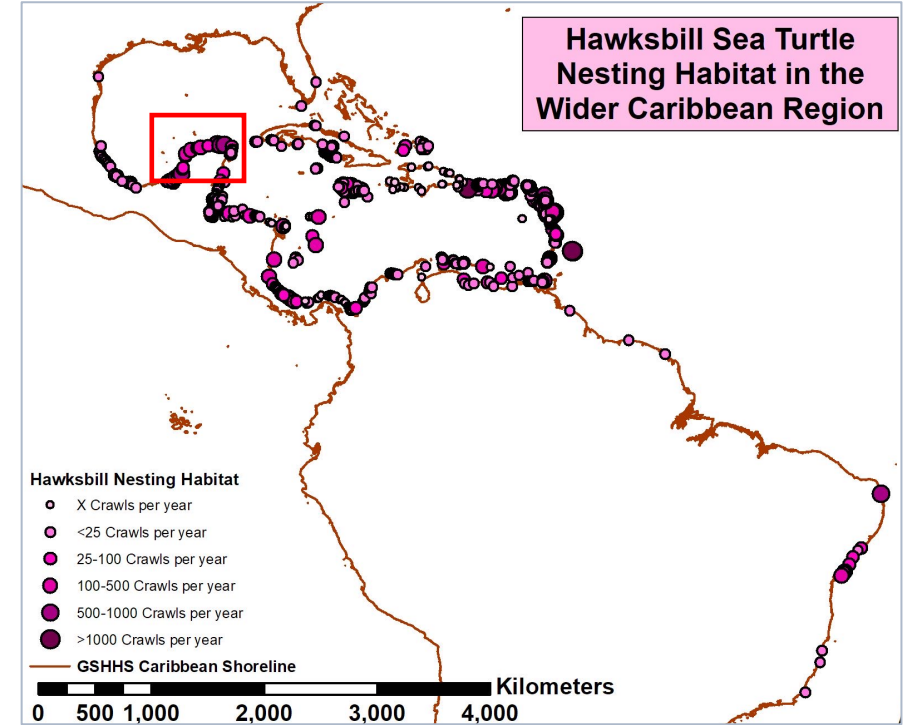
Generate knowledge



Environmental education

Relevance of the Yucatan Peninsula for sea turtles.

- Important reproductive zone.
- 25% of the Wider Caribbean hawksbill population.
- Some of the most important nesting beaches for green turtles in the North Atlantic.

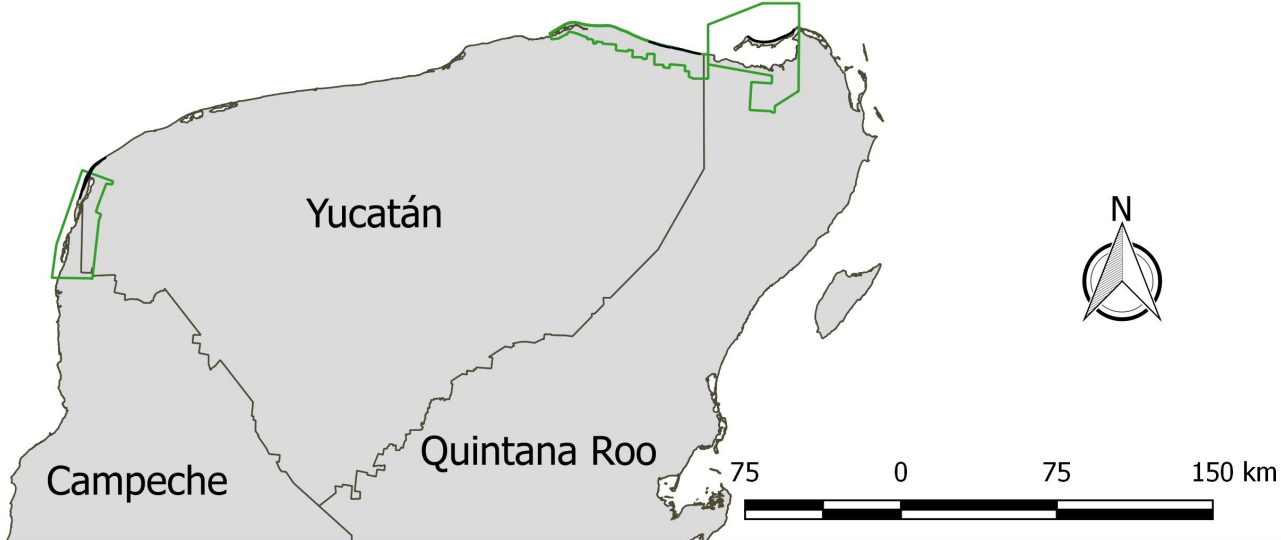
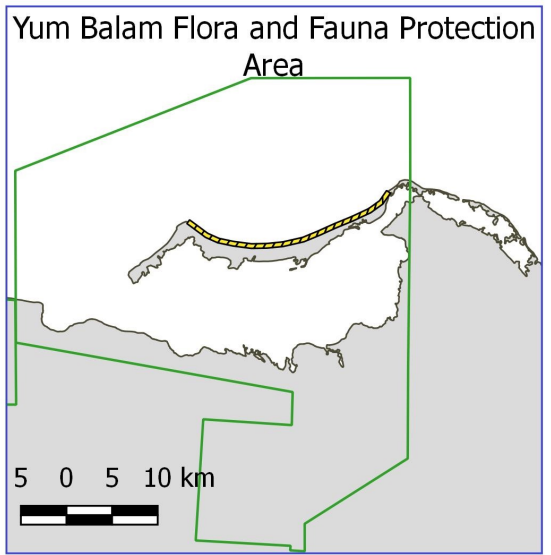
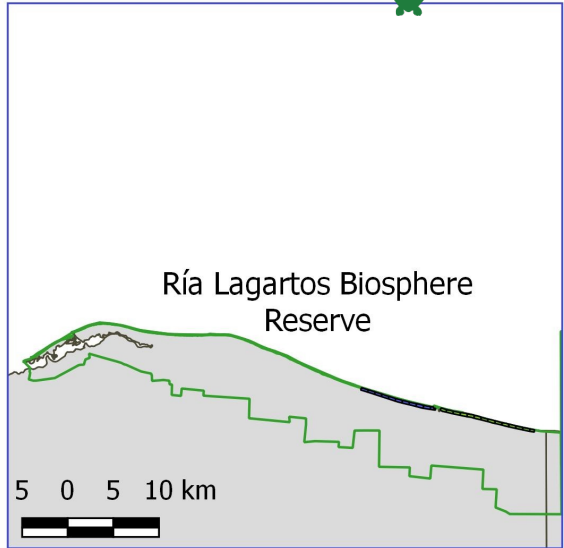
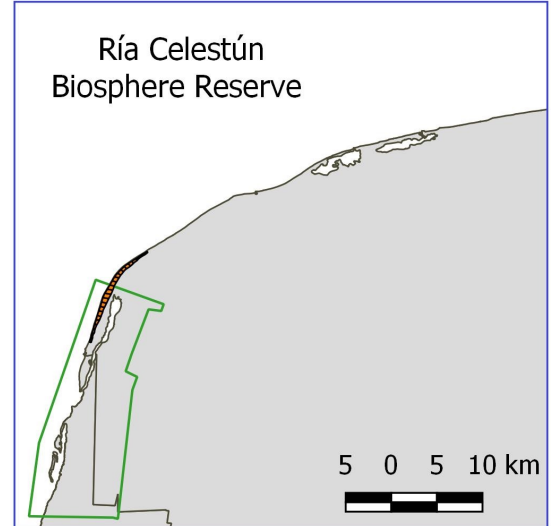




Where we work...

- Legend**
- Celestún
 - El Cuyo West
 - El Cuyo East
 - Holbox Island
 - Natural Protected Areas

- 79 km of beach protected and under long-term monitoring

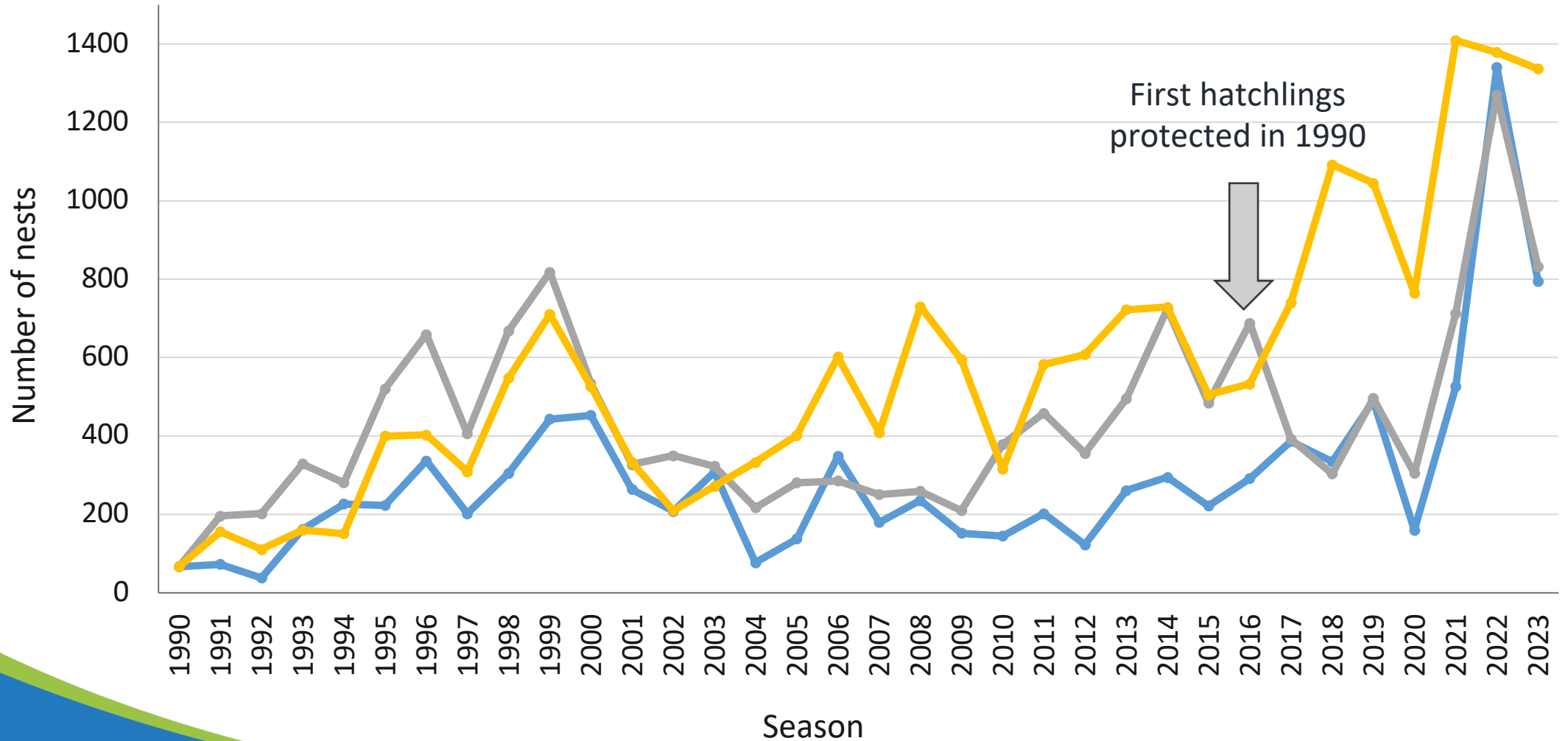


DATUM WGS84
UTM COORDINATES



Annual nest record of hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

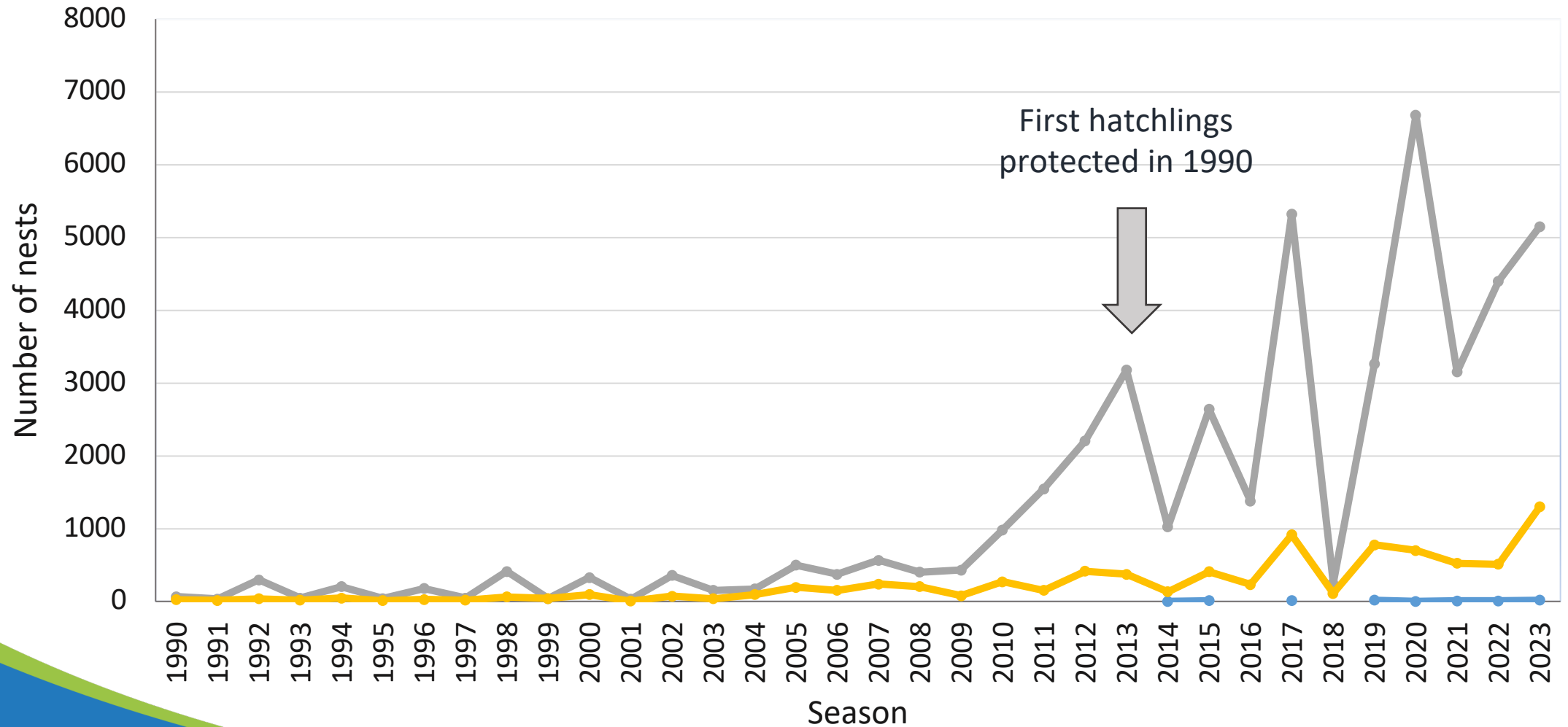
- Celestún
- El Cuyo
- Isla Holbox





Annual nest record of green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)

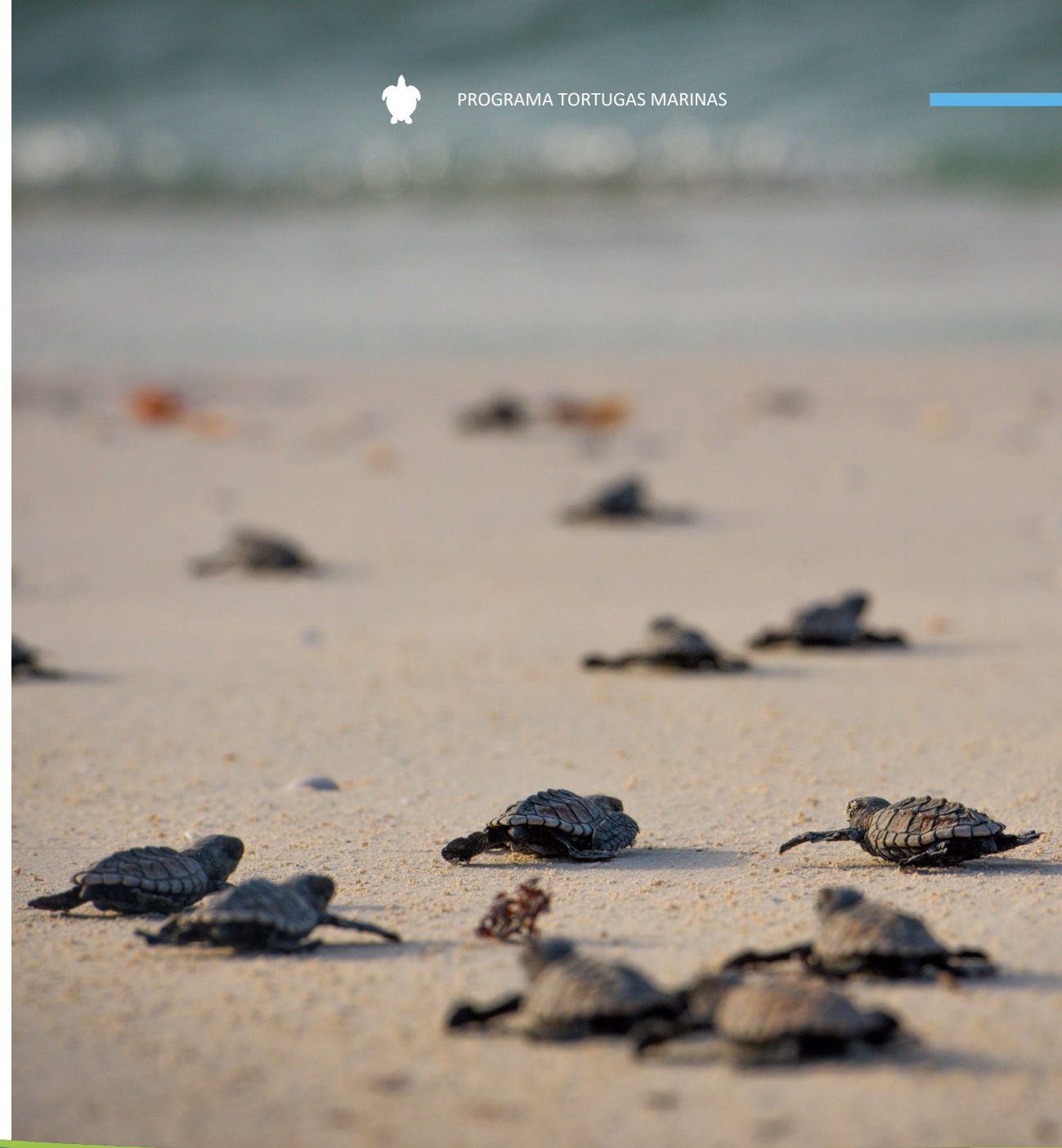
- Celestún
- El Cuyo
- Isla Holbox





Challenges (old and new)

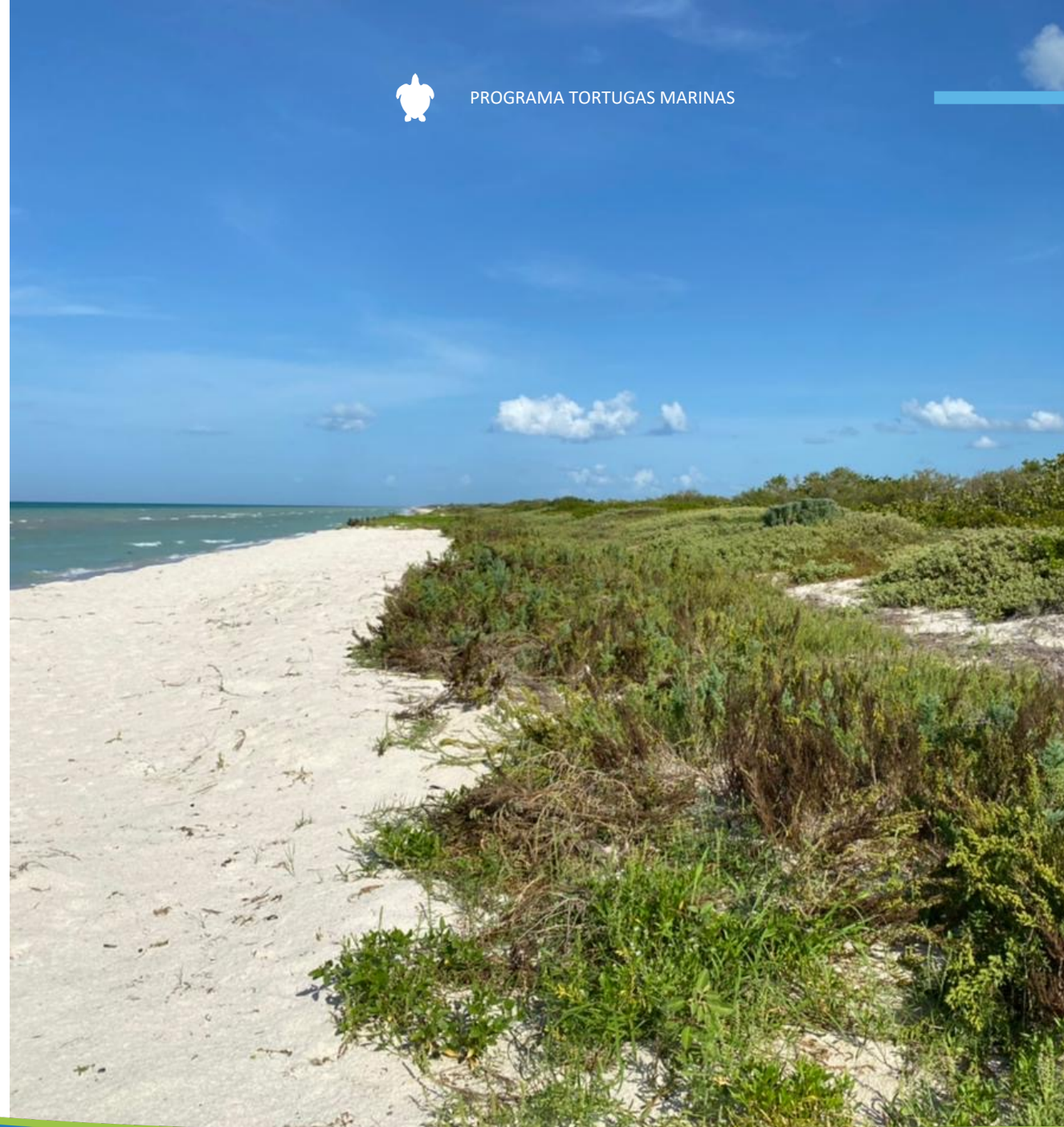
- Finance
 - Turn index beaches into permanent assessment sites is difficult.
- Rapid coastal development
 - Habitat reduction
 - Plastic waste accumulation
 - Disturbance
- Lack of government support





Our next steps

- Reduce land use change and plastic pollution.
- Work with the tourism sector.
- Protect and restore the coastal dune.
- Good tourism practices.
- Work with local governments to orient public policy

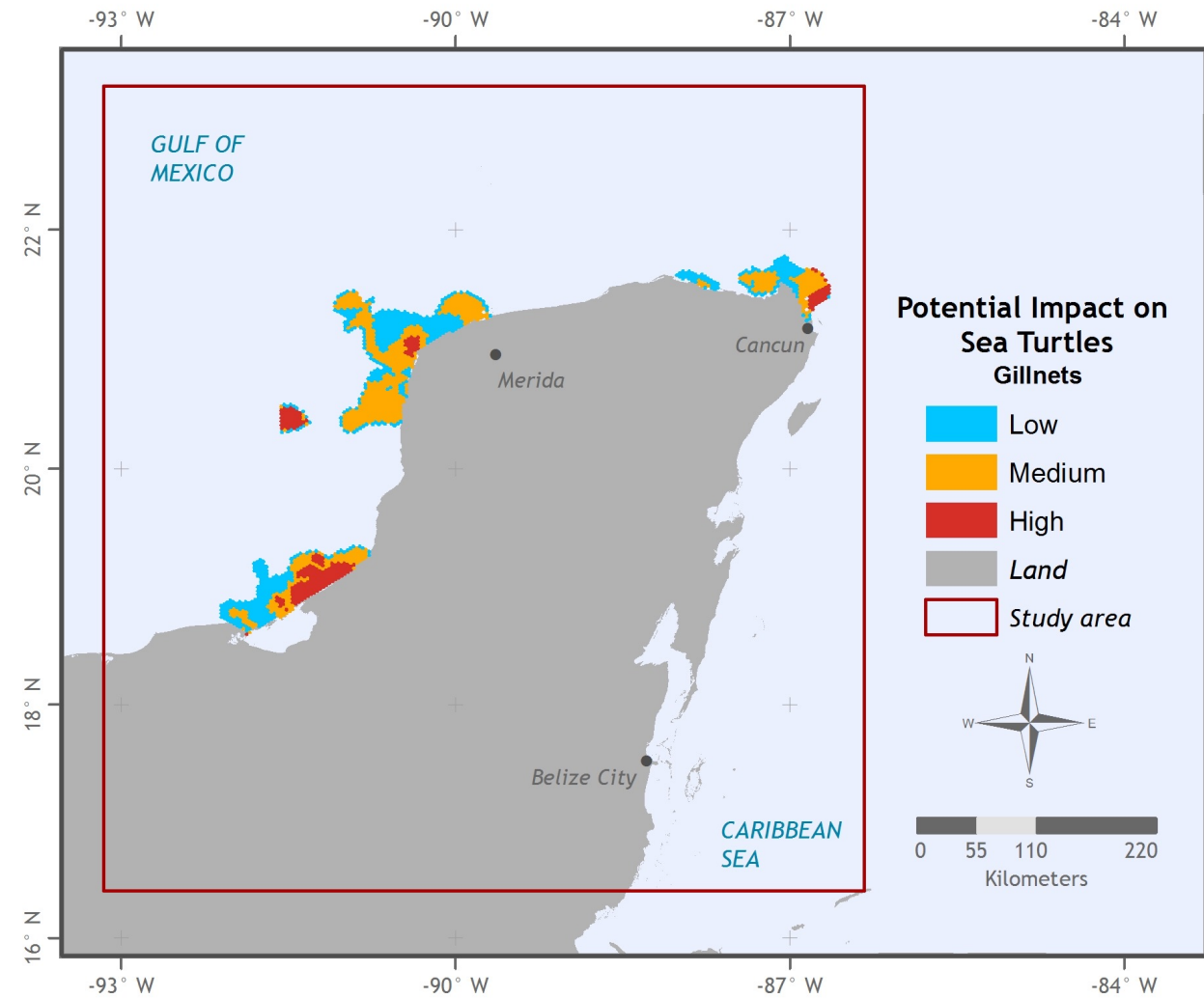
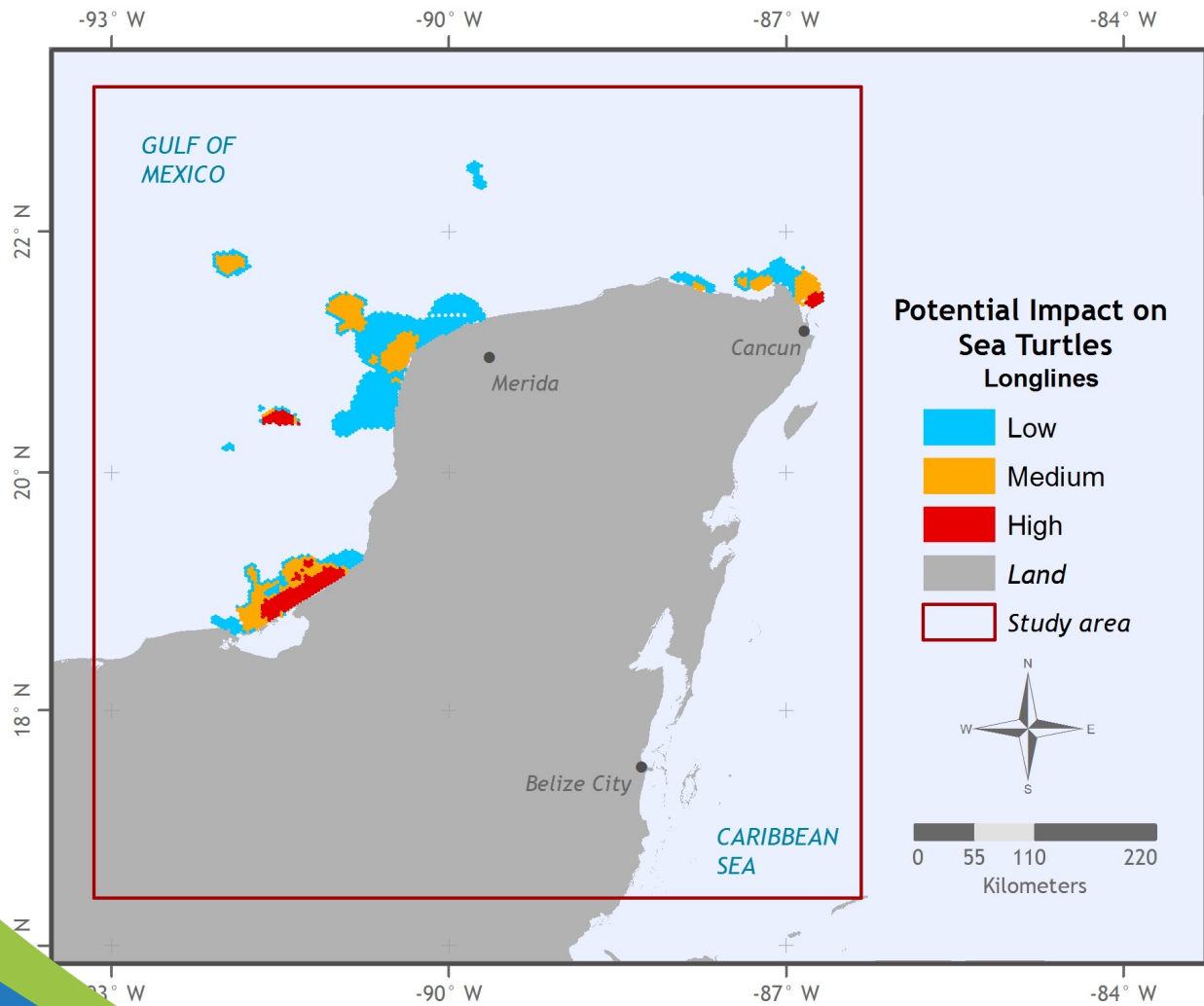


Other initiatives

- Work with local fishermen
- Identify primary causes
- Reduce sea turtle bycatch



Photo: Patricia Huerta-CedePesca



Cuevas et al. 2018. Identification of Potential Sea Turtle Bycatch Hotspots Using a Spatially Explicit Approach in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*, 17(1):78-93.



Species and threats mentioned in the posters:

- Laid (Demochelys coriacea)**
- Caguama (Chelonia mydas)**
- Blanca (Chelonia mydas)**
- Golfina (Lepidochelys olivacea)**
- Kikila (Natator depressus)**
- Threats:** PELIGRO (Danger), VULNERABLE (Vulnerable), CASI EXTINGUIDA (Nearly Extinct), DEGRADACIÓN (Degradation), CALENTAMIENTO GLOBAL (Global Warming).



Thank you!



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