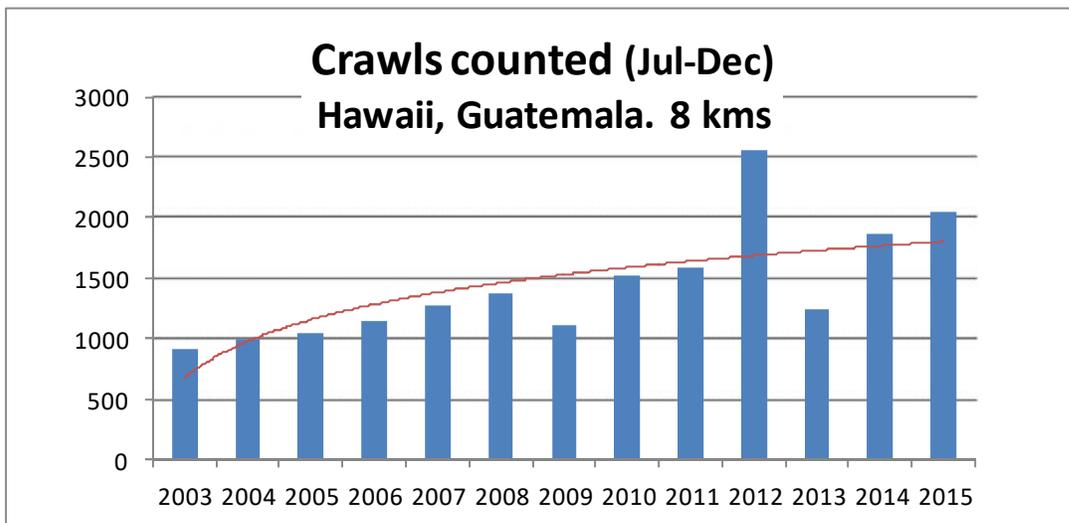


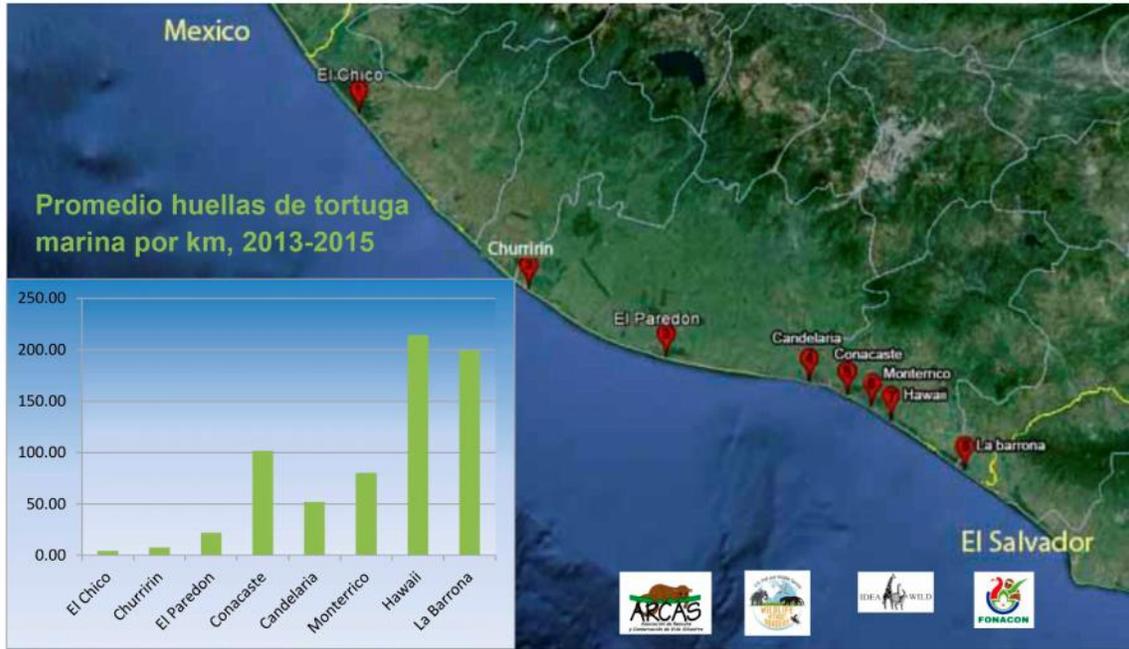
Dear Friends of the Parlama,

With pleasure, we are sending you the updated version of the Situational Analysis of the Conservation of the Sea Turtle in Guatemala. This analysis includes the results of ARCAS's sea turtle population monitoring program carried out from 2013 to the present on the Pacific coast of Guatemala. Among the key findings:

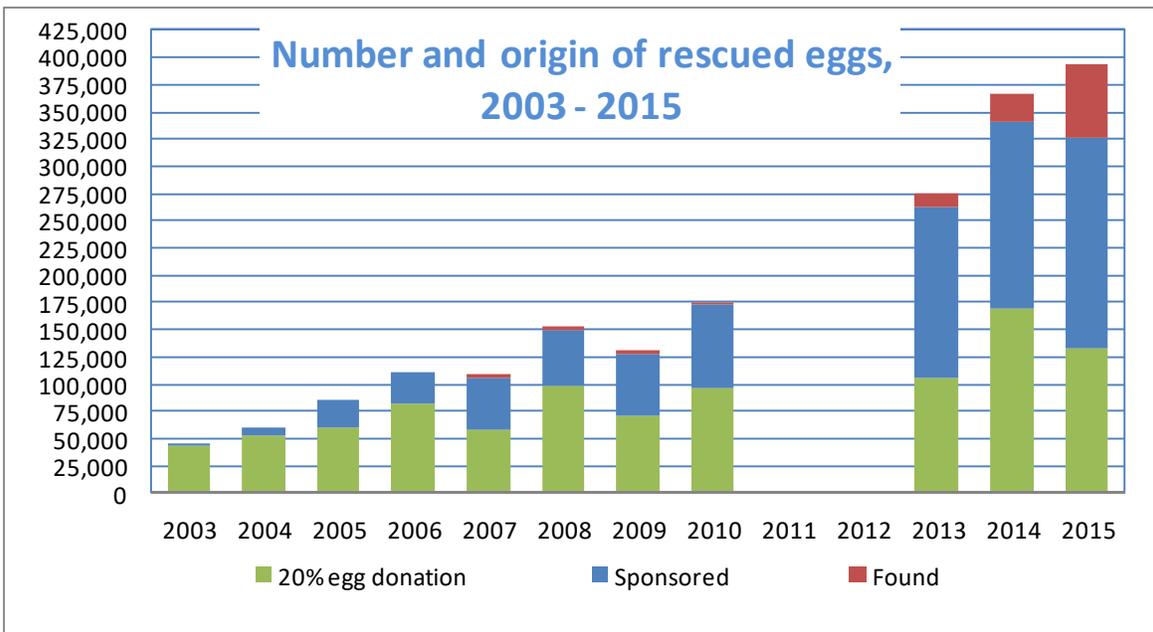
1. The olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) population trend on the Pacific coast of Guatemala continues to be positive. Under the ARCAS crawl count program, we have documented a doubling of nesting density in the last 11 years, with 1001 crawls recorded in 2004 and 2042 crawls in 2015.

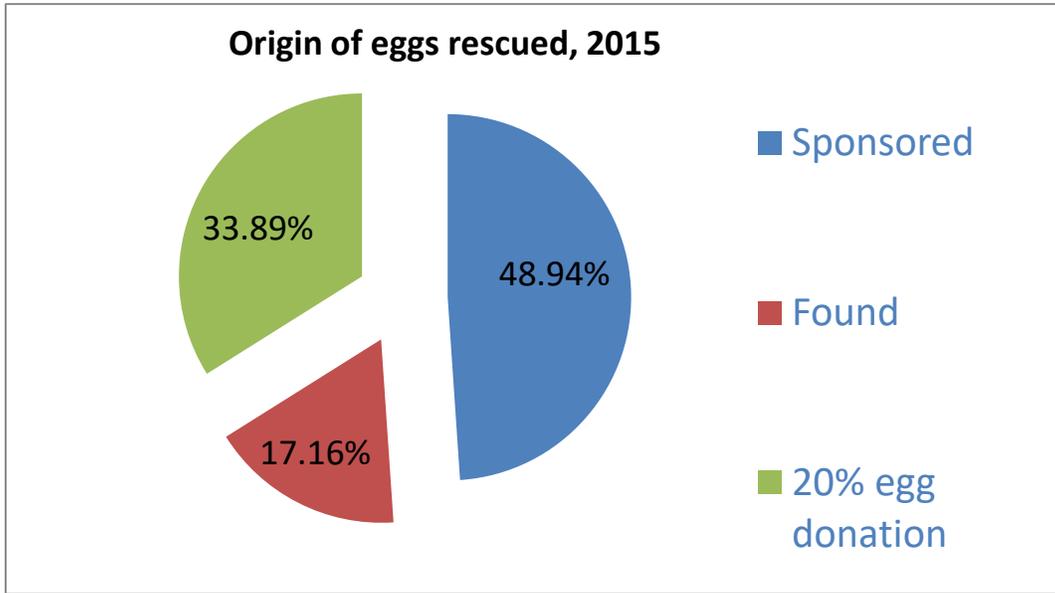


2. Olive ridley nesting density is much higher in the southeast than in the southwest, with the peak area being Hawaii, followed by La Barrona and then Candelaria. Leatherback and green nesting, is also concentrated in this sector.

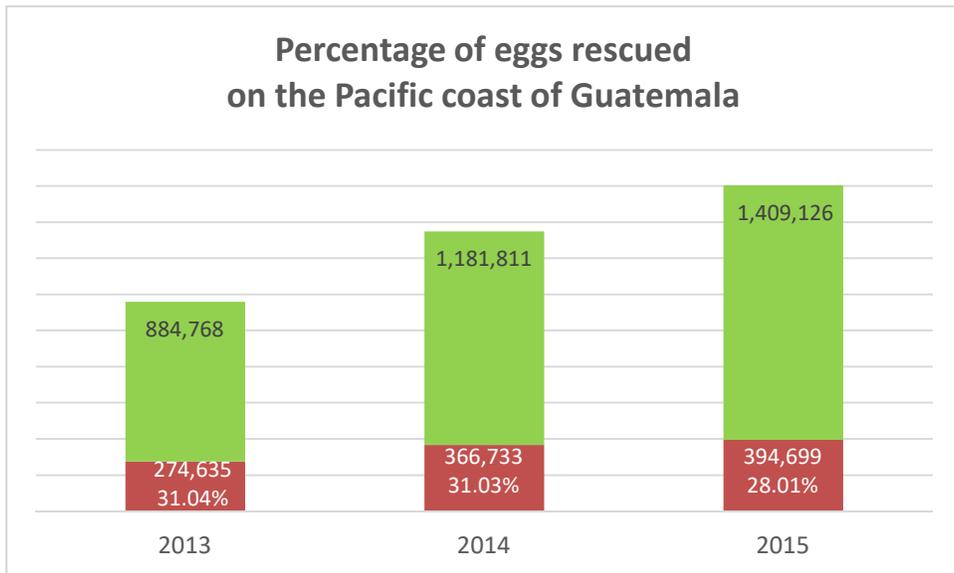


- The number of sea turtle eggs rescued and incubated on a national scale has increased from 60,000 in 2003 to 394,699 in 2015. This increase is mainly due to the various sponsor-a-nest programs operated by hatcheries, hotels and vacation home owners. In 2015, nearly half of all eggs rescued were purchased by the private sector.





4. In 2015, 15,207 successful nests were laid on the Pacific coast of Guatemala for a total of 1,409,126 eggs. Of these, 394,699 eggs were rescued and incubated at 25 hatcheries, representing 28.01% of the total number of eggs laid. Although the percentage of eggs rescued has fallen from 31% to 28% during the last three years, there has been an overall increase in nesting and an increase of 32.74% in the total number of eggs rescued. This increase in the total number of eggs rescued gives us hope as it indicates an increase in national conservation effort and capacity.



5. In 2015, the economic value on the beach (wholesale price) of the market in olive ridley eggs on the Pacific coast of Guatemala was Q1,917,051 or US\$252,243. If we take into

consideration the supply chain from collector, to buyer, to wholesaler and then consumer, the retail value of the sea turtle egg trade was Q6,763,806 or US\$889,974.

6. Though 6 nests were recorded this year, the population tendency for leatherbacks continues to decline, and in recent year, only 0 – 2 nests have been recorded on the 254 kms of Pacific coastline. In recent years, the nesting of Pacific green or black sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas agassazi*) has been documented in the southeast sector of the Pacific coast.
7. Although they are essential in supporting the 20% egg conservation quota system, Guatemala hatcheries lack the technical capacity and resources to incubate sea turtle eggs and collect data in a scientific manner. Nor do they exploit the hatcheries' potential as an educational tool.

This third update of the original Situational Analysis was prepared by Colum Muccio and Juan Manuel Perez of ARCAS, with the support of the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS-MTCF) and Idea Wild.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you want the full Spanish report or the original data, please contact us at arcasguatemala@gmail.com or +502 7830-1374.

Sincerely,

Colum Muccio