

Project Update: May 2010

Between January and April 2010, 15 beach census were performed along Cerro Verde MPA and a total of 47 stranded sea turtles were recorded, including 30 green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), 12 loggerheads (*Caretta caretta*), four leatherbacks (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and one unidentified turtle. The most frequent cause of mortality in greens was interaction with marine debris, due to entanglement or ingestion, while for loggerheads and leatherbacks the main stranding cause was interaction with fisheries.

During the “Saving the Sea Turtle” festival, held in March and April 2010, reusable cloth bags were painted by 500 students of La Coronilla and Punta del Diablo attaining their introduction in most of the local families.

Since April 2010, markets of La Coronilla town started to offer the cloth bags to their clients showing their commitment with the sea turtles conservation efforts.

As well, during the tourism week that takes place in April, a public awareness journey was performed at Punta del Diablo, the main touristic locality, where replacement of plastic bags was suggested to tourists offering the cloth bags.



Left: Impact of fisheries on loggerhead turtles. Right: Local school students with their reusable cloth bags.