

Project Update: May 2015

We are happy to report that the last nesting season of green turtles at Poilão was a record year, with over 40,000 nesting attempts! For a success rate of 81.3% (Catry *et al.*, 2009, *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*) *ca.* 32,500 nests were laid in 2014!

Moreover, our team saved 71 adult females found stranded in the tidal rocks! This has a huge impact on the population, as each female lays 5 - 6 nests per season, each nest originates *ca.* 100 hatchlings, and sea turtles nest throughout their lives. Up to a million future hatchlings of green turtles were protected in 2014 alone!

We are concerned however with the estimated hatching success of 63%, mainly due to inundation of nests during spring tides, which may decrease substantially with predicted sea level rise (SLR). We collected information on beach elevation and will model the future of this nesting area with SLR scenarios



Photo 1. Spring tide flooding the nesting beach, leading to nest mortality (wood pole marks a monitored nest).



Photo 2. Green turtle tracks at Poilão. Over 80,000 tracks counted during 2014 season. Eight nesting females can be spotted in this photo.