

Brazilian Sea Turtle Conservation Program

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Multidisciplinary Workshop to Address
Ecosystem-Level Impacts of Fisheries
Bycatch on Marine Megafauna



Sea Turtles and People

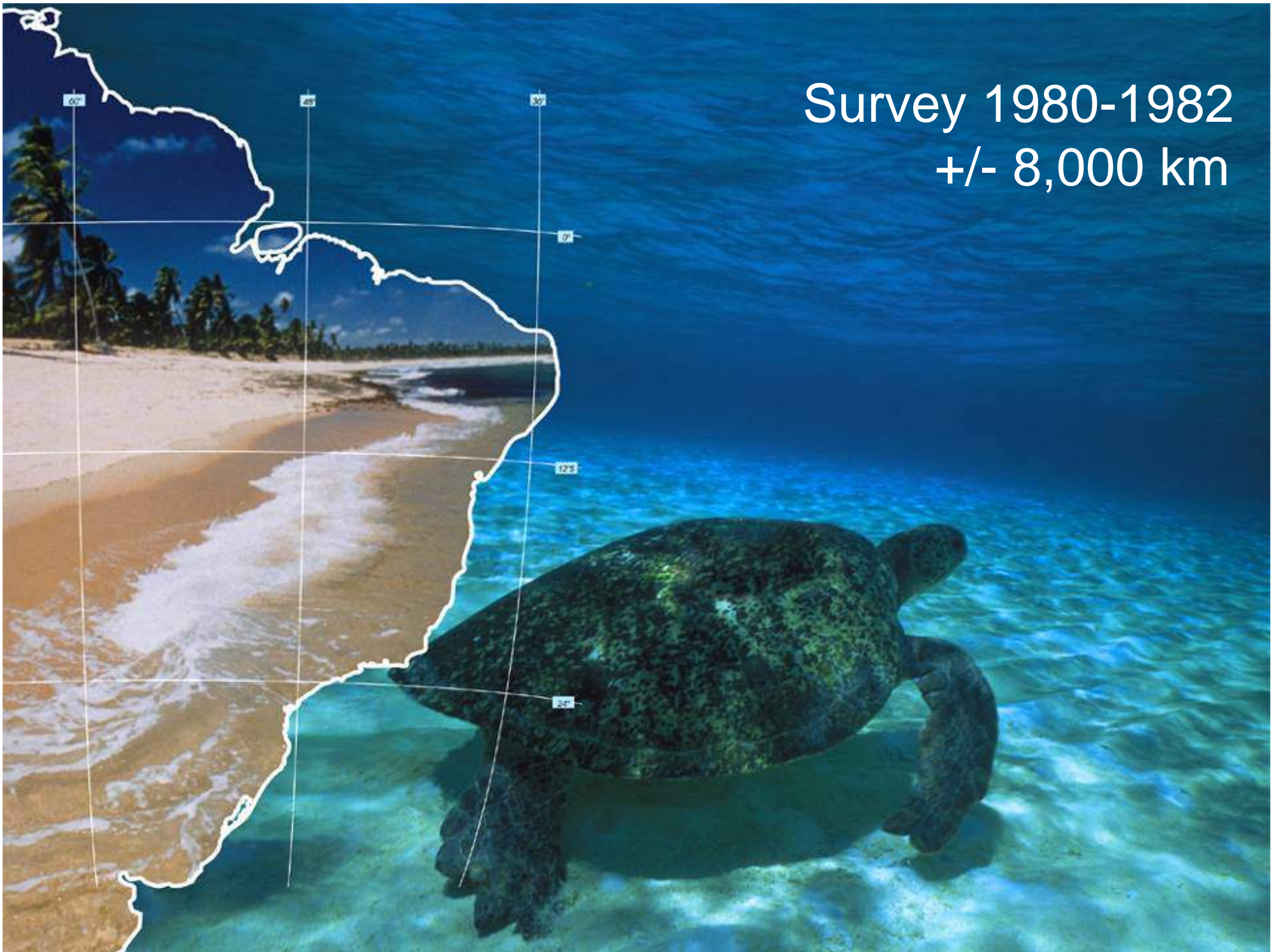


PROJETO TAMAR
33 ANOS

Projeto TAMAR activities began in 1980

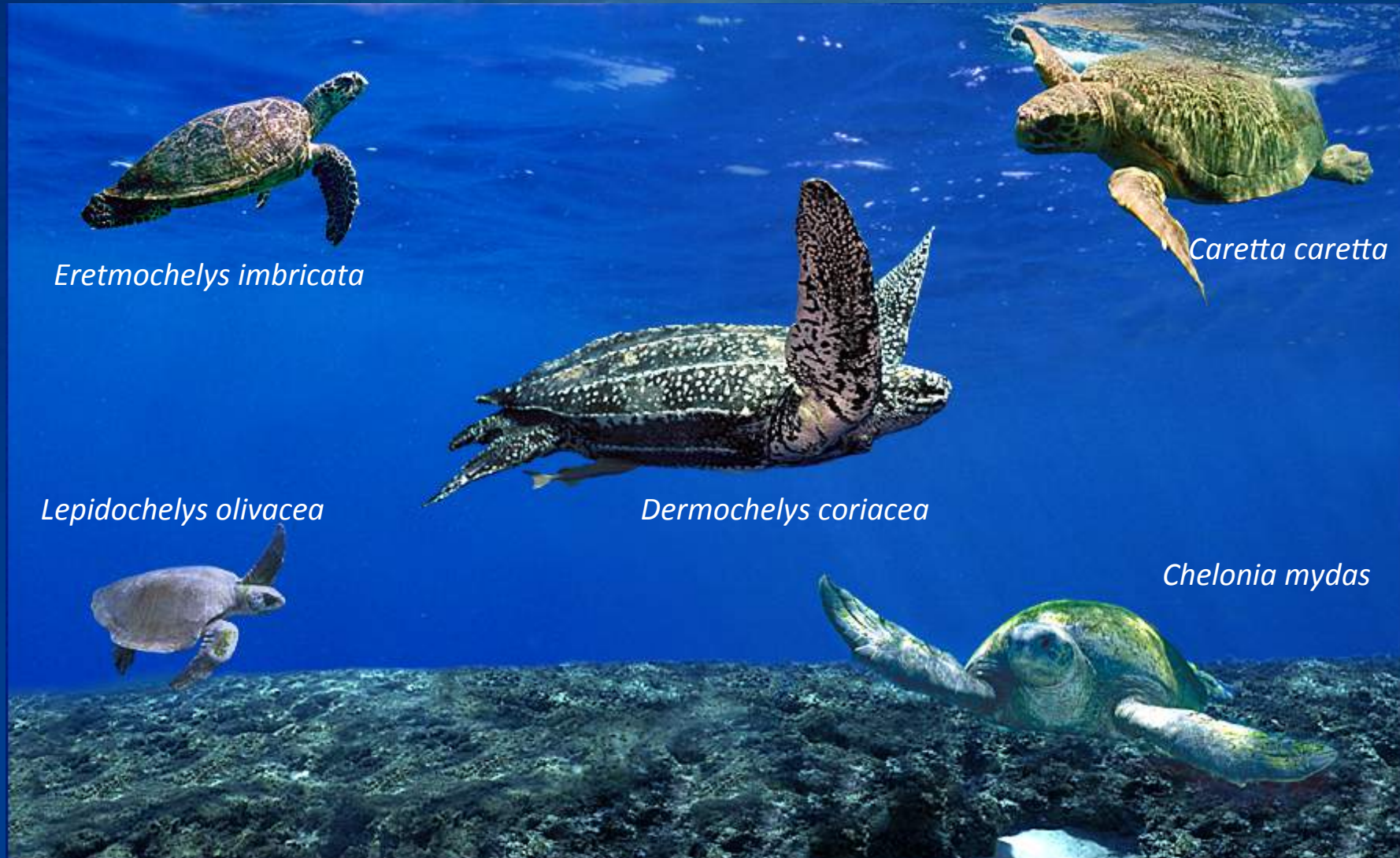


Survey 1980-1982
+/- 8,000 km





Detailed information was gathered throughout the whole Brazilian coast during the first two years.



Five of the seven species of marine turtles existent globally were found in Brazil.

Conservation Problem

TAMAR discovered 3 major threats to sea turtles in Brazil:

1. Almost 100% of eggs did not hatch because they were collected by coastal residents
2. Nesting females killed for their meat and shell
3. Sea turtle shells used commercially and domestically





The first goal of TAMAR was to re-establish marine turtle's reproductive cycle, interrupted by direct use



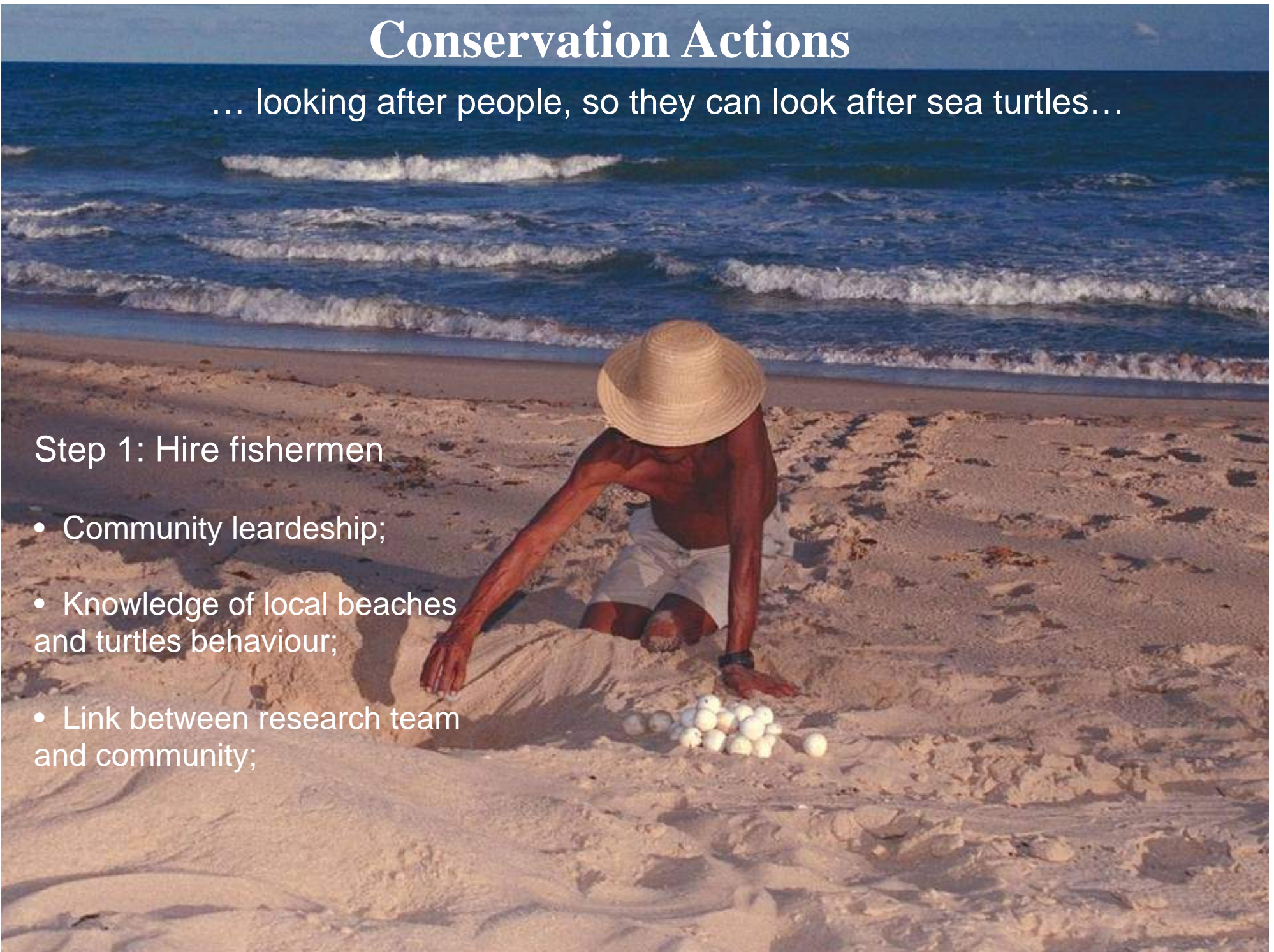
“What to do with hundreds of fishermen that were dependent on marine turtles to survive?”

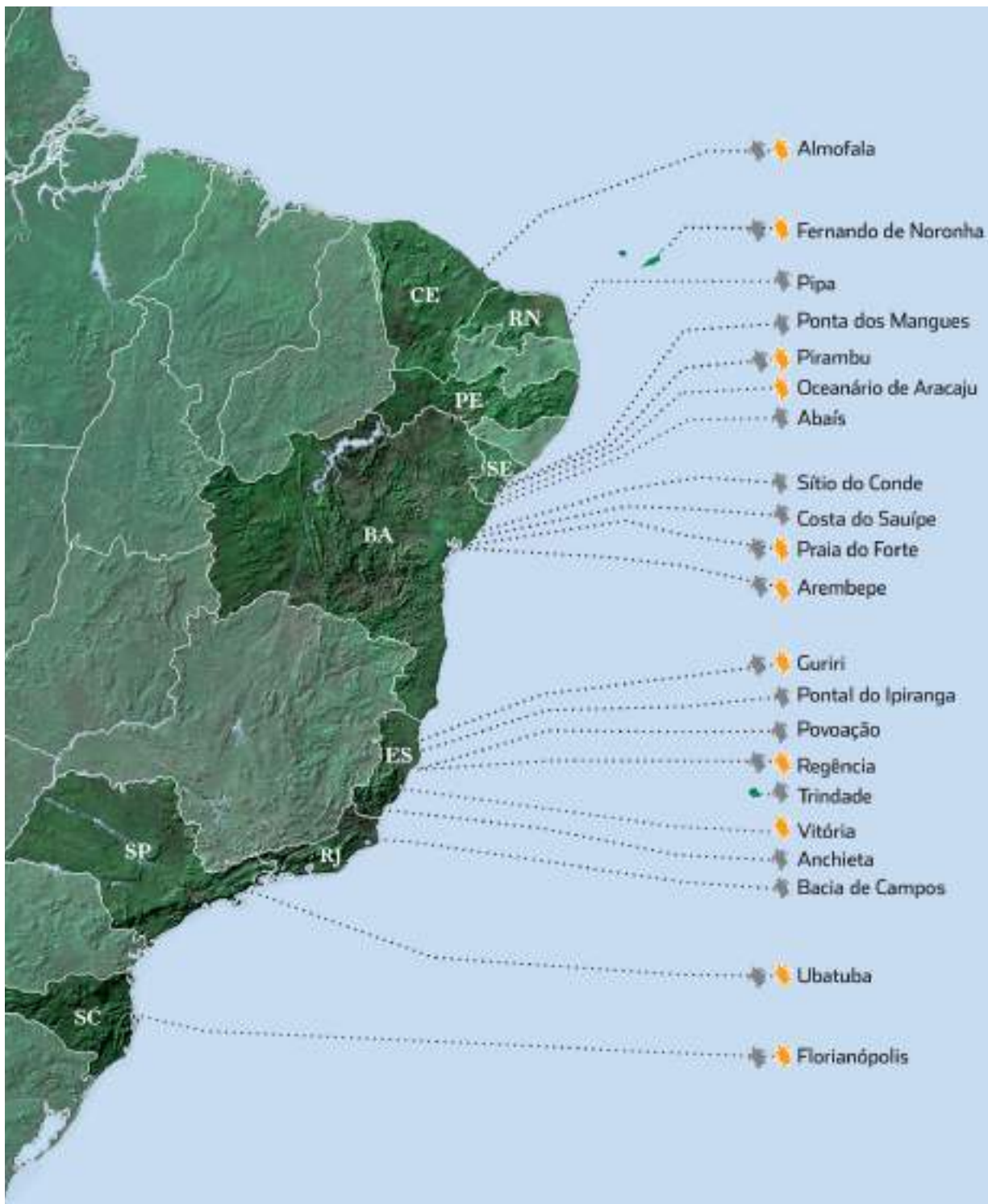
Conservation Actions

... looking after people, so they can look after sea turtles...

Step 1: Hire fishermen

- Community leadership;
- Knowledge of local beaches and turtles behaviour;
- Link between research team and community;





Today...

- 21 stations all year round
- 1100 km monitored
- Standardized data collection

Stations are staffed by researchers, students and local residents



Beach patrolling – 1,100 km



Each fisherman patrols 5 km of nesting beaches per day

- Protection and monitoring
- Standard and Regular Data collection with researchers

Local participation
enabled:

70 % of nests *in situ*



+ 24,000 nests protected
Long term studies



Chelonia mydas
Green



Almeida et al. (2011) Green turtle nesting on Trindade Island, Brazil: abundance, trends and biometrics. ESR