

TurtleSpot Taiwan

NEW INTERACTION, NEW RECORDS AND THE EMERGING POWER OF DIVERS

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WHAT IS IT?

TurtleSpot Taiwan is a citizen science project that began in June 2017. It was initiated by a group of divers using social media as a platform to collect sighting and photograph records of sea turtles.

WHY?

To establish an open database of sea turtles around Taiwan and apply on sea turtle educational outreach.

HOW?

Data collection and analysis

1) Using facebook group to collect the sighting records



- (a) Left face, right face and whole turtle
Basic information for Photo ID
To determine the species, sex and body condition
- (b) Time and date, location and depth
Tempo-spatial distribution
- (c) Extra information
Any injuries? What is it doing?
Reaction to approaching divers?

- 2) Analyze the photos manually and by software "Hotspotter"
- 3) Monthly report: result of the data collected and turtle facts/stories
- 4) New turtle sighting can be named by the first reporter

Educational activities

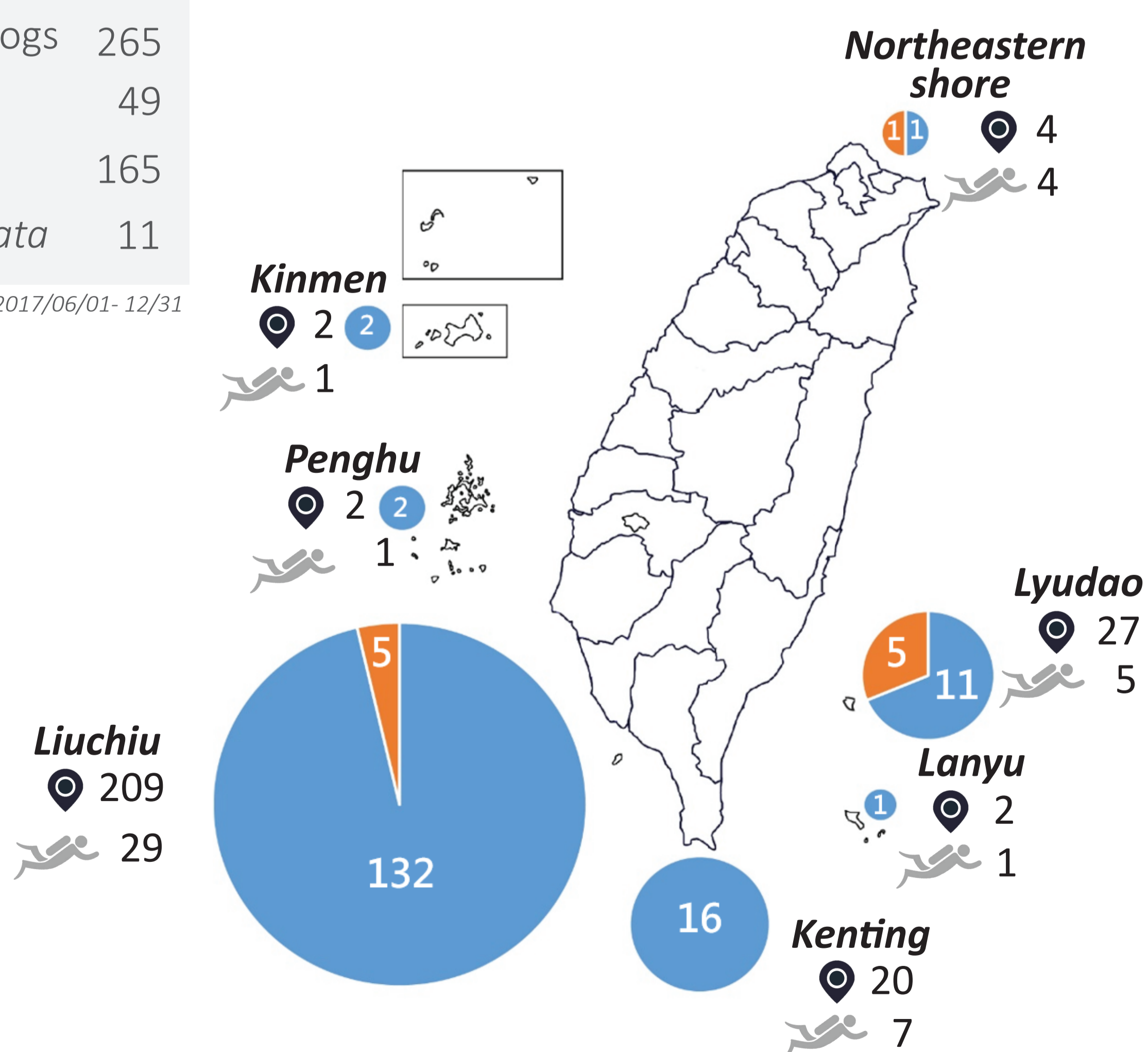
- 1) Public speeches: to kids, students and divers
- 2) Workshops: sea turtle photographing techniques
- 3) Diving course: PADI Sea Turtle Awareness

CURRENT RESULTS

Sightings distribution around Taiwan

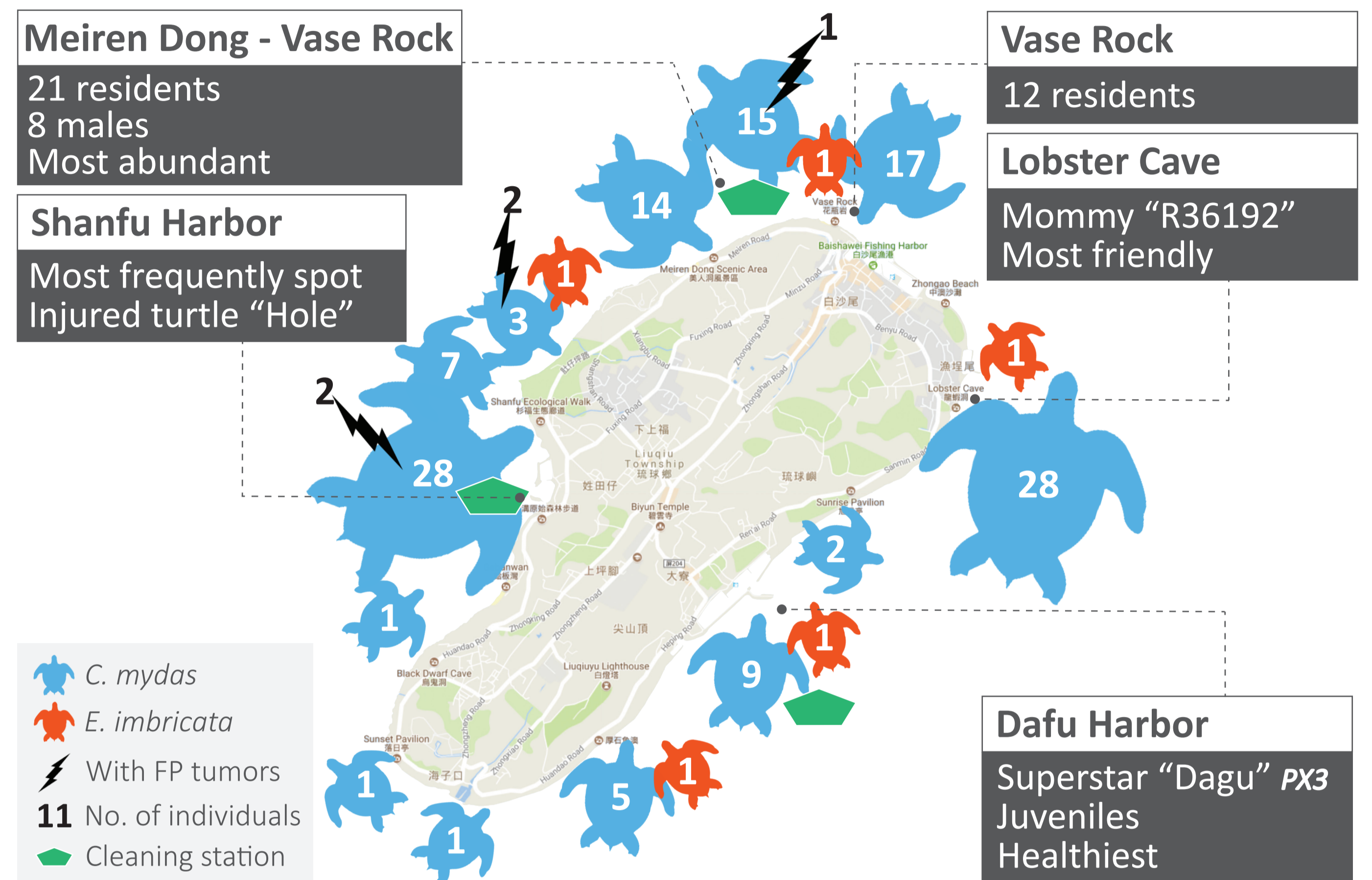
- 📍 Sighting logs 265
- 👤 Observer 49
- 🐢 *C. mydas* 165
- 🐢 *E. imbricata* 11

From 2017/06/01- 12/31



HIGHLIGHTS

Hot spot area: Liuchiu island



Clinically abnormal

20% of turtles: fishing line entanglement, missing flippers, injured or with tumors.



Working together to keep an eye on the injured turtle "Hole"



Mommy "R36192" from Samoa

A turtle with tag was spotted by several local diving instructors. According to SPREP, R36192 were nesting on Ulithi atoll in 2006 and 2012.



WHAT IS NEXT?

- 1) Keep "turtlespotting" and contribute the data to world open database
- 2) Additional routine monitoring with trained volunteers
- 3) More fun activities about sea turtles: talks, games and diving tours

Acknowledgment

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