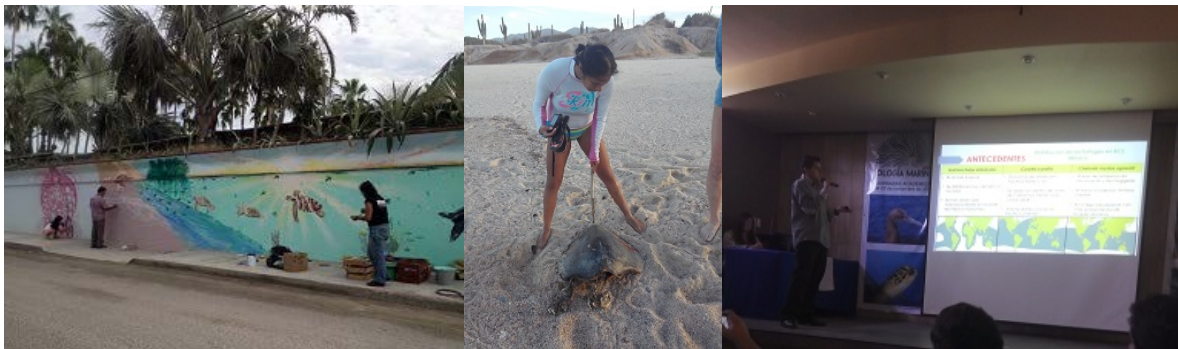


Project Update: November 2015

In November 2015, University of Baja California Sur in the Marine Biology department and colleagues from WildCoast helped me paint a Sea Turtle Mural in a community where beach driving remains a problem for sea turtle nesting. We hope that the mural inspires people to care more about protecting sea turtle nesting areas and follow the law. We also hope it inspires the Mexican federal government to start enforcing the law that prohibits driving in the beach. The mural was planned as part of the last community workshop.

Over the past year, we have reached a few people with our workshops and events. Beachgoers including kite surfers, artisan fishermen, and beach drivers have reported over 18 dead stranded turtles to us over the past 2 months. People are reporting through an online reporting system found by a tourist from one of our workshops. We now have a functioning citizen science monitoring programme inspired from our workshops. Also as a result of our workshops, six marine biology students have decided to focus their thesis on sea turtle ecology. This is the first semester when more than one student has chosen sea turtles as a thesis prospect. These students were inspired by their participation in the workshops I hosted about the Model for Conservation Tourism.



Left: Sea Turtle Mural painted in a small coastal tourist destination where beach driving remains a problem for sea turtle recovery. Middle: Sea Turtle Stranding, Dead Olive Ridley reported by a tourist who attended a workshop in October 2015. Right: Student Thesis presentation. - One of six students in marine biology who have decided to focus their thesis on sea turtle ecology as a result of their participation in our workshops.