

March 2026

2025 Update: Sea turtle conservation at Playa Salinas Grandes in Nicaragua

Project partner: Gabriela Paredes

We wanted to thank you again for your support for this project give you this update.



Highlights of the past year:

- ◆ In 2025, project staff recorded an **increase in the "arribadas" of the Vulnerable olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)** at Playa Salinas Grandes.
- ◆ 17,821 sea turtle eggs were relocated to the project's hatchery, and **16,123 hatchlings (90%) were safely released into the ocean**. Since the project began in 2020, 77,960 hatchlings have been successfully released.
- ◆ It's worth noting that without the conservation work at Salinas Grandes, most or all of these sea turtle eggs would have probably ended up in the black market, for consumption.
- ◆ It is also worth noting that Salinas Grandes has the only hatchery operating between the months of April and August at beaches near the city of León (26 km from Playa Salinas Grandes). All other nurseries in the region begin operations in mid-August, during the height of the sea turtle *arribada*—a mass synchronised and unique sea turtle nesting phenomenon, common to both the olive ridley and Kemp's ridley sea turtles.
- ◆ **The project's education component is making a difference.** Project staff have noticed an increased awareness of the need for sea turtle conservation and an overall positive change in the behavior of local children who participate in the project's Sea Turtle Environmental Education and Protection Program.

This year...

In February 2026, project staff purchased the supplies to build this year's project nursery, which will be completed in March or April. Preparations are also underway for the Sea Turtle Environmental Education and Protection Program's workshops, of which 8 are planned. Thanks to this program, local children have developed a greater love and appreciation for nature and desire to learn more about sea turtle conservation.

Thank you for your support for this project! Please let us know if you have questions or would like to discuss this project or receive further information.

Biome's Project Lead for this project:

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