



BAJA SUR CALIFORNIA MEXICO MARINE PROTECTION

2023 - 2024 IMPACT REPORT

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Introduction

Baja Sur California has become highly threatened in the past 5-10 years with many community fisheries on verge of collapse, diving operations no longer profitable and key species like hammerhead sharks have vanished from this critical marine ecosystem.

After years of exploitation by mainland industrial fishing fleets, Baja Sur California needs recovery and protection from unchecked industrial fishing which has largely denuded the underwater wonderland that is Baja Sur, leaving ghost nets and long-lines across the UNESCO World Heritage site, one of the world's most important marine ecosystems.

Neither the three (3) National Parks or CONASPECA, the Commission for Fishing, with whom we work daily, have had sufficient resources– boats, wardens, law enforcement, fisher community liaisons – to fight back against the increasing pressures and stem species extinction and economic collapse of fishers and diving operators, a once thriving tourism sector.

Illegal fishing, shark finning, industrial fishing now controlled by cartels, and heavy sports fishing all – threaten Baja Sur California Eastscape and extinction of entire species.

Focused on the UNESCO World Heritage site of Baja Sur California and its Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Community Fisheries, Global Conservation is focused on four critical areas of Marine Protection for Baja Sur California:

1. Real-time Surveillance – now three (3) marine radars 24/7 monitoring
2. Increasing Rapid Response – patrols have nearly tripled in 3 years
3. Joint Conapesca Operations – first time integrated patrolling with Fisheries Ministry
4. Funding the above activities with our key Partners in Conservation

This impact report covers 2023-2024 progress and outlines the challenges ahead for our Marine Protection work in Baja Sur California Mexico.

GC has deployed multiple Global Park Defense (GPD) systems for Marine Protection beginning in 2020 focused on the Eastscape of Baja Sur from Loreto Bay National Park in the north to San Jose Island and Espiritu Santo National Marine Park off La Paz. As well, GC Mexico works to protect community fishing reserves from Agua Verde in the north to Boca Del Alamo in the south.

Global Conservation's primary objective is to safeguard the endangered marine ecosystems of the Baja California Sur Marine Corridor (BSMC) by reducing the pressures of illegal fishing (artisanal, sport and industrial). Our strategy involves collaborative efforts with national parks and fishery authorities, communities and NGOs to support them and enhances their capacities to combat IUU fishing.

Global Park Defense has proven to be an effective, flexible and robust methodology for Marine Protection that combines technology, knowledge and expertise, and a network of

24/7 real-time marine radars with specialized software to remotely survey large areas with integration to Skylight and Earthranger, improving effectiveness and frequency of targeted marine patrolling and Rapid Response Teams combined with Community Protection.

After four years, GPD has now been adopted by the Mexican authorities across the Baja Sur Marine Corridor. We are investing into the technical and patrolling capabilities of has built collaborative relationships with all key government partners - CONANP, SEMARNAT, SEMAR and CONAPESCA, Park Authorities, communities, NGOs such as PRONATURA, ROC, NIPARAJÁ, and fishing reserves leaders, and other members co-founders of Marine Conservation in Mexico as Alumbra Innovations Foundation.

GC is fostering strong collaboration with National Park authorities, Community Fisheries, law enforcement agencies, NGO partners and community leaders. GC is supporting the creation of new national parks and community fishing refuges, as well as enhancing the training of marine wardens and community guardians to ensure effective enforcement.

Global Conservation works at a landscape scale in the Baja Sur Marine Corridor (BSMC) to improve compliance and marine protection at a regional level:

- Loreto Bay National Park
- Espiritu Santo National Park
- 'Refugios Pesqueros' – Agua Verde + 4
- San Basilio Bay
- East Cape - Boca del Álamo

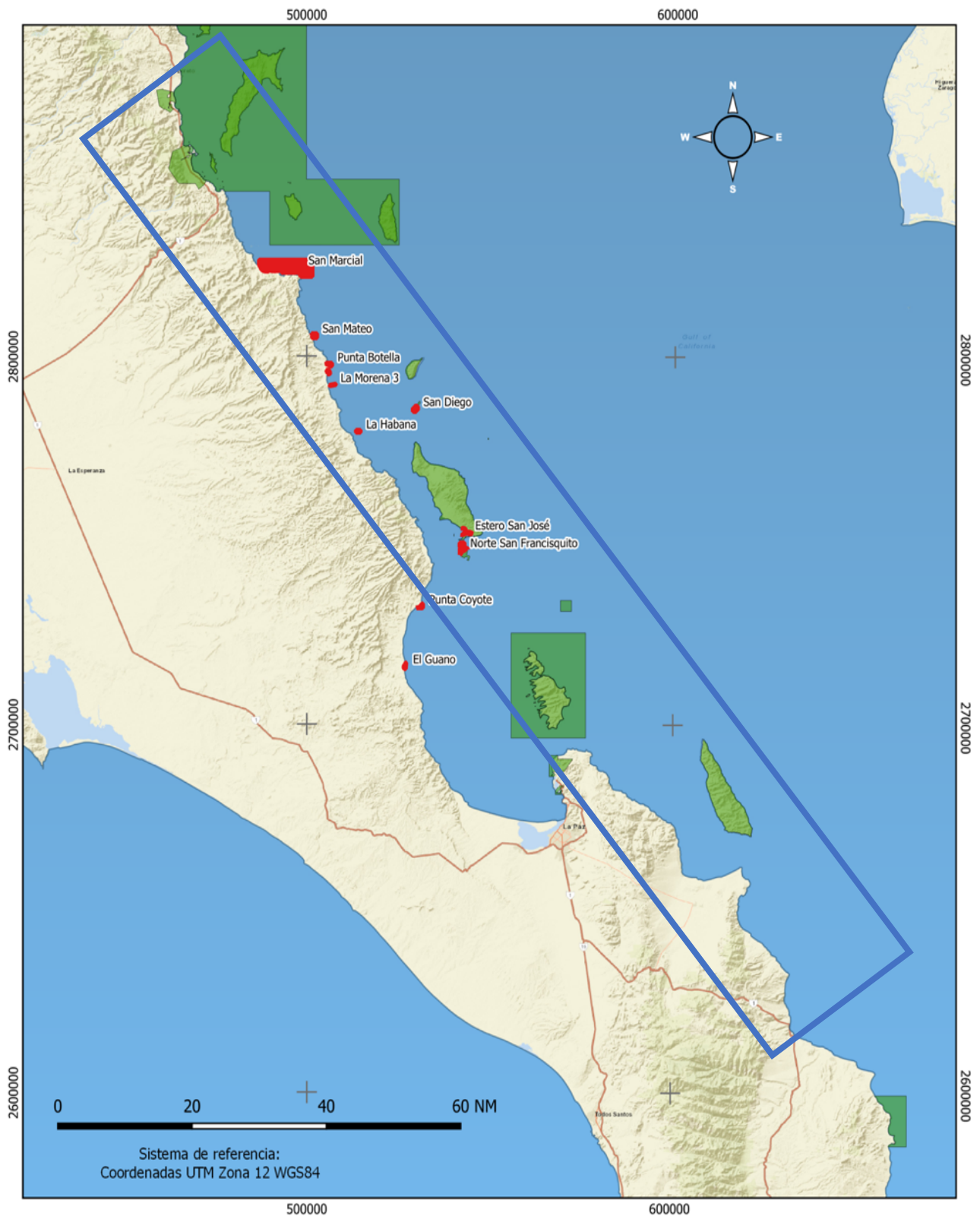
Baja Sur Marine Corridor (BSMC) encompasses an area of approximately 27,200 square kilometers, but only a mere 21,300 hectares of this area is currently designated as a "No Take" zone, encompassing 7.8% of the total area.

GC is collaborating with the National Fishing Authority (CONAPESCA) and National Parks (CONANP) to establish a new Pericu National Park focused on the San José Archipelago just north of La Paz, an ideal area for marine tourism.

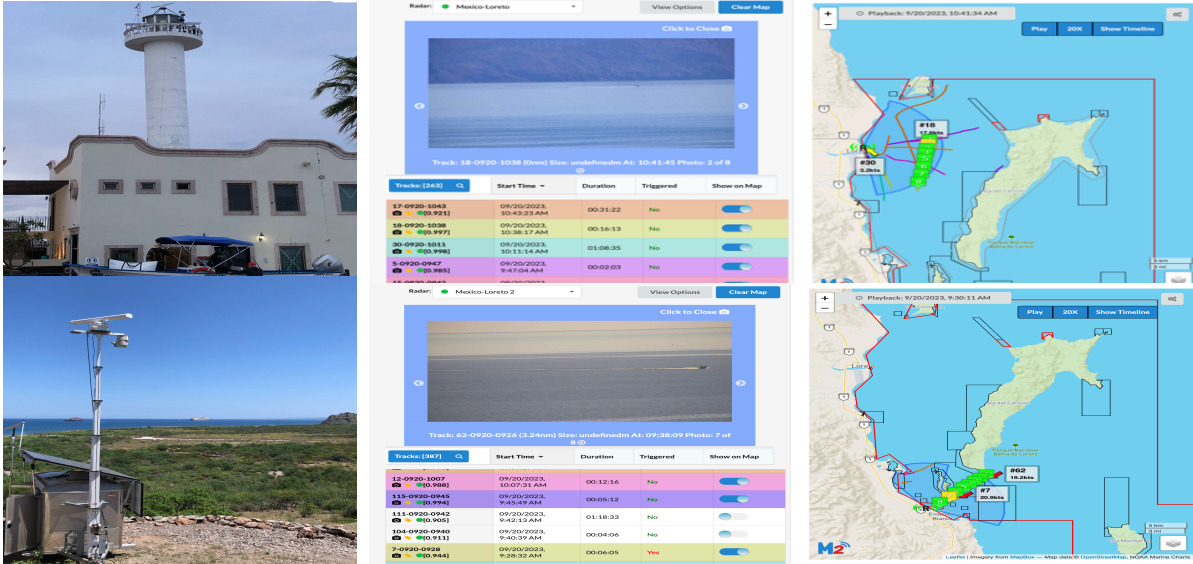
IUU fishing and overfishing which have led to the collapse of many species along this area including the disappearance of keystone species such as hammerhead sharks and grouper in this region, loss of megafauna is directly impacting the entire scuba industry and leading to the closure of numerous dive operations.

The Baja Sur Marine Corridor (BSMC) is of critical importance for communities and local fisheries and global megafauna which breed in the Sea of Cortez. Baja Sur communities depend on healthy marine ecosystems for their livelihoods and economies. For this reason, GC works to build capacities in coastal communities and marine protected areas.

Baja Sur Marine Corridor (BSMC)



Map A. Baja Sur Marine Corridor from Loreto Bay National Park to Boca del Álamo Marine Protection supported by Global Conservation.



Above: GC Marine Radars are operating 24/7 in multiple locations covering critically endangered marine habitats and fishing reserves.

2023-24 Impact: Baja Sur Marine Protection

Global Conservation has prioritized the implementation of enforcement and compliance strategies while leveraging new financial resources, technologies, training and community engagement.

Global Conservation is one of the few organizations focused exclusively on Marine Protection and No Take Expansion. We have built our strategy around five main building blocks:

- 1) Innovation and Technology for Marine Protection
- 2) Enforcement & Compliance
- 3) Community Engagement - Capacity Building
- 4) Deployment of Effective Technology
- 5) Partnerships and Co-Funding

Thanks to the invaluable support of GC Funders, Global Conservation has been capable to achieve a great deal in both 2023 and 2024:

1. **Established 24/7 Network of Marine Radars North to South** including the first Marine Monitor Mobile (M3) - a mobile trailer-based unit to provide surveillance from multiple locations throughout the year based on seasonal fishing or national park needs.

Currently monitoring over 100 kilometers of Baja Sur coastline, Marine Monitor radars are covering more than 150,000 hectares in real time, allowing marine wardens, community guardians, law enforcement and fishing authorities to stop and prevent many illegal activities.



Above: The first ever Mobile Marine Monitor (M3) deployed in Mexico. The M3 provide accurate information regarding vessel loitering and sailing navigation between Loreto and marine corridor, and triggered > 2900 alarms in 2024.

2. Multiplied Marine Surveillance across to detect illegal fishing activities, especially in distant "no-takes zones" in Loreto Bay near Carmen, Montserrat and Santa Catalina islands, in La Paz Bay and 4 Community Fishing Refuges.

Thanks to remote surveillance and real-time alerts of illegal activities- park authorities and law enforcement can rapidly respond to anywhere in the BSMC, and SMART and random patrols are building a permanent effort to ensure marine protection and enforcement to prevent illegal activities, not only within the boundaries of the National Parks, but also in critical habitats located in coastal fishing refugees and La Paz Bay.

Illegal fishing, vessel transit and marine tourism activities (whale watching vessels, others) are systematically recorded by long-range cameras and reported to the Park Command & Control Center for Rapid Response interdictions.

The GC Marine Monitor network expanded to San Basilio (north of Loreto Bay National Park) and to Agua Verde Community Fishing Reserve. Enhancing Community Protection in San Basilio and Agua Verde compliments our deep work with the National Marine Parks (CONANP) and CONAPESCA.

In 2024, GC deployed the first Mobile Marine Monitor (M3) in Mexico, first stationed in Agua Verde Community Fishing Refuge to enable 24/7 surveillance there. The M3 consists of a Furuno marine radar, long-range cameras, AIS receiver, an off-grid power system and cloud-based visualization software allowing gathering of critical intelligence and Rapid Response to illegal activities within the 70,000 hectares (270 sq miles) south of Loreto Bay National Park and into two major fishing refuges located in Agua Verde community.

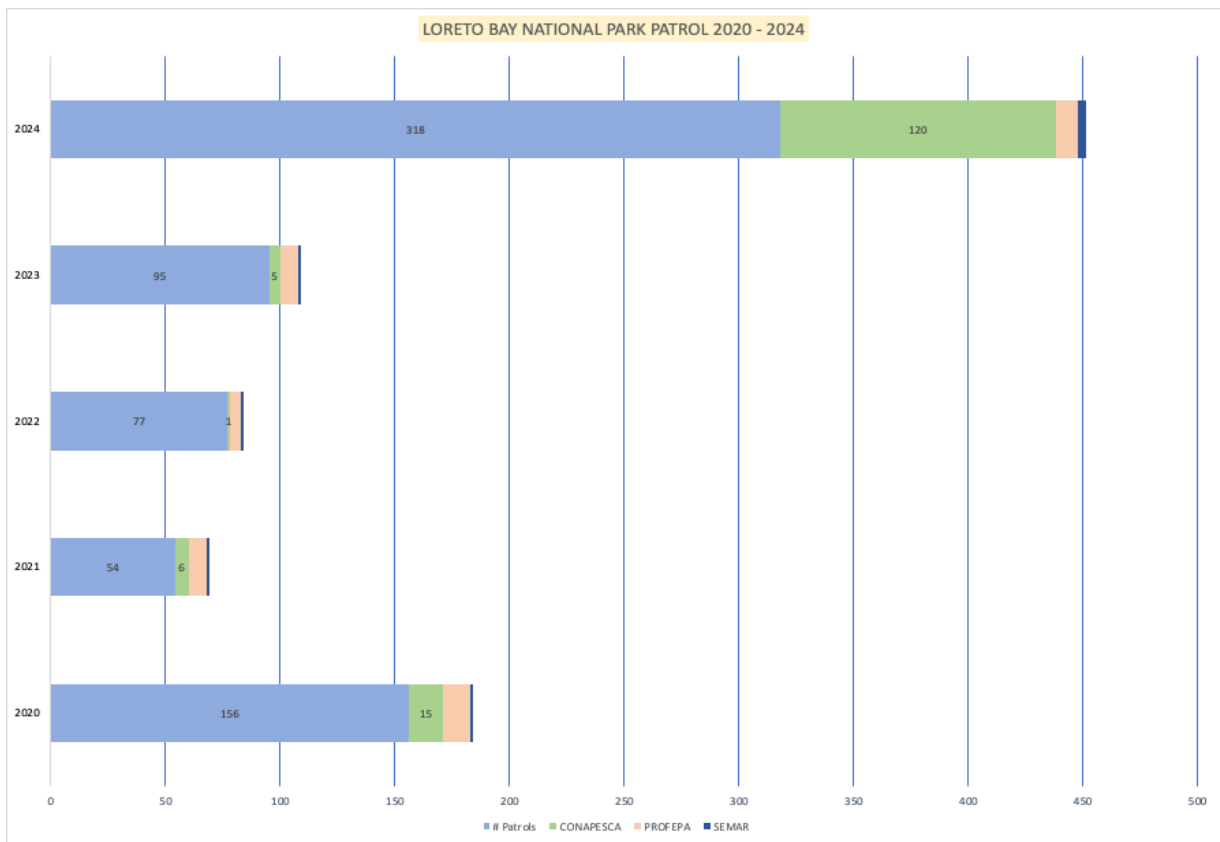
Marine Park and Community Engagement and Training



Above and Below: Global Conservation working with authorities, communities and stakeholders across BSMC to increase Marine Protection.



2024 BSMC Patrolling – Tripled Since 2022



Graph 1. Global Conservation multiplied Marine Patrols in Loreto Bay National Park between 2020-2024 always working jointly with enforcement authorities – CONANP – CONAPESCA – SEMAR – ROC – others working in tandem across the BSMC.



Above: Loreto Bay National Park Rangers, CONAPESCA officer and SEMAR conducted regular joint patrols along the coast with support of Global Conservation.

3. Solid Collaboration with both CONANP and CONAPESCA

With CONAPESCA, the national agency responsible for managing fisheries, Global Conservation supported the deploying of federal inspectors to ensure compliance in fisheries and to add institutional efforts with others authorities (PROFEPA and Mexican Navy), we have set up special patrols with more than 6,000 km patrolled along Loreto National Park conducted by, inspectors, GC and partners, buffer zones and influence areas from the National Park, as well as in San Basilio Bay and fishing refugees.

This has led to citations and 85 official verification actions given to commercial fishing boats and vehicles, and confiscation of unauthorized fishing gear. These gears contained more than 680 kg of illegally caught fish.

Global Conservation supports these efforts by providing complementary resources to allow permanent patrols, cover complementary fuel and rations expenses, and offering advisory services, training, lodge and access to Marine Monitor technology.

Beside with the park rangers in Loreto National Park, the fisheries inspector has conducted more than 100 patrols along the National Park boundaries and influence area. This ongoing collaboration has permitted to cover > 15,000 kilometers, including special operations in the Fishing Refuge of Agua Verde, supported by ROC, landowners and fishermen cooperatives.



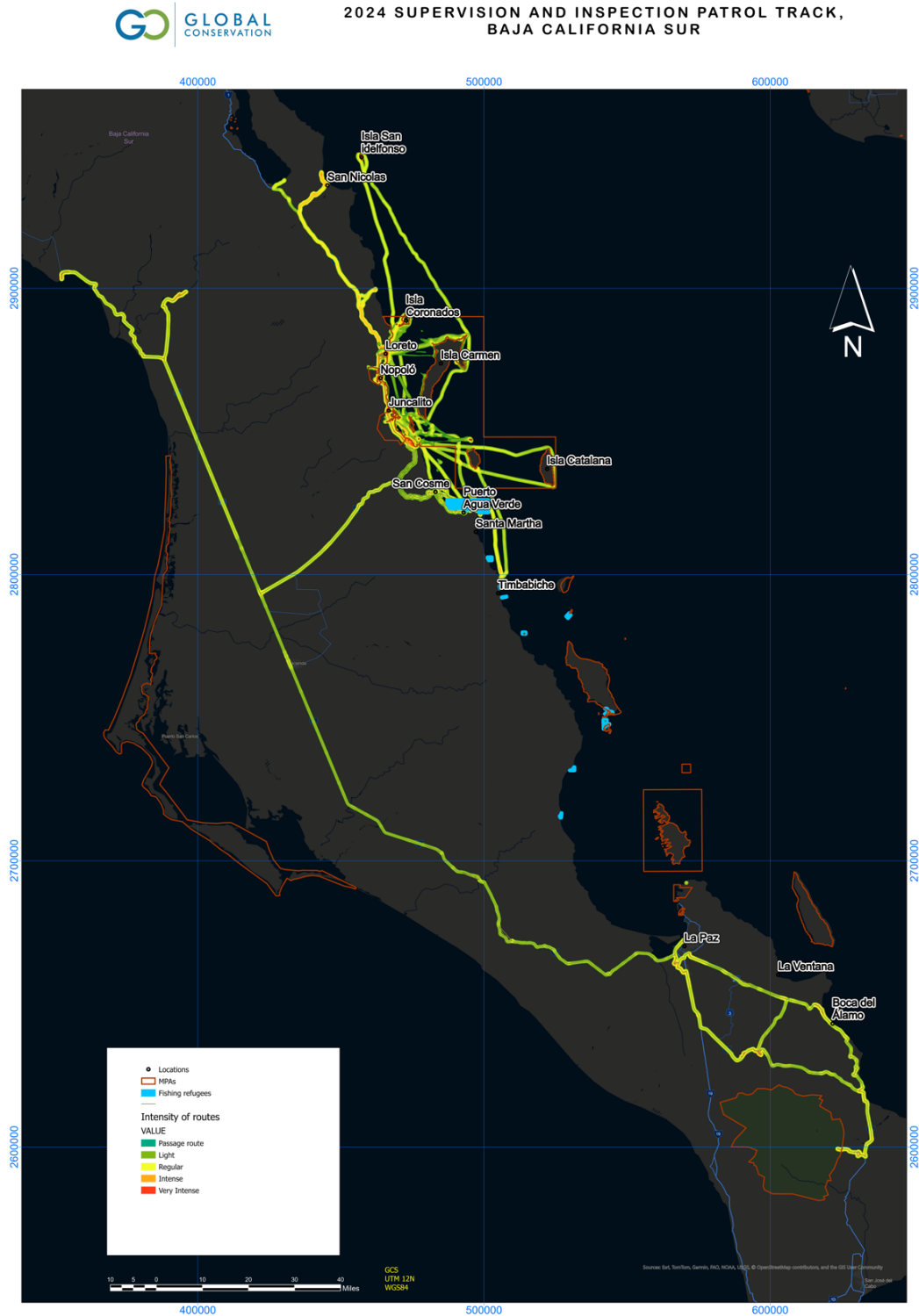
Above: GC Director of Mexico Alejandro Gonzales working closely with CONANP and CONAPESCA officials.

GC Mexico's work represents a critical step for strengthening engagement with law enforcement authorities. Jointly with the National Park and citizen guardians, Global Conservation enabled conditions to warrant the presence of at least one fishery officer to carry out surveillance and enforcement diligences from San Basilio, Loreto National Park and support fishing refuge compliance.

The inspector's presence has had a notable impact, especially among potential poachers and commercial fishermen discouraging illegal activities. Moreover, the impact of the presence of the inspector in the Loreto National Park and buffer zones seem quite positive, so much that fishing cooperatives are requesting our support to engage with inspector and to expand enforcement operations within the fishing refugees, sending a powerful message to illegal fisherman, and giving back certainty to legal fishermen.

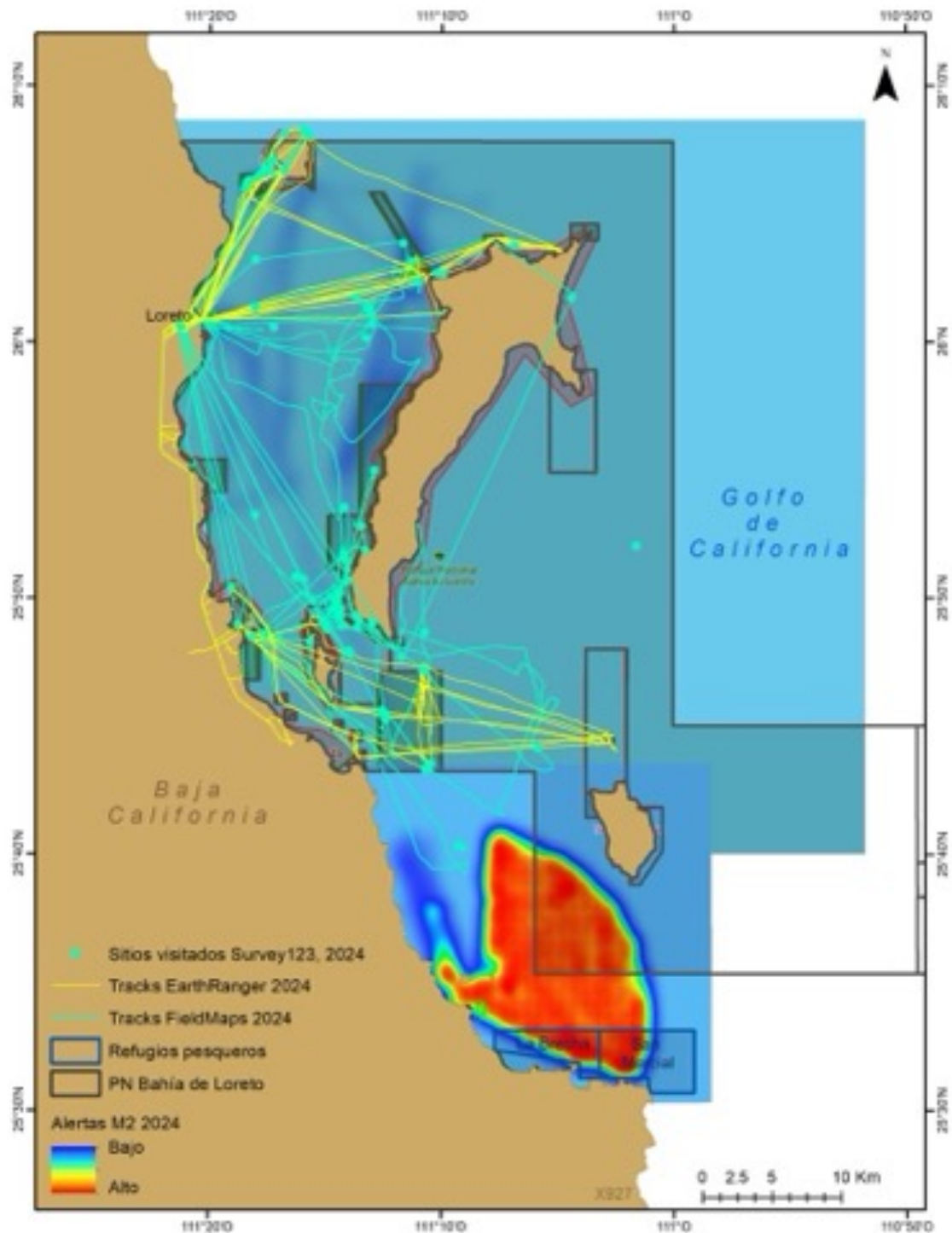


2024 BSMC Patrolling – Tripled Since 2022



Map B. 2024 Patrols using Earthranger Marine working across Baja Sur Marine Corridor (BSMC).

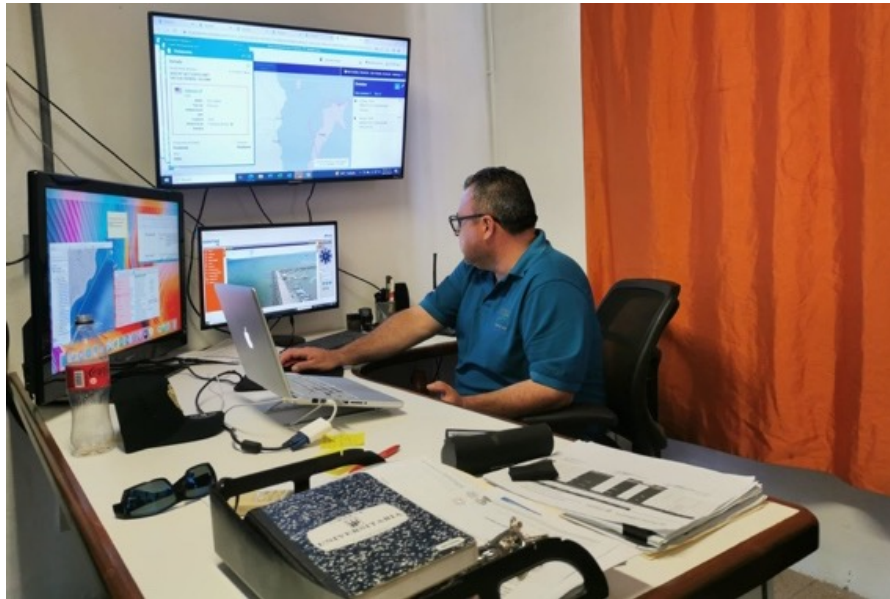
2024 BSMC Patrolling –Tripled Since 2022



Map C: 2024 Patrols supported by Global Conservation recorded in EarthRanger, now being adopted across Baja Sur Marine Protected Areas and Fishing Refuges.

GC Funds Renovation of Command Center for Loreto Bay National Park

In order to dignify and boost the competence and esteem of the personnel responsible for surveillance and monitoring activities, Global Conservation has provided support for the refurbishment of the Command-and-Control Room in Loreto National Park since 2023 and 2024. This renovation has enabled the rangers to enjoy access to high-speed internet, screens, office supplies, and new furniture, which facilitate the display of real-time information provided by marine monitors and skylight platforms.



Above: Oswaldo Amador, an exceptional ranger committed to marine protection in Loreto National Park, utilized EarthRanger, Marine Monitor and SMART Patrolling.



Above: GC-funded patrolling interdicting illegal fishing and gear infractions.



4. Successful Interdictions by Authorities

In 2024 resulting in 20 administrative complaints for illegal activities, 6 boats retained, 2 of them because illegal fishing and, multiple illegal fishing gears retained - more **than 18,000 km patrolled by ranges and inspectors protecting effectively over 157,000 hectares.**

This is a great and simple example regarding communication and coordination between enforce authorities, especially with the police which historically hasn't willing to deal with environmental or fisheries topics. Therefore, this kind of strikes encourage both authorities to engage efforts to identify and process illegal fisherman, especially when a high economic value species has been co-opted.

Global Conservation understand the pertinence and importance to support marine protection by enabling basic conditions for enforce authorities, park rangers, community guardians and interested groups. Together, with their commitment we are working to build strong partnerships with those who share the same goal, protect not only the beauty of our marine ecosystem, but also their functionality and environmental services that provide us well-being, sharing tools and knowledge.

This included more than 120 joint patrols in 2024, both on land and at sea and patrolled 6,500 kilometers to ensure better compliance and fewer violations

GC published the Marine Protection Handbook in Spanish and undertook joint development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for all GC Partners including guidance protocols for arrests/complaints/seizures coordinated with government authorities.

GC provided Technical Support and Training to Baja Sur National Parks and Fishing Authorities to improve Marine Protection - With our Partners in Conservation ProtectedSeas (PS), Pronatura Noroeste (PNO), ROC, we was capable to achieve that the national park, local NGOs and fishers integrate software solutions as part of the scaling up of our Global Park Defense strategy, Earthranger and Skylight by Allen AI Institute for data collection standardization and real-time tracking vessel by AIS.

Thanks to GC Mexico's many alliances, especially with the Mexican Biodiversity Founders, and the support of our funders like the MJ Foundation, we've been able to match funding for

our main protection work and recently started a new collaboration with the fishing cooperatives in the San Jose Archipelago. Here, Global Conservation is leveraging both Global Park Defense and financial resources.

In 2024, we expanded our presence to protect many Refugios Pesqueros, including the East Cape north of Cabo Pulmo with LegacyWorks and in Agua Verde with Niparajá and Alumbra, the Federation of Fishery Cooperatives and PNO to strengthen our partnerships with current and new partners.

We're working closely with local stakeholders and rights holders to develop a surveillance plan for each site based on capacities, safety conditions, local commitments, and regional compliance initiatives.



5. Training of Community Marine Guardians along the east coast of Baja Sur, including private owners, fishers, cooperatives and citizens.

To this end, Global Conservation has initiated a program to enhance monitoring and protection throughout our "Global Park Defense", by strengthening technical skills, deploying technology applied to marine protection, increasing coverage under surveillance, allocating financial resources to ensure marine patrols, access to software solutions, supporting the participation of NGO's and communities, and enabling the presence of rangers and fisheries officers on the ground.

In response to the interest expressed by local cooperatives in the Agua Verde community, Global Conservation has engaged in community warden efforts in addition to local partners. Training has been provided on a peer-to-peer basis, and we have partnered with the Paul Allen Institute Earthranger/Skylight, our partners at ProtectedSeas (Anthropocene Institute), PRONATURA Noroeste and ROC.

GC fundings were used to support marine and land patrols by Community Marine Guardians providing fuel, food, and rations for special operations, maintenance, moving personnel to areas of interest, taking on participation workshops and meetings, basic office equipment,

improve national park control room, travel expenses within/outside of the Baja to follow up projects, as well as daily operations.



To date, Global Conservation has not only provided technology tools, but has also supported permanent patrol operations (maintenance, fuel and rations), worked with key enforcement and compliance agencies, and created the conditions for cooperation and coordination, particularly with CONANP, CONAPESCA, SEMAR, and ultimately, with the fishery sector, fishers' communities, and local NGO's to become a reliable partner in Marine Conservation in Mexico.



Above: Global Conservation training Marine Protection Partners in Baja Sur Marine Corridor.

Next Steps and Considerations

2025-26 Planning

Global Conservation deployments are typically 4-5 years supporting the entire Global Park Defense methodology and Community Protection program.

Global Conservation is requesting a 2025 grant of \$90,000 - approximately one-fourth of our total Baja Sur Marine Protection budget.

Funding Needs	Amount
Establish Pericu National Marine Park – Planning and Securing Land Transfer to Mexican Government	80,000
Deploy Marine Monitor (M2) Radar #5 - San José Archipelago – Pericu (M2 Radar donated by Protected Seas)	\$40,000
Loreto Bay CONAPESCA Joint Patrolling	40,000
Agua Verde - El Pardito Community Fisheries Protection	40,000
GC Mexico - Director Salary	48,000
GC Operations	18,000
BSMC Patrolling - ROC	100,000
TOTAL:	\$366,000

Other Key Objectives

- Sign MoUs with CONAPESCA and CONANP.
- Scale-up technology, systems, training, equipment and technical support to combat illegal fishing, M2 deployments.
- Support patrol operation with CONAPESCA and CONANP.
- Support Community Ecoguards with El Pardito and others corridor communities to combat illegal fishing.
- Marine Protected Area Expansion and Enforcement.

In Conclusion

Global Conservation is signing new MOUs with both National Commissioners of CONAPESCA and CONANP, who have expressed their true interest for strong collaboration with Global Conservation. Sstablishing a formal collaboration agreement, the natural expectations are to move more securely and faster to achieve marine protection and 30x30 over the next 5 years.

Global Park Defense for Marine Protection is now a model for all Baja Sur, Mexico and the region.

All of this wouldn't be possible without the invaluable support of our funders, families and individuals who support Global Conservation's work around the world.

We want to sincerely thank our funders and local partners for their support, commitment and engagement which made these successes possible in 2024, and a strong foundation for the next four-year program of Global Park Defense and Community Protection.

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