



Hotel developers have put an eye on the marine turtle sanctuary of X'cacel and they want it no matter what. With legal tricks and false promises of ecological methods, they are trying to take over the most important sea turtle nesting beach in Mexico and its ecosystem.

SAVE is calling for awareness of all attempts to turn X'cacel into just another hotel beach. "We have to support the authorities like CONANP to achieve declaration of X'cacel X'cacelito as a federal protected area" mentioned Nancy De Rosa, director of SAVE. She emphasizes that since 2005 there has been an evidence study to create a protected federal park "Playa X'cacel-X'cacelito" following the basis established by the General Law of Ecological Balance and Environment Protection (LGEEPA in Spanish). We understand this has been stalled by state officials.

The study addresses the necessity to create a buffer zone which guarantees the ecosystems of X'cacel-X'cacelito to stay intact. The underground aquifer system (including X'cacel with 4 cenotes) and the wetlands would also be protected by the buffer zone. SAVE is requesting the buffer zone to extend all the way to the federal highway.

"80% of the protected area is in the ocean, and the ocean is a federal zone, making it pretty absurd for it to have state protection... .. Research shows that the genetic composition of the turtles who nest at X'cacel is unique on this planet making this place even more special. It appears that we have to remain alert and make clear that X'cacel is not for sale".