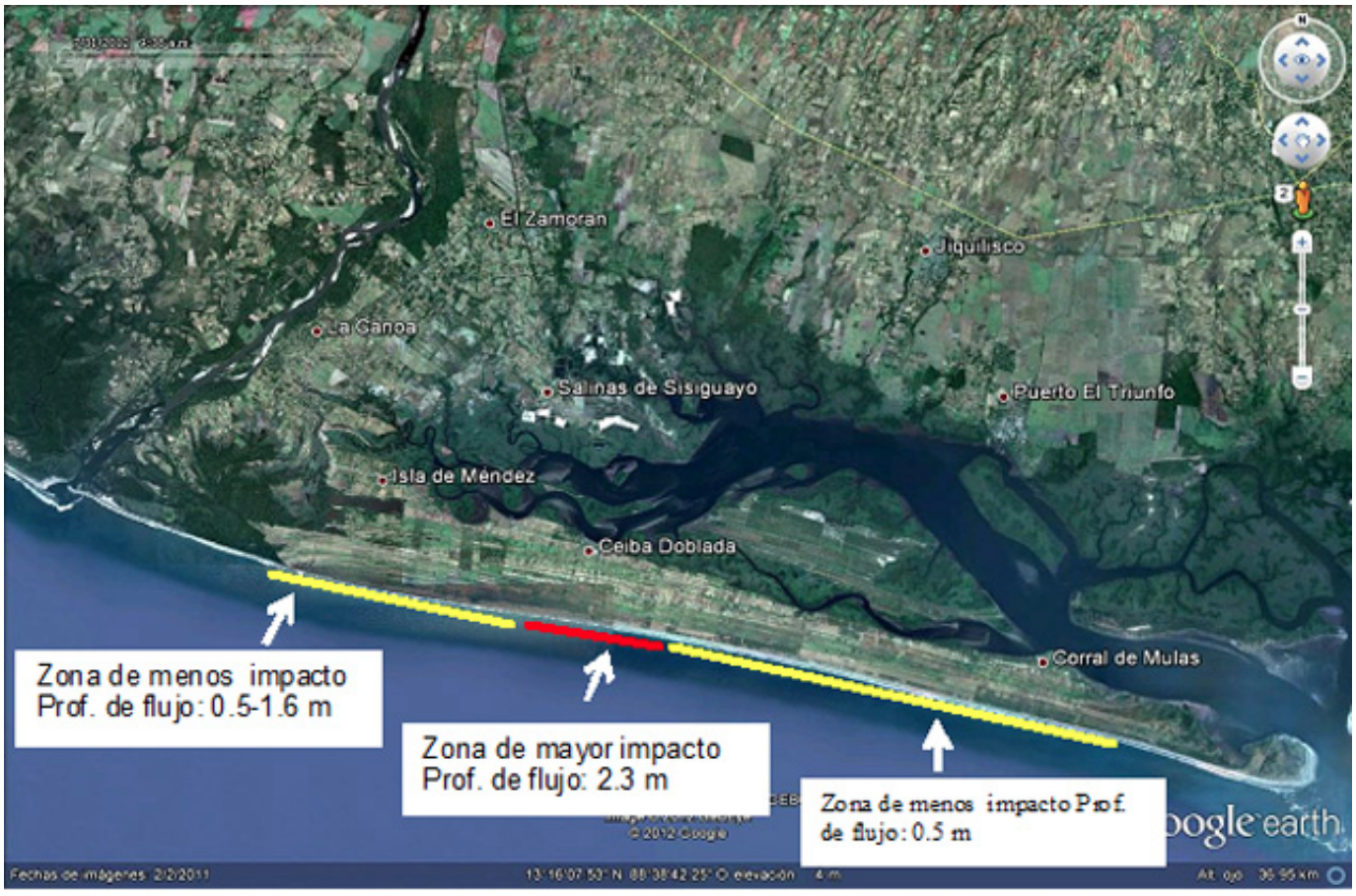
International experts analyze and MARN local tsunami effects

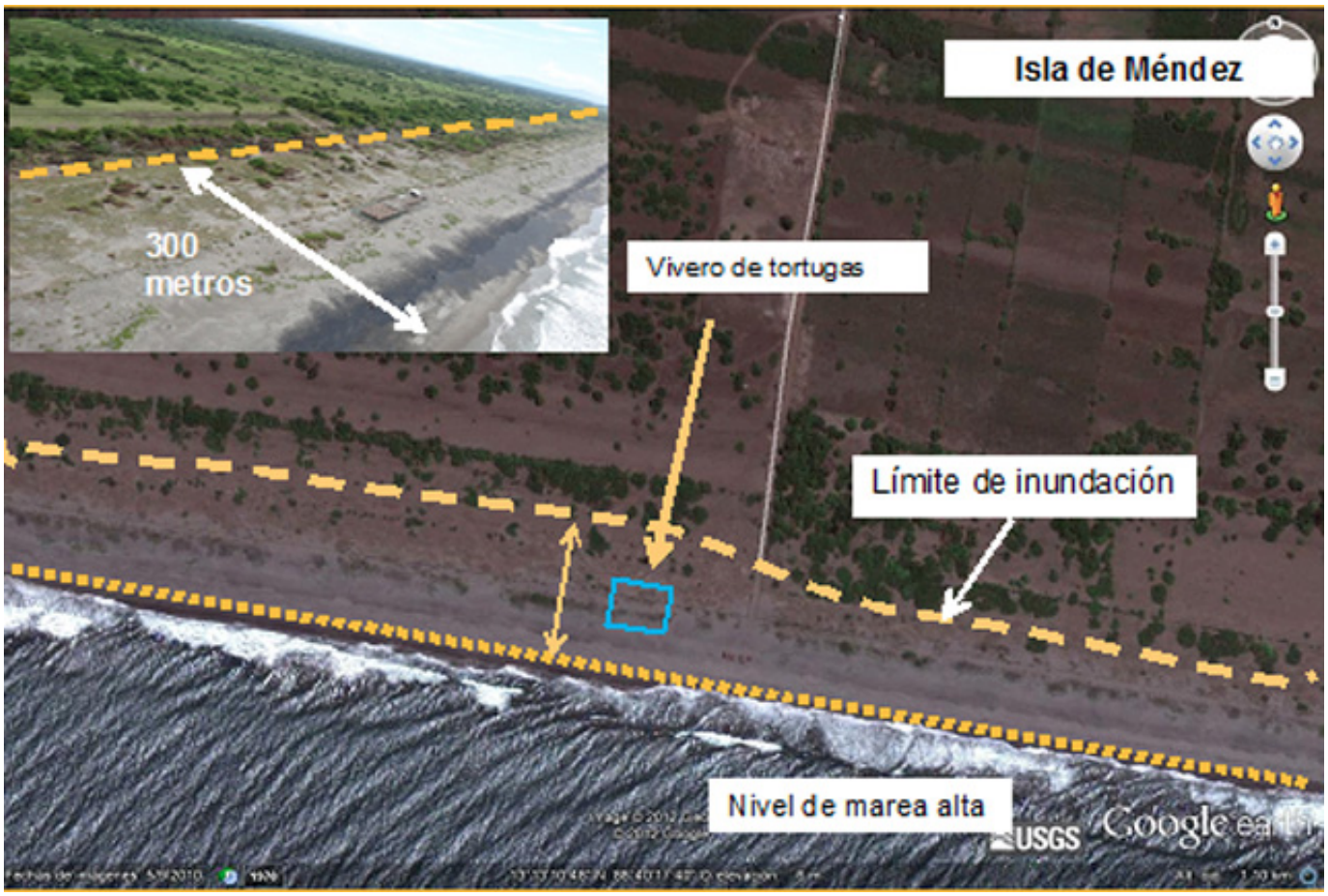
The research results will strengthen early warning systems for tsunamis in El Salvador.

San Salvador, September 11, 2012. An interdisciplinary group of international experts visited the country at the request of MARN to analyze the characteristics of the local tsunami that hit the peninsula of San Juan del Gozo, following the 6.7 magnitude earthquake that occurred south of Usulután on 26 August.

Although the earthquake was hardly noticeable to people, whether caused a local tsunami directly across from the epicenter so the tide gauge records of Acajutla and La Union were not significant. However, in a sector of Isla de Mendez, who entered the waves reached dry ground and penetrated 2.3 meters up to 300 meters inland, dragging dozens of people who were on the edge of the beach collecting turtle eggs.



The researchers, after an aerial tour, measurements and interviews with residents in the affected area concluded that this would be among the local tsunami less strong, as confirmed by the fact that the force of the water completely bounced infrastructure nurseries turtles that were in the area of greatest impact.



The group of five experts consisted of two tsunami experts from the University of Southern California and the Georgia Institute of Technology, Laboratory specialist Pacific Marine Environment of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a specialist in disaster risk reduction and USAID / OFDA and a specialist in education and community preparedness of the International Tsunami Information Centre (ITIC). The group was coordinated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and ITIC.

1. According to Minister Herman Rosa Chavez, the results of the research and recommendations of the experts will be of much help to strengthen early warning systems for tsunamis in El Salvador.

2. Based on these recommendations and evaluations own MARN will focus on:

3. Develop Tsunami Inundation Models in priority areas of the coast with high resolution bathymetric data.

4. Improve implementation of existing tsunami detection in shallow and deep waters.

5. Preserving the natural topography of the beaches (dunes) and mangroves as protection against tsunamis, ensuring that land use plans establish mandatory guidelines in this regard.

6. Strengthen Early Warning System for Tsunami improving communication, education and signage in areas prone to tsunamis before evacuation.

View the presentation:

Preliminary report to gather information on the effects caused by tsunami August 26, 2012