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# Newsletter

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EDIÇÃO 2



## 13 YEARS PROTECTING OUR BIODIVERSITY



**Vegetation Monitoring Plan for the Fogo Natural Park:** Workshop on subsidy collection held with Associations and representatives of local communities



**Biodiversity Species Exhibition of the World Biosphere Reserve - Fogo Island:** More than 1000 children and teenagers from 22 Educational Institutions visit the exhibition



**2022 Sea Turtle Season:** 11 beaches of the 3 municipalities on Fogo Island were the target of a mega cleaning campaign, with partners and volunteers participations

Developed by the **Communication & Marketing Department of Associação Projecto Vitó**

In collaboration with **Smarde Solutions**

Review, Photography: **Communication & Marketing Department of Associação Projecto Vitó**



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# 13 YEARS OF PROJECTO VITÓ PROTECTING OUR BIODIVERSITY

This year, on April 14th, we celebrated our **13th anniversary**.

Many years of hard work and a lot of dedication, crowned also with many achievements.

With everyone's support, throughout these years we have managed to grow, we have gained respect and today we are an Organization known and recognized by the civil society, by the local national authorities, with the recent decoration by the President of the Republic of Cabo Verde and the Public Utility status granted by the Government of Cabo Verde.

These 13 years have been of extreme importance in relation to environmental protection and biodiversity conservation on Fogo and Brava region, Rombos Islets, and Cabo Verde in general.

The actions promoted by Projecto Vitó, have certainly contributed to the awareness for other organizations as well as the authorities for issues of environmental protection, in an island/region with a rich ecosystem but at the same time threatened by various phenomena. Projecto Vitó, created in 2009, initially to work in the sea turtles protection and conservation, today also works with seabirds, Cabo Verde endemic plants, terrestrial reptiles and other important projects to be implemented.

Thanks to everyone's support since its creation, we take this opportunity to congratulate the founders, all the volunteers, all the partners and funders, but also all the technicians, led by a very competent, dedicated, and tireless Executive Director.

We hope to celebrate many, many more years.

Congratulations to all of us!

Congratulations Projecto Vitó!

The President,

*Paulo Pina*



Associação Projecto Vitó Administration Council  
President  
**Paulo Pina**



# HIGHLIGHTS

## 01 VISIT BY ARCHITECTS OF THE NEW US EMBASSY CAMPUS PROJECT

Part of the team responsible for building the new US embassy in Praia has visited Projecto Vitó

## 02 VEGETATION MONITORING PLAN FOR THE FOGO NATURAL PARK

Projecto Vitó holds Workshop to gather input for the elaboration of the Vegetation Monitoring Plan for the Fogo Natural Park

## 03 DR. RAQUEL VASCONCELOS FROM CIBIO VISITS PROJECTO VITÓ

The aim of the working visit was to continue the sample collection for the study on the diet of the terrestrial reptiles

## 04 PROJECTO VITÓ CLOSES GONGON CAMPAIGN IN SAO NICOLAU WITH POSITIVE RESULTS

May was marked by the positive closure of the Gongon (*Pterodroma feae*) Campaign in São Nicolau



## 05 BIODIVERSITY SPECIES EXHIBITION OF THE WORLD BIOSPHERE RESERVE - FOGO ISLAND

The Culture and Creative Industries Minister and Minister of the Sea Dr. Abraão Aníbal Barbosa Vicente visits the exhibition in the company of the Mayor of São Filipe, Eng. Nuias Silva

## 06 MORE THAN 1000 CHILDREN VISIT THE WORLD BIOSPHERE RESERVE BIODIVERSITY SPECIES EXHIBITION - FOGO ISLAND

22 educational institutions visited the Exhibition that was open for a month

## 07 XII TAOLA MEETING (2022)

Major Cabo Verdean environmental NGO meet at 12th TAOLA meeting (2022)

## 08 MEGA CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN ON SEA TURTLES NESTING BEACHES - FOGO ISLAND

The mega campaign was carried out on 11 beaches of the three municipalities on Fogo Island

## 09 OCEAN'S DECADE: COLLOQUIUM ON OCEANS

Projecto Vitó participates in the Colloquium held by the Presidency of the Republic of Cabo Verde

## 10 DNA TECHNICIAN VISITS THE PROJECT VITÓ TO MONITOR THE WORKS

During one week the DNA Technician was accompanying the various activities developed by Projecto Vitó





# US EMBASSY'S NEW CAMPUS PROJECT ARCHITECTURE TEAM VISITS PROJECTO VITÓ

Part of the team responsible for building the new U.S. embassy in Praia, which includes Cabo Verdean and U.S. architects, engineers and designers, made a courtesy visit to the Projecto Vitó offices in order to learn more about the work being done for biodiversity conservation in Cabo Verde and beyond. Paulo Leite from **CFA Architects**, Stephen Azarik, and Zechariah Fung, both from **Studioma**, were there to collect inputs to support the building process of the new embassy within the archipelago's reality and culture.

According to the United States of America (US) Ambassador to Cabo Verde, Jeff Daigle, this work will involve Cabo Verdean contractors, so the design team is consulting with local experts and artisans. (Source: [www.rtp.pt/noticias](http://www.rtp.pt/noticias))



Also as part of the visit, the team visited one of the botanical gardens of Cabo Verde endemic plants, in one of the educational institutions, built by Projecto Vitó, as part of the MCCEFAE Project - "Improving Knowledge for the Conservation of Endemic Flora Species Threatened with Extinction on Fogo and Brava Islands", funded by the **CEPF Mediterranean Basin Hotspot Program**.



# VEGETATION MONITORING PLAN FOR THE FOGO NATURAL PARK

The Workshop " **Collection inputs for the preparation of the Vegetation Monitoring Plan for the Fogo Natural Park**", held on April 4 and 5, 2022, at the Employment and Professional Training Center of Fogo/IEFP, had as main goal to collect vital inputs for the preparation of the Plan.

According to the experienced consultant and trainer **Dr. Isildo Gomes**, the method of collecting inputs from community association representatives, local community representatives and other elements that are in direct and daily contact with the Fogo Natural Park, is essential so that in the end we can have an inclusive plan, from all and for all of us.

The Vegetation Monitoring Plan for the Fogo Natural Park is a very important document for the valorization and conservation of the natural resources at Fogo's Natural Park and Fogo's Island, in a sustainable way.

This important step for the vegetation conservation of one of the main natural parks in the country is funded by the **CEPF Mediterranean Basin Hotspot Program**, as part of the MCCEFAE Project - "Improving Knowledge for the Conservation of Endemic Flora Species Threatened with Extinction on Fogo and Brava Islands".



Participants of the Workshop Collection inputs for the preparation of the Vegetation Monitoring Plan for the Fogo Natural Park





## BIODIVERSITY SPECIES EXHIBITION OF THE WORLD BIOSPHERE RESERVE - FOGO ISLAND

Allusive to the commemoration of the Municipality Day and the Centennial of the elevation of São Filipe to city, in partnership with the **Municipality of São Filipe**, Projecto Vitó took to the Sanfilipense public and visitors, throughout one month, from April 26th to May 27th, the exhibition entitled **Biodiversity Species Exhibition of the World Biosphere Reserve - Fogo Island**, whose goal was to demonstrate the wealth in terms of existing biodiversity species, but also to promote the Fogo Island as a World Biosphere Reserve, classified in 2020, the work developed in the Rombo islets, which is one of the main biodiversity hotspots in Cabo Verde, not forgetting also the Brava Island.

The exhibition was held at the Sete Sóis, Sete Luas space, located in the heart of São Filipe, open to the public from 8am to 6pm.



Inaugurated by the Mayor of São Filipe, Eng. Nuias Silva, the exhibition was visited by distinguished guests and representatives of various public and private institutions. We had the honor to receive the Minister for Culture and Creative Industries and Minister of Sea Dr. Abraão Aníbal Barbosa Vicente, who also made a courtesy visit to the exhibition.





**MORE THAN 1000 CHILDREN FROM  
22 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS  
VISIT THE BIODIVERSITY SPECIES  
EXHIBITION OF THE WORLD  
BIOSPHERE RESERVE - FOGO  
ISLAND**





Encouraging respect for nature and the life diversity, preserving the natural heritage and having a sense of environmental commitment, are some of the principles that were transmitted to the children and teenagers who visited the exhibition.

These principles were transmitted through explanations made by our technicians about the species, as well as the need and importance to preserve and conserve them.

This activity is part of the Projeto Vitó's Environmental Education program, a transversal program that involves the entire Organization, the technical team and the community.

On May 4th to 27th, 22 educational institutions visited the **Biodiversity Species Exhibition of the World Biosphere Reserve - Fogo Island**. There were a total of 10 kindergartens, 10 elementary schools and 2 high schools, which all together reached the extraordinary total of **1101 children and adolescents**, who were on a guided tour to the exhibition, with explanations in real time.

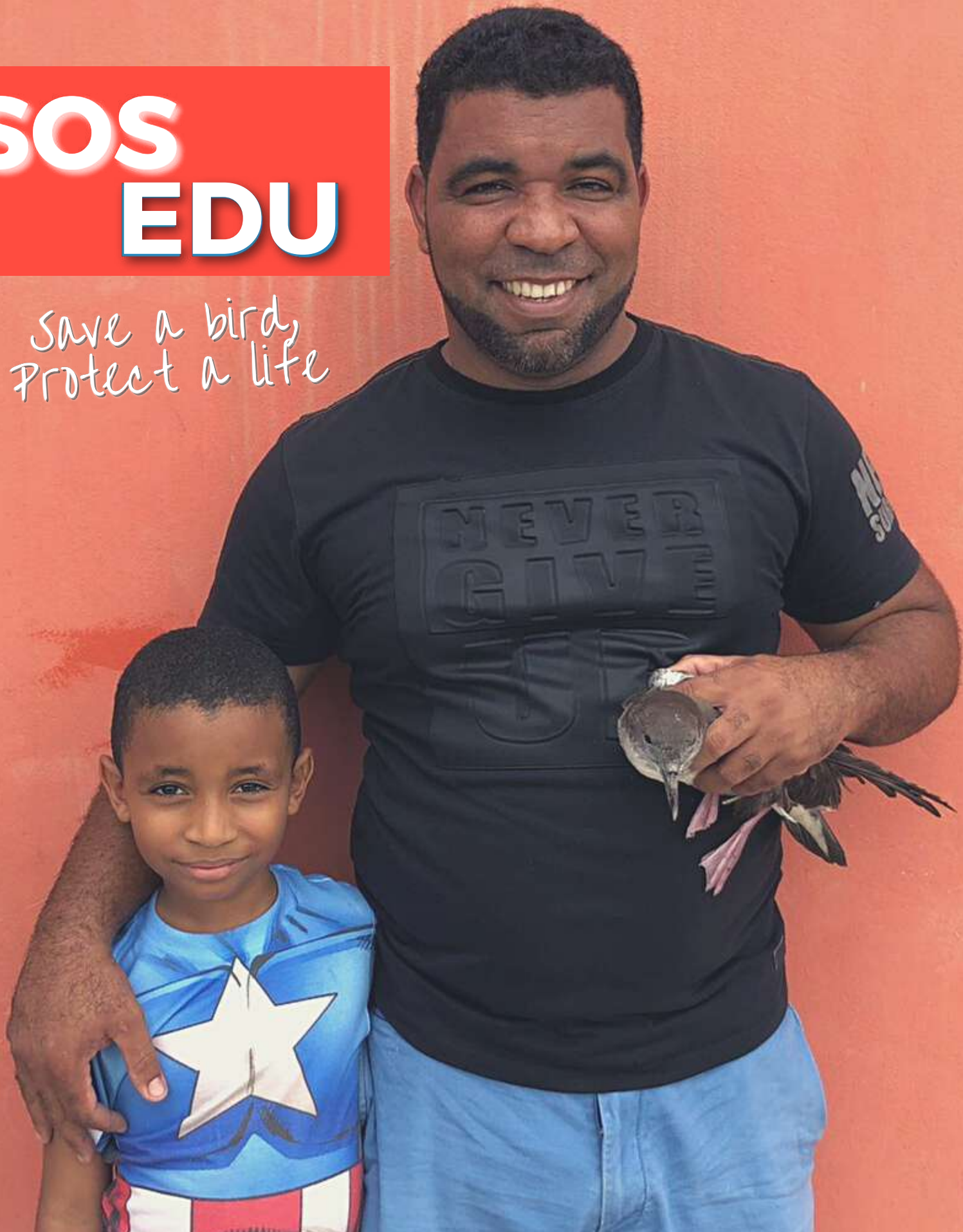
This activity is the result of the excellent partnership and close relationship between Project Vitó and the Delegations of the Education Ministry on the Fogo island.





# SOS EDU

Save a bird,  
Protect a life



If you find an injured or lost bird contact **Projecto Vitó 957 12 63** or **Biosfera 231 79 29**



**biosfera**  
CABO VERDE



# VISIT BY DR. RAQUEL VASCONCELOS FROM CIBIO - RESEARCH CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND GENERIC RESOURCES



During 2 weeks, **Dr. Raquel Vasconcelos** was once again with Projecto Vitó to continue the second phase of collecting more samples for the diet study of terrestrial reptiles, in order to obtain ecological information and also to improve the knowledge about these species on the Fogo Island and try to understand how they can be involved in pollination or plant seed dispersal.

During these two weeks, Dr. Raquel Vasconcelos also took the opportunity to present the advances in the ongoing study to the technical team and also share her vast experience in one of the usual lectures about preservation and conservation of our biodiversity species, on the topic Terrestrial Reptiles, in educational institutions, developed by the Projecto Vitó's Environmental Education Program.



**Dr<sup>a</sup> Raquel Vasconcelos** has a PHD in Biology, whose PhD focused on using integrative approaches to review the reptile systematics of Cabo Verde islands and combining predicted species richness with genetic diversity to optimize reserve design in that archipelago.







## GONGON CAMPAIGN IN SAN NICOLAU

May was marked by the closure of the Gongon (*Pterodroma feae*) Campaign in São Nicolau, where the last activity carried out was the chicks ringing process. This event is very important, because over time it allows us to know the origin, age, population size and other information about the species. The Gongon Conservation Campaign fieldwork in São Nicolau Island is coordinated by Projecto Vitó Technician, **Cátio Pina**, in close collaboration with technicians from the **Monte Gordo Natural Park**.



## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

**Rita Vaz**, Degree in Biology and 1st year of the Masters in Coastal Environment at the University of Bretagne Sud in France, **David Lopes**, 2nd year of the Philosophy, Religious Studies and Geography course at Bucknell University, born in Boston - Massachusetts and **Sara**, Marine Sciences student at the Universitat de Barcelona, are the most recent International Volunteers, under the Projecto Vitó Volunteer Program. Rita will stay for a period of 3 months, and for 1 month she will work with the Seabirds on the Rombo islets, she will also support the Shearwater Campaign on Brava Island, as well as set up and coordinate the Sea Turtle Campaign on Fogo Island and Rombo islets.



Rita



David



Sara

David will stay for a period of 2 months and will work primarily with the Endemic Plants, as well as the planning and execution of the Environmental Education Plan. Also for a better experience, he will have the opportunity to work with Sea Birds and Sea Turtles. Finally, Sara will develop her final course project. For a rich experience, Sara will also have the opportunity to work with Sea Turtles.



## TRAINING OF THE TECHNICAL TEAM IN BARCELONA

As part of the partnership with the **Universitat de Barcelona**, represented by PhD Professor and Researcher at the Biology Faculty, **Dr. Jacob Gonzales Solís**, two members of Projecto Vitó's technical team, **Adilson Gonçalves** and **Andreia Leal**, were present in Spain - Barcelona for 45 days training course in Basic and Advanced R and Geographic Information System.

Also under this partnership, the technician, **Domingos Montrond**, is also in the Canary Islands, on the Montanha Clara Islet - Integral Nature Reserve, participating in the Seabird Campaign of the species *Calonectris borealis*, *Hydrobates pelagicus* and *Bulweria bulwerii*, for a period of two months, along with other students from the Universitat de Barcelona.



## SEABIRD CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN ON ROMBO ISLETS

On the Rombo islets, more specifically on the Cima islet, Projecto Vitó works with 5 Cabo Verde seabird species: *Phaethon aethereus*, *Bulweria bulwerii*, *Pelagodroma marina eadesorum*, *Puffinus iherminieri boydi*, and *Hydrobates jabejabe*.

The work in this biodiversity hotspot continues intensively. During the day the work is done with the diurnal species, *Phaethon aethereus*, doing nest monitoring, placement and recovery of some technological apparatus such as GPS, AXI and GEO locator.

During the night we work with the 4 nocturnal species, tracking nests, placing and recovering devices at *Bulweria bulwerii* and *Hydrobates jabejabe*. As the *Pelagodroma marina eadesorum* reproduces in inaccessible holes, it is only possible to capture it by nets and nest monitoring.





# MEGA BEACHES CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN TO THE SEA TURTLES NESTING BEACHES ON FOGO ISLAND



Each year, the mega beach clean up campaign of the main sea turtle nesting beaches on the Fogo Island is more involved, both in terms of participation from local public, private and non-governmental institutions, as well as national and international volunteers. The mega beach clean up campaign is carried out every year, usually in May, one month before the start of the nesting period, so that the beaches are in the best and most favorable conditions to receive the sea turtles.

This year, it was possible to carry out this action in 11 beaches in 3 municipalities on the island, namely, São Filipe, Santa Catarina and Mosteiros, where, from the garbage collected, plastic remains the most present and therefore worrying waste. This activity is part of the Program "Promoting Sea Turtle Conservation on Fogo Island and the Rombo Islets", funded by **MAVA FOUNDATION**, coordinated by **PRCM**.





# CONSERVATION ON SPORT



Promote the dissemination and carry the conservation message of our species in the sports environment.

Thank you Botafogo!





# DECADE OF THE OCEANS: COLLOQUIUM ON OCEANS

São Vicente

To mark World Oceans Day, June 8, the **Presidency of the Republic of Cabo Verde** held a Colloquium on Oceans in São Vicente at the Mindelo University, where Projecto Vitó together with other environmental NGOs such as **Project Biodiversity, Biosfera Cabo Verde, Lantuna** and **Terri Mar**, made an oral presentation addressing the work developed in the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation.

The oceans are one of the major responsible for the climate in our planet and a major producer of oxygen, however, the man's actions in pursuit of development have had a very negative impact globally, especially on the oceans and marine biodiversity.

In this light, the **United Nations** proclaimed the year 2021 to 2030 as the **Decade of Oceans**, with the goal to encourage actions for ocean health, promoting healthy and sustainable practices. The event lasted two days and was attended by **His Excellency the President of the Republic of Cabo Verde Dr. José Maria Pereira Neves** and the **First Lady Débora Katisa Carvalho, Minister for Culture and Creative Industries** and **Minister of the Sea Dr. Abraão Aníbal Barbosa Vicente, Mayor of São Vicente Augusto Neves** and other guests.







Visit by the Former President of the Republic of Cabo Verde **Dr. Jorge Carlos Fonseca**, Minister of Communities **Dr. Jorge Santos** and the Mayor of Brava **Francisco Tavares**

## BIODIVERSITY EXHIBITION ON BRAVA ISLAND

At the invitation by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Delegation of Brava Island**, Projecto Vitó participated in the **Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment Fair - FAPA 22**, held in Nova Cintra, during three days. The fair represented a unique opportunity to set up an exhibition, with various materials such as informative panels, pictures, canvases with information about the Brava, Fogo and Rombo islets biodiversity, which is one of the main biodiversity hotspots in Cabo Verde, located between these two islands.

The occasion was an opportunity to present to the population in general the rich biodiversity existing on the Brava island, with enormous potential for it to have a protected area in the future, in order to conserve the species that exist there.

The exhibition was attended, in addition to the visit of the municipalities, by distinguished figures, his **Excellency the Former President of the Republic of Cabo Verde Dr. Jorge Carlos Fonseca**, Minister of Communities **Dr. Jorge Santos** and the Mayor of the City of Brava **Francisco Tavares**.







## GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM (GEF SGP) - UNDP

Projecto Vitó received an invitation from the **United Nations Cabo Verde**, through the **GEF Small Grants Program (GEF SGP) - UNDP**, to participate in a cycle of thematic activities in commemoration of World Environment Day, June 5, whose theme for this year is "One Earth" and World Oceans Day, June 8, with the theme "Revitalization: Collective Action for the Ocean".

For the commemoration of these environmental dates, an exhibition about the World Biosphere Reserve - Fogo Island, entitled "**WE ARE THE BIOSPHERE RESERVE**", was made available at the UN entrance- in Praia.

The opportunity also served to learn more about Project Vitó's organizational structure, the work developed, and future projects and programs, in a brief presentation by Executive Director **Herculano Dinis**, under the theme "*Experience in supporting conservation on the Rombo islets and in the Fogo Natural Park*".



# MONITORS ON THE SEA TURTLE NESTING BEACHES ON FOGO ISLAND TRAINING

Fogo Employment and Professional  
Training Center



With the Sea Turtle Season starting, a training session was held for the Monitors on the Sea Turtle nesting beaches on Fogo Island and the Rombo islets. The training is held annually in order to empower the Monitors with knowledge, techniques and motivate them to better perform conservation work, over the next 4 months. The training took place on June 15 and 16, in one of Fogo Employment and Professional Training Center training rooms.

One of the new features portrayed in the training was the acquisition of a Drone, by the Projecto Vitó, which will be used as an auxiliary tool in the nesting beaches patrolling throughout the island, during this year's campaign.



# DNA TECHNICIAN VISITS THE PROJECTO VITÓ TO MONITOR THE WORKS



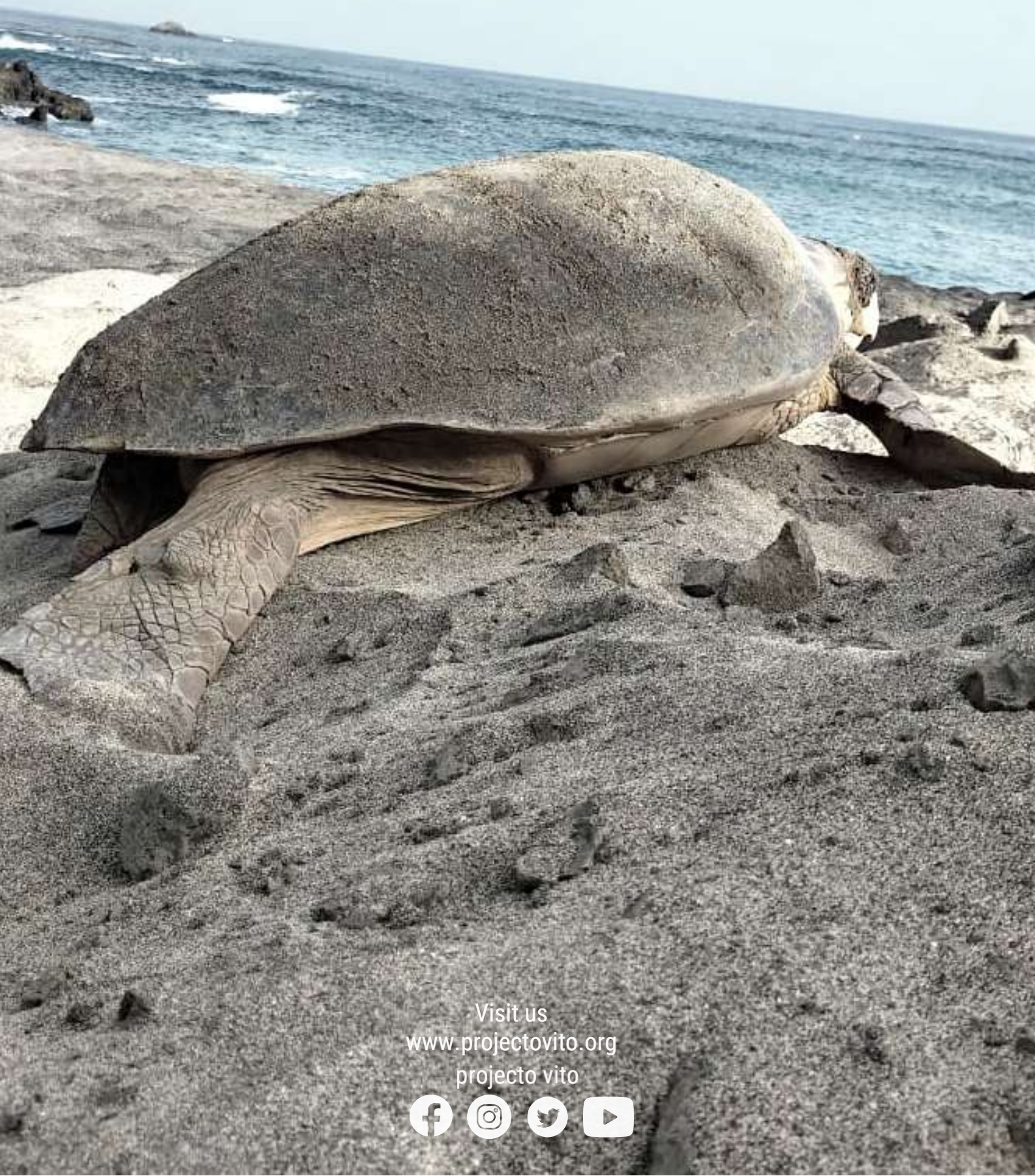
The **National Direction of Environment-DNA Technician, Adélcio Querido**, was for a week monitoring the various activities developed by the Projecto Vitó, focusing on the Environmental Education program.

During his visit, he attended several lectures on environmental practices, the need and the importance on our biodiversity conservation, held in educational institutions on the Fogo Island.

The second quarter of this year, was very productive in terms of Environmental Education activities, where it was possible to carry out a total of 40 lectures, in different educational institutions, from pre-school to high school, as well as in local communities directed to the adult public. The visit also served to monitor other activities under other programs, such as door-to-door awareness-raising for the Sea Turtle Conservation program and activities under the Cabo Verde Seabird Conservation program.



Till next time...



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# World Biosphere Reserve Fogo Island

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