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Newsletter

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EDITION 3



PROJECTO VITÓ
CABO VERDE



THANK YOU

MAVA FOUNDATION



Training action at the Natural Integral Reserve - Rombo Islet

Professors from the University of Barcelona train students from the University of Cape Verde and technicians from Projecto Vitó under the Erasmus+ program



Workshop for validation of the Vegetation Monitoring Plan for the Fogo Natural Park

Projecto Vitó holds the Validation Workshop for the Vegetation Monitoring Plan of Fogo Natural Park



Shearwater (*Calonectris edwardsii*): Monitoring and conservation campaign in Brava Island

The results achieved this season are positive

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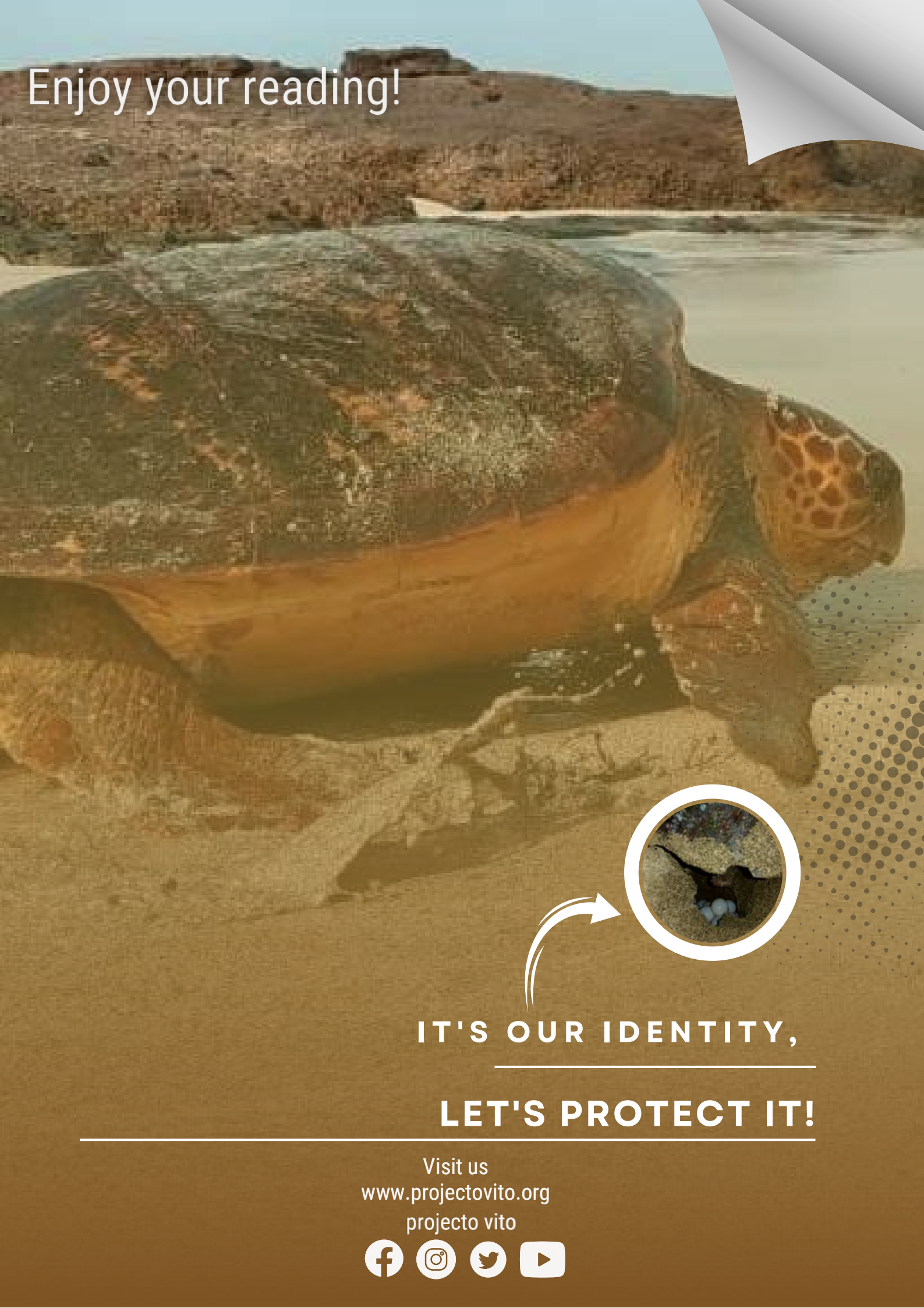


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HIGHLIGHTS

01 TRAINING ACTION AT THE NATURAL INTEGRAL RESERVE - ROMBO ISLET

Professors Jacob González-Solís (Seabirds PhD) and Luis Cardona (Sea Turtles Professor) conduct a training session on Monitoring and Research of Seabirds and Sea Turtles on the Cima islet under the Erasmus + program

02 TROPIBIO- THE NEW PARTNER OF PROJECTO VITÓ'S ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Tropibio of CIBIO - Center for Research in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources visits Projecto Vitó to strengthening partnership

03 WORKSHOP FOR VALIDATION OF THE VEGETATION MONITORING PLAN FOR THE FOGO NATURAL PARK

The presentation and validation of the Vegetation Monitoring Plan for the Fogo Natural Park marks the closure of the CEPF Project 107489 implemented since 2019



04 BIODIVERSITY SPECIES EXHIBITION AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR

The Prime Minister of Cape Verde, Dr. José Ulisses Correia e Silva visits the Vito Project exhibition held during the Central Opening Ceremony of the 2022/2023 School Year held in the São Filipe municipality

05 SHEARWATER (CALONECTRIS EDWARDSII): MONITORING AND CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN IN BRAVA ISLAND

The campaign was conducted for the second consecutive year with the collection information about the ecology and distribution of this Cape Verdean endemic species.

06 AFRICAN PROTECTED AREAS CONGRESS (APAC)

Project Vitó was present at the first African Congress on Protected Areas (APAC) held in Kigali (Rwanda)





TRAINING ACTION AT THE NATURAL INTEGRAL RESERVE ROMBO ISLET

For 5 days, the team led by Professors from the University of Barcelona, **Jacob González-Solís** (Seabirds PHD) and **Luis Cardona** (Sea Turtles Professor), conducted a training action on *Sea Birds and Sea Turtles Monitoring and Research* in the Natural Integral Reserve Rombo islets to students from the **University of Cape Verde**, **University of Barcelona** and the Projecto Vitó Technical team.

Theoretical and practical sessions were carried out with various topics on the seabird conservation, namely, their capture in nets, nest monitoring, ringing, sampling and the protocols of placement and recovery of GPS and Geos devices. The Trainees had the unique opportunity to work with 3 of the 4 nocturnal species that reproduce in this hotspot of Cape Verdean biodiversity, the João Preto (*Bulweria bulwerii*), Pedreiro (*Puffinus iherminieri boydi*) and Pedreirinho (*Hydrobates jabejabe*), in addition to the diurnal species, the Rabo-de-junco (*Phaeton aethereus*).

Regarding Sea Turtles, several theoretical and practical sessions were held in loco, such as marking females, collecting samples, placing a tracking device (GPS), beach prospecting, nest identification, track counting, rescuing females, among other observations that should be made on a nesting beach.



This activity results from existing partnerships between the **University of Cape Verde**, **University of Barcelona** and Projecto Vitó Association. It was funded by **Erasmus+ - European Union**, **PRCM** and the **Mava Foundation**, in the context of the Cabo Verde Seabirds Conservation Project.



SHEARWATER (*CALONECTRIS EDWARDSII*): MONITORING AND CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN IN BRAVA ISLAND

A challenging job in an area with limited access.



Every year, from July to October, Shearwater (*Calonectris edwardsii*) monitoring and conservation work is carried out on the Brava island. On this island, this species reproduces in remote coastal areas, where the only access is by sea. This fact makes the work very challenging.

In this second consecutive year of monitoring, the technical team was composed by 4 elements, being 3 biologists from Proyecto Vitó team and 1 volunteer from the University of Barcelona, supported by the important support of local partners, the **Fishermen**, the **Municipality of Brava** and the similar NGO **Biflores**.

During the campaign 75 active nests were identified, of which 23 new nests were identified. With this, 44 new adults were ringed, 34 GPS placed, which 30 were recovered and 14 Geolocators. The Shearwater colonies on Brava Island are one of the last and largest colonies of this species on habitable islands.

The data collected will be used for the ecology and distribution study of this species, as well as means to support the preparation of the proposal for the creation a protected area on the Brava island.





TROPIBIO

THE NEW PARTNER OF PROJECTO VITÓ'S ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM



Tropibio is a project that aims to expand the research and innovation potential of **CIBIO - Center for Research in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources**, through an ERA Chair in Research in Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems (TROPIBIO). It is the most recent international partner of Projecto Vitó's Environmental Education Program.

In this sense, it was on a three-day visit, with the aim of strengthening partnership ties, getting to know in situs Projecto Vitó's work and discussing the possibility of implementing new projects, with a focus on the children's community.

Project Vitó and Tropibio brought to elementary school on Fogo Island, for the first time in Cape Verde, the "**Kids with Science**" project, an interactive, collaborative learning project that gives voice and ears to children's curiosities about science.

Watch videos of this project at this link (youtube.com/tropibio Project).



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Projecto Vitó 358 11 22 or **Biosfera 231 79 29**





NATIONAL PARTNERS MEETING INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PLANS - MAVA FOUNDATION

Mava Foundation is a Swiss philanthropic organization that has been supporting and promoting nature and biodiversity conservation actions for over 25 years, in several countries around the world. In the West African region, 8 Action Plans are being implemented, among which 6 are being implemented in Cape Verde with the collaboration of national entities.

The year 2022 marks the definitive closure of this philanthropic foundation. In this sense, Mava Foundation held in July this year, a meeting with national partners involved in the action plans implementation in Cape Verde. The meeting was attended by government entities, institutes, universities and civil society organizations, where MAVA's partner national environmental NGOs were strongly represented.

Representatives from **Lantuna; Biosfera; Fundação Maio Biodiversidade; BiosCV, Fundação Tartaruga, Natura 2000, Projecto Biodiversidade** and **Projecto Vitó** attended the meeting.



The meeting also served for the perspective actions in the post-MAVA period. Projecto Vitó, as a partner of this incomparable Foundation, was represented by its Executive Director **Herculano Dinis**.



Associação Projecto Vitó's Executive Director
Herculano Dinis

THANK YOU MAVA FOUNDATION

MAVA Foundation is a Swiss philanthropic foundation, founded in 1994 by the vision, passion and spirit of adventure of a man named Luc Hoffmann. It was created for the conservation of iconic places of great ecological value, yet has grown into a professional foundation and a Key Partner for Global Conservation.

MAVA has acted in a very extensive way at the level of conservation in West Africa, having currently under execution 8 Action Plans (OAP) aimed at the conservation of natural resources. Of the 8 Action Plans, 6 are implemented in Cape Verde: Protecting Sea Turtles (OAP 1),

Promoting Seabird Conservation (OAP 3), Environmental Management of Offshore Oil and Gas Activities (OAP 4), Regulating the Development of Coastal Infrastructure (OAP 5), Conservation of Seabed beds (OAP 6), and Reducing Seabirds Bycatch and Sea Turtles (OAP 7).

The Projecto Vitó Association is a partner of **MAVA Foundation** since 2017. Our Organization has participated in the implementation of at least two of the 6 OAP in Cape Verde, being OAP 1 and OAP 3. In addition to the implementation of the OAP, Projecto Vitó has benefited from important support for the elaboration and implementation of the Organizational Development Plan, which has increased the governance, effectiveness, transparency and notoriety of our Organization and the collaboration with the Foundation has allowed the development of new partnerships, integration and collaboration with partners in the West African region and the strengthening of the capacity building of our Organization's members as in the MAVA Leaders Academy for Nature.

Unfortunately, this magnificent philanthropic foundation will end its work in 2022. However, the partners will not be helpless. A transition program was made that facilitated the continuation of conservation actions and the legacy of the Foundation. **MAVA** will be present in each of us.

The Projecto Vitó Association decided to dedicate this Newsletter edition as a form of thanks and recognition of the great contribution given in the development of the Association, in the conservation of natural resources in Cape Verde and to all actions in favor of the environment at a global level.

Thank you **MAVA Foundation**.

The Executive Director,

Herculano Dinis



SIGNATURE OF PARTNERSHIP PROTOCOL WITH TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

Projecto Vitó and **Savana Hotel** sign a partnership protocol, framed within the Tourist Accommodation Sustainable Management Program. It is the first protocol established in the tourism area that aims to enforce the NCV-023-2021 standard for tourist accommodations, through the promotion of activities that meet sustainability goals and policies.

This partnership aims to promote biodiversity conservation activities, focusing on the promotion of ecotourism and sustainable tourism.



TRAINING ACTION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TROPIO

Two technicians from the Cabo Verde Endemic Plants Conservation Program, both geographers, José Luís and Adilson Gonçalves, were in São Vicente for an advanced training session on **Data Mobilization for Biodiversity** at the Institute of Marine Sciences and Engineering of the Atlantic Technical University. This training, which lasted 5 days, consisted of technical and scientific training to improve the collection and processing of biodiversity data in situ, practices for the use of spreadsheets in handling data for publication on the platform GBIF - Global Biodiversity Information Facility, among others.

This activity was the result of the excellent partnership with **Tropibio**.



COURTESY VISIT OF THE SÃO FILIPE DELEGATION OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The Delegate of the São Filipe Delegation of the Ministry of Education, **Emanuel Barbosa**, the Directors of the São Filipe Municipal Schools visited Projecto Vitó to present the strategic plan and activities for the 2022-23 school year. In the meeting were discussed possibilities of collaboration and the framework of our Environmental Education Program in schools for the school year 2022/2023.



EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES WITH FUNDAÇÃO MAIO BIODIVERSIDADE



During the sea turtle monitoring season, the Projecto Vitó Association and the **Maio Biodiversidade Foundation** held a technical exchange with the aim of promoting the exchange of experience and knowledge of turtle conservation work.

Helton Fernandes, one of the community leaders of FMB Sea Turtle Monitoring team, came to work for a period of 4 months in the Natural Integral Reserve Rombo islets with the Project Vitó's technical team, led by the biologist **Cátio Pina**. During this exchange several works were developed such as: Marking of females, daily prospection, monitoring of study nests, exhumation of nests, identification of nests, night surveillance on beaches, among others.

On the other hand, the Projecto Vitó's Monitor - **Fábio Teixeira**, who led one of the Sea Turtle Monitoring teams at the Ponta Preta beach, was on the Maio island to develop skills in Sea Turtle Conservation work. In addition to monitoring, Fábio developed awareness-raising activities among the population about importance on conservation and legislation of Sea Turtles in Cape Verde.





Anniversary

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1st AFRICAN PROTECTED AREAS CONGRESS (APAC)

Kigali- Ruanda

The participation of National NGOs resulted from a strong partnership with the MAVA Foundation, which set up a stand for the presentations of the West Africa Action Plan results.

Kigali (Rwanda) was the big stage for the first **African Protected Areas Congress (APAC)**, held from July 18 to 24, where organizations, leaders, citizens and groups meet to discuss the role of protected areas in nature conservation on the African continent. The 5-day continental event was attended by the main environmental NGOs in Cape Verde, among them **Associação Projecto Vitó**, represented by its Executive Director **Herculano Dinis** and the Coordinator of the Environmental Education Program **Helga Montrond**.

Herculano Dinis, was one of the panelists at the interactive stand of MAVA foundation about the strategic partnership and action plan approach entitled: "*Scaling up conservation impact through strategic multi-actors partnerships: lessons learned from West Africa*". During his presentation, the Executive Director talked about the results achieved under the Cape Verde Seabird Conservation Program, in partnership with universities, NGOs and national authorities and their impact on conservation, as well as the **Mava Foundation's** action plans impact on the integration of Cape Verde in the West African context.

On the other hand, Helga Montrond was present at the **PRCM** side event entitled "*Enjeux actuels et futures de la conservation des tortues marines de L'Ouest*", where she addressed the various works on the Environmental Education Program that have been implemented in Fogo Island, regarding the Sea Turtles conservation.

WORKSHOP FOR VALIDATION OF THE VEGETATION MONITORING PLAN FOR THE FOGO NATURAL PARK AND CLOSURE OF THE PROJECT CEPF - 108479

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND



With the Workshop for validation of the Vegetation Monitoring Plan for the Fogo Natural Park, by the local partners in its elaboration, the curtains of the **Project - CEPF 107489**, funded by **CEPF - Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund**, came down after 43 years of its implementation. The Workshop was chaired by the presidents of the three municipalities of Fogo Island and was attended by several public, civil society and private partners.

The Vegetation Monitoring Plan is one of the main outputs of the Project, it is valid for 8 years and was developed in partnership with **INIDA**, the **Delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment on Fogo Island**, the **Fogo Natural Park Team** and **Community Associations**.

The workshop also served to present the panels of information from the Biosphere Reserve Fogo island, as well as the launch of a new project funded by the **Audemars Piguet Foundation** in the Plant Conservation program entitled "Time for Conservation of Endemic Threatened Flora in Cape Verde's Islands".



BIODIVERSITY SPECIES EXHIBITION AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR

On September 19th, the centennial city of São Filipe hosted the Central Opening Ceremony for the 2022/2023 School Year. The ceremony was presided over by the Prime Minister, **Dr. José Ulisses Correia e Silva**, the Minister of Education, **Amadeu Cruz**, and the Mayor of São Filipe, Eng. **Núias Silva**, as the amphitheater.

The event was also attended by the Delegates of the Ministry of Education on Fogo Island, School Directors, teachers, students, parents and guardians, as well as representatives of various institutions of the city of Sobrados and the island.

In partnership with the São Filipe Delegation of the Ministry of Education, an Exhibition of the Biodiversity Species from the World Biosphere Reserve - Fogo Island was held, with the first-hand presentation of six informative panels designed, in collaboration with the **Laguna University** and Professor **Claudio Moreno** of the **Las Palmas de Gran Canarias University**, which will be fixed within the protected areas in Fogo Island.

The moment also served for a brief presentation made by the Executive Director **Herculano Dinis**, under the theme "*Experience by supporting conservation on Rombo islets and in Fogo Natural Park*".



Promoting Conservation and Preservation of our biodiversity among children and adolescents is a driving force for a more sustainable society!

INTEGRATING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION INTO THE 2ND NATIONAL SCOUTING CAMP OF CAPE VERDE (CANAES II)

Biodiversity conservation, garbage recycling and water saving were the themes that the Projecto Vitó brought to the **2nd Cape Verdean National Scout Camp (II CANAES)**, held in the São Filipe city, in Monte Barro.

During 5 days, children, teenagers and young people received information and sustainable tips for the conservation and preservation of nature and its habitat.

In addition to the talks on conservation and preservation given by the Projecto Vitó technicians, an Exhibition of the Biodiversity Species existing in the island and in Cape Verde was set up, with canvases, pictures and information panels, in order to promote knowledge, the importance and the need for their conservation.



SUMMER CAMP WITH PEDAGOGY AND AMOR FATI



The **Amor Fati Project** is a social project that promotes the children's rights through playful-pedagogical activities. An example of this was the first playful-pedagogical summer camp for children, held by them, in Chã das Caldeiras.

In partnership with this Project, Projecto Vitó was present throughout the days of the summer camp, to give lectures about the biodiversity of the Fogo Island and the terrestrial ecosystem. Likewise, practical work was assigned that was developed and presented by the children.

The last day was reserved for planting Cape Verde Endemic Plants in Monte Velha forest, one of the largest forest perimeters in Cape Verde.

Till next time...



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World Biosphere Reserve Fogo Island

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