

Other NEWS

Cape Verde - A safe harbour for sea birds

Documentary on Cape Verde Sea birds and other land and sea species is officially launched on Fogo and Santiago islands

Inauguration of the interpretative panels of the World Biosphere Reserve - Fogo Island

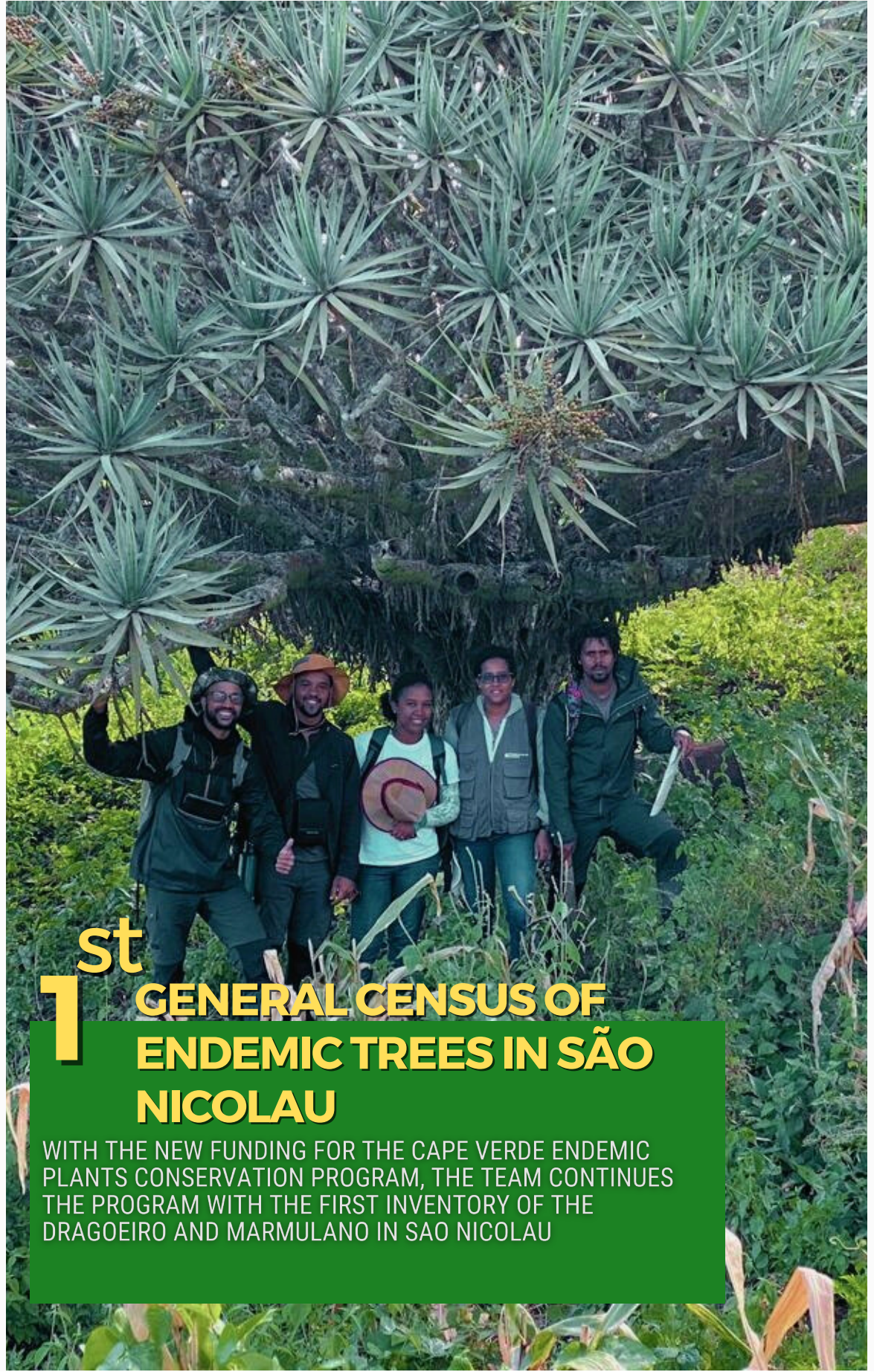
The 5 panels fixed in the Fogo Natural Park are inaugurated with great expectations to promote the natural resources existing on the island and to serve as an interpretation resource for visitors

Presentation of the Sustainable Fishing Programme funded by Darwin Initiative

Projecto Vitó takes the first steps towards implementation of the Sustainable Fishing Programme on Fogo and Brava islands, with the support of the UK Government funding programme, through partnership with Birdlife International



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1st GENERAL CENSUS OF ENDEMIC TREES IN SÃO NICOLAU

WITH THE NEW FUNDING FOR THE CAPE VERDE ENDEMIC PLANTS CONSERVATION PROGRAM, THE TEAM CONTINUES THE PROGRAM WITH THE FIRST INVENTORY OF THE DRAGOEIRO AND MARMULANO IN SAO NICOLAU



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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HIGHLIGHTS

01 PRESENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE FISHING PROGRAMME FUNDED BY DARWIN INITIATIVE

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02 CONCLUSION OF SEA BIRD AND SEA TURTLE MONITORING WORKS ON ROMBO ISLETS FOR THE YEAR 2022

Team successfully concludes work on monitoring sea birds and sea turtles at Integral Nature Reserve - Rombo Islets

03 PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF THE DOCUMENTARY "CAPE VERDE - A SAFE HARBOUR FOR SEA BIRDS"

Documentary on Cape Verde Sea birds and other land and sea species is officially launched on Fogo and Santiago islands



04 INAUGURATION OF THE INTERPRETATIVE PANELS OF THE WORLD BIOSPHERE RESERVE - FOGO ISLAND - FOGO ISLAND

In a ceremony presided by the Minister of Education - Dr Amadeu Cruz, 5 interpretative panels were inaugurated in collaboration with the National Directorate of Environment - DNA, the Natural Park of Fogo and the Municipality of Santa Catarina with the great expectations on promoting the natural resources existing around the island and to serve as an interpretation resource to the visitors

05 FINAL EVALUATION OF THE CAPE VERDE SEA BIRDS PROJECT

With the end of the "Cape Verde Seabirds" project, the partners met in Tarrafal (Santiago) for the final evaluation, to discuss the results achieved, assess the impacts of the project and draw up the final evaluation report

06 CAPE VERDIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ONGS PARTICIPATE IN WORKSHOP TO RESTITUTE STUDIES ON ECOSYSTEM VALUE OF SEAGRASSES IN WEST AFRICA

Main environmental Cape Verde NGOs participated in workshop held in Senegal attended by various regional conservation partners from Cape Verde, Senegal, Guinea Bissau and Mauritania





CONCLUSION OF SEA BIRD AND SEA TURTLE MONITORING WORKS ON ROMBO ISLETS FOR THE YEAR 2022

Part of our team sets up in the Integral Nature Reserve - Rombo Islets, one of the main biodiversity hotspots in Cape Verde, in order to carry out conservation and monitoring work on terrestrial and marine species, focusing on Cape Verde sea birds (5 species) and sea turtles during the nesting season.

The work normally counts (seasonally) with the support of national and international volunteers, more precisely students from the University of Barcelona, as is the case of **Kristin Piening**, who for the second time, has been supporting us in the work of conservation and monitoring of sea birds in Cape Verde.

To complete the monitoring work for the year 2022, several activities were carried out, including the exhumation of sea turtle nests in order to close the sea turtle nesting season and the monitoring of the *Phaethon aethereus* and *Hydrobates jabejabe* nests in the colonies that exist there.

The technical team successfully accomplished both tasks.



VISIT OF THE ECOWAS AMBASSADOR TO CAPE VERDE - SAMUEL LAMPTEY

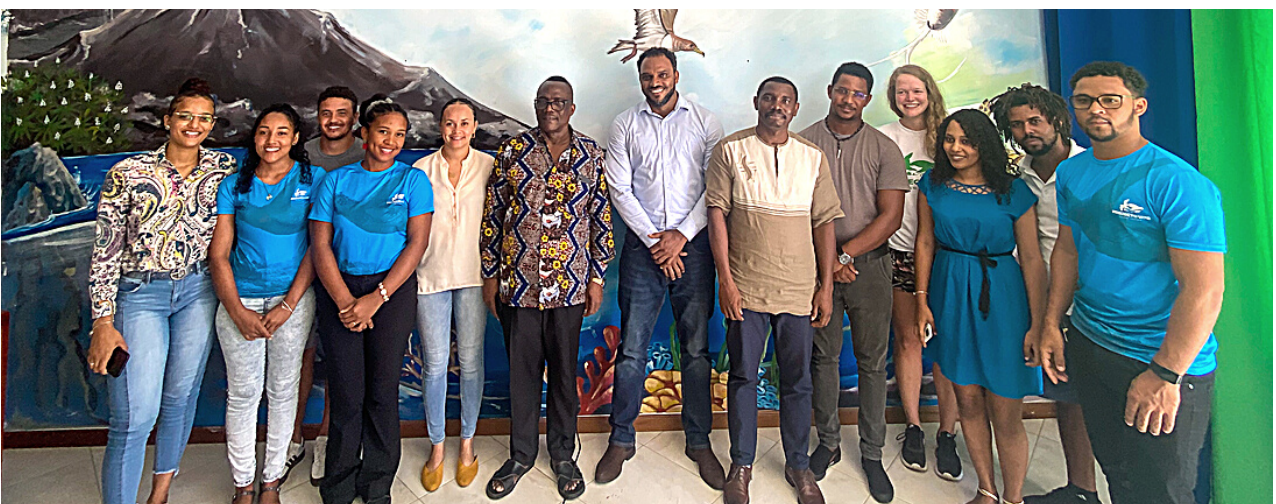


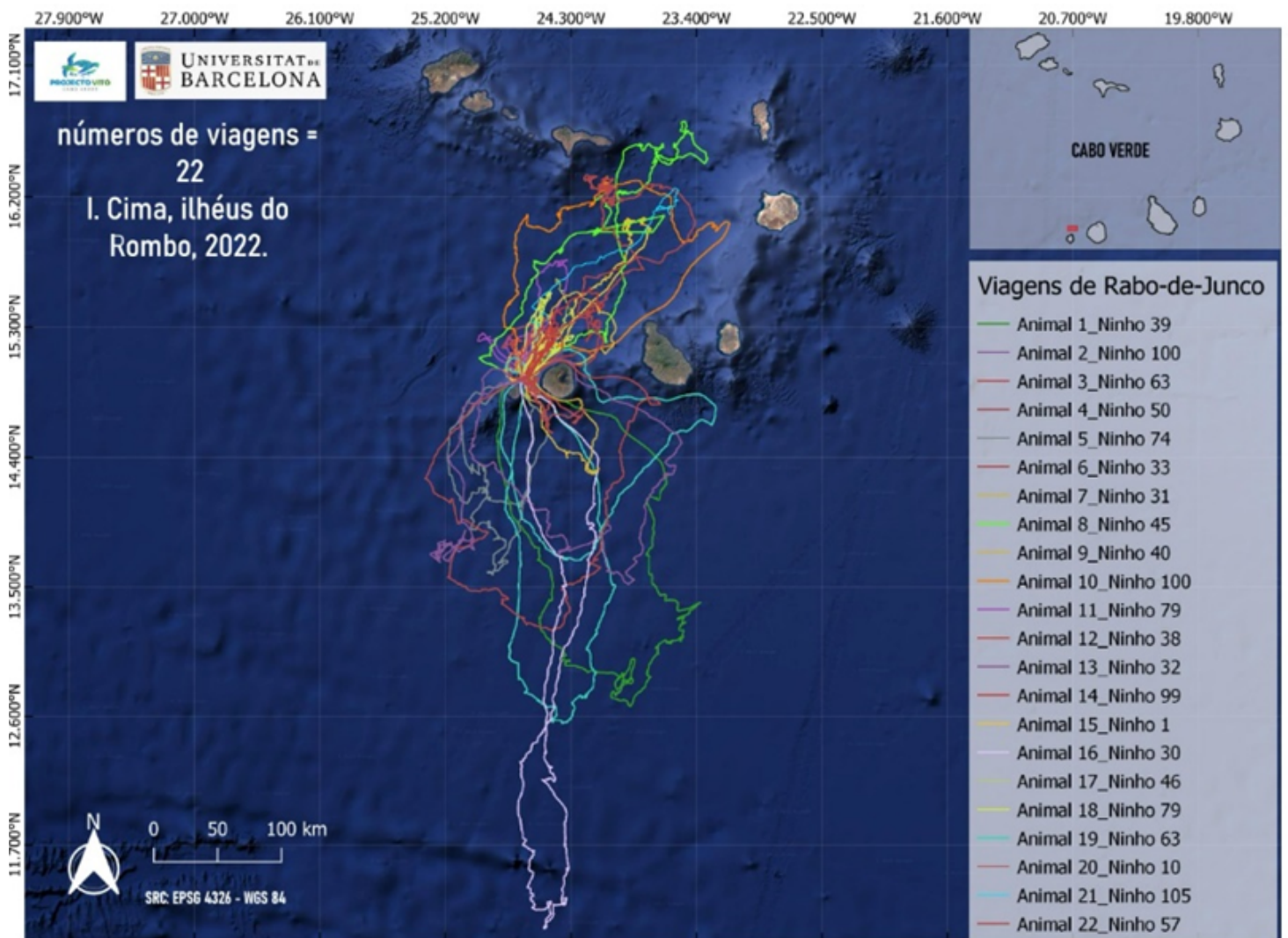
It is with great honour that we receive in our office, in São Filipe, the **ECOWAS** Ambassador to Cape Verde, **Dr. Samuel Lamptey**. This courtesy visit represents a major milestone for the strengthening and establishment of partnership ties in several areas of Projecto Vito's actions.

The resident representative of the president of the commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has made several working visits to the Fogo and Brava islands, identifying needs for the creation points of cooperation in various sectors.

Throughout the visit, the Executive Director - **Herculano Dinis**, presented the Association and its operation as a whole, highlighting the areas of activity and programmes developed over the years.

Also, possibilities for potential partnerships, namely technical and scientific collaborations, were discussed.





GPS MONITORING OF *Phaethon aethereus* AT CIMA ISLET (INTEGRAL NATURE RESERVE)

Between November 8 and December 6, 2022, our Sea birds Program team was at Cima islet - Rombo to monitor the reproduction of the *Phaethon aethereus*. Besides the monitoring, GPS devices were also placed in order to continue to feed the database of feeding areas and assess potential threats. A total of **25 GPS** devices were placed, 24 of which were recovered.

The results of this follow-up work with GPS, can be observed on the map above, where it can be seen that the *Phaethon aethereus* is a very oceanic species, with individuals heterogeneous habits. Some visited the area more to the North-Northeast and others more to the South-Southeast of Cape Verde. The distances between the colonies and the marine areas used for feeding were:

- Longest trip to the South, 400km - animal 16;
- Longest trip North-Northeast 200Km - animal 8;
- Shortest trip north of the islet 50Km - animal 22.

The work was carried out with the scientific support of the **University of Barcelona** and financial support from **Birdlife International**.

SOS EDU

Save a bird,
Protect a life



If you find an injured or lost bird contact
Projecto Vitó 358 11 22 or **Biosfera 231 79 29**





CAPE VERDIAN ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS PARTICIPATE IN WORKSHOP IN SENEGAL

From 6 to 8 December, several regional conservation partners from Cape Verde, Senegal, Guinea Bissau and Mauritania met in Dakar - Senegal for the workshop **"Restoring Studies on Ecosystem Value of Seagrasses in West Africa"**, as well to meet with the **Steering Committee of the Sea Turtle Survival Programme - STM**.

This activity is crucially important for the continuity of the **Sea Turtle Survival Programme - STM**, where Cape Verde stands out as a key country, counting on 8 implementing partners: **Projecto Biodiversidade, Biosfera, BiosCV, Lantuna, Fundação Maio Biodiversidade, Cabo Verde Natura 2000, Fundação Tartaruga** and **Associação Projecto Vitó**.



The meeting was attended by representatives of the main environmental NGOs in Cape Verde: **Lantuna; Biosfera; Fundação Maio Biodiversidade; BiosCV, Fundação Tartaruga, Natura 2000, Projecto Biodiversidade** and **Associação Projecto Vitó**.

TECHNICAL TRAINING ON BRAVA ISLAND

During 5 days in Brava Island, a training action on "**Field techniques applied to the Vegetation Monitoring of Protected Areas**" took place, which included theoretical and practical parts in Fajã d'Água Hydrographic Basin, as well as in other botanical areas with relevance in the island.

Four technicians from our Organization participated in this training action, which will certainly translate into an added value and learning for all.

The training was organized by Biflores and ministered by the Consultant - **Dr. Isildo Gomes**.



5TH EDITION OF CABO VERDE OCEAN WEEK

In connection with the 5th edition of **Cabo Verde Ocean Week**, we were at Fonte Bila beach, for another beach cleaning campaign on Fogo island, in an initiative promoted on all islands by the **Ministry of the Sea**, developed locally by our Organization, in partnership with the **São Filipe Municipality**.

The activity was also supported by the Cape Verde Red Cross, the Inspectorate General of Fisheries, the Delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Fogo, Projecto Vitó volunteers and the local population.



TECHNICAL TRAINING IN DOG AND CAT POPULATION MANAGEMENT

At the invitation of the **Associação Bons Amigos**, two technicians of our organization, Deusa Araújo and Admilton Pina, were on Brava Island for a training session on **Dog and Cat Population Management**, with theoretical and practical sections, aligned with the guidelines of the World Organisation for Animal Health.

The Associação Bons Amigos is a partner, which carries out works on effective control of hygiene and sanitary problems caused by street animals, improving their quality of life.



"SHARK AND RAY CONSERVATION" PROGRAMME



With the aim of extending the Projecto Vitó's action area, we began to seek partnerships for the implementation of the new "Shark and Ray Conservation" Programme.

As a result of collaboration between Fauna & Flora International and several national NGOs, technicians **Nadito Barbosa** and **Admilton Pina**, were on Sal Island to participate in technical training on "**Shark and Ray Monitoring**", which lasted for a week, with the purpose of strengthening technical capacities in monitoring these species.

Throughout the training process there were theoretical and practical sessions, where the technicians had the opportunity to perform the techniques taught, from capturing, holding, measuring, marking and collecting species' samples.

The "Shark and Ray Conservation Programme" will be the first conservation programme for these species to be implemented in the Fogo and Brava region.





FINAL EVALUATION OF THE "CAPE VERDE SEA BIRDS PROJECT"

The "Cape Verde Sea birds Project" was funded by **MAVA Foundation** and coordinated by **BirdLife International**. It was implemented by a consortium between NGOs, the Government of Cape Verde and Universities from 2017 to 2022. The project aimed to build a solid knowledge base on sea bird species ecology that reproduce in the Cabo Verde archipelago, the identification and mitigation of threats both on land and at sea, as well as promoting national technicians training in sea bird monitoring, research training, raising awareness of society at national level and improving the existing legal framework for the species protection and relevant reproduction areas.

With the end of the project, the partners were gathered in Tarrafal - Santiago for a final evaluation, with the main objectives discussing the results achieved, assessing the project impacts and preparing the final evaluation report.

The project was MAVA Foundation's Action Plan 3 in West Africa and thanks to its successful implementation, Cape Verde has now become a reference in West Africa in seabird conservation.

It had several direct and indirect partners:

- **Direct partners:** Associação Projecto Vitó, Biosfera, Projecto Biodiversidade, BiosCV, University of Barcelona, University of Coimbra, SPEA - Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, through the National Directorate of Environment.
- **Indirect partners:** Lantuna, Fundação Maio Biodiversidade and the University of Cape Verde - UniCV.

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TEAM

Happy New Year





The oldest specimen of *Dracaena caboverdeana* (Dragoeiro) on the island, a centenarian.

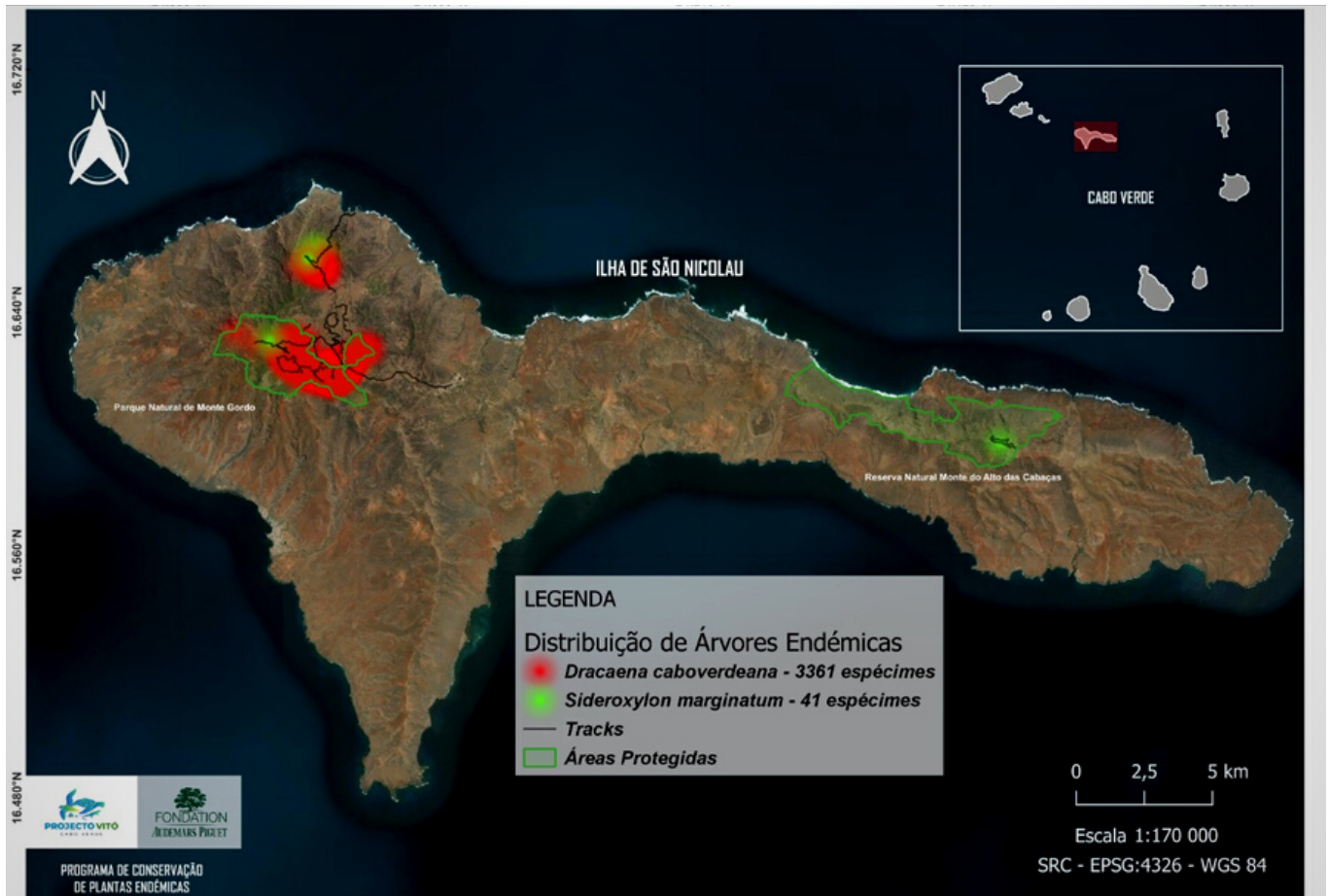
1st GENERAL CENSUS OF ENDEMIC TREES IN SÃO NICOLAU

After the end of the previous Cape Verde Endemic Plants Conservation Program, MCCEFAE - "Improving Knowledge through the Conservation of Endangered Flora and Fauna Species on the Fogo and Brava Islands", funded by the **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund - CEPF**, we have secured a new funder for the continuation of the program and the expansion of conservation activities on other Cape Verdean islands.

The Cape Verde Endemic Plants Conservation Program has as a new funder, the **Audemars Piguet Foundation**, a Swiss foundation, which since 1992 contributes to environmental causes and awareness of younger generations. This foundation supports the projects and programs of various NGOs worldwide, in order to promote a sustainable lifestyle for all.

The new program will last for 3 years and its goals are the inventory of endemic plant species in 6 of Cape Verde's 10 islands, the recovery of degraded areas and the promotion of environmental education in educational institutions and communities.

It is in this sense that our technical team composed by **Adilson Gonçalves, José Luis Correia, Helga Fernandes** and **Cátio Pina**, were for the first time for 30 days on the São Nicolau island for the inventory of two endemic trees, *Dracaena caboverdeana* (Dragoeiro) and *Sideroxylon marginatum* (Marmulano), in the following areas: Monte Gordo Natural Park, Covoada, Ribeira de Calhaus, Cachaço, Água das Patas, Lombo Pelado, Fragata, Ribeira das Pratas, Canto Fajã, Canal Nica, Pico Agudo, Morre Homem, Fajã Baixo, Palhal/Caldeira/Floresta Monte Vermelho, Ribeira Funda, Queimadas and Cume Alto Cabaças.



The results achieved were phenomenal, as a total of **3,402 specimens** were inventoried, 3,361 of which were *Dracaena caboverdeana* (Dragoeiro) and 41 specimens of *Sideroxylon marginatum* (Marmulano). As a final result, the team was able to map the endemic tree distribution in São Nicolau island.

It should also be noted that the results achieved were also the result of the excellent partnership with local partners, the **Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Delegation** and the **Monte Gordo Natural Park**, which accompanied the team in the work, throughout their stay in São Nicolau.





INAUGURATION OF THE INTERPRETATIVE PANELS OF THE WORLD BIOSPHERE RESERVE - FOGO ISLAND

As part of the Santa Catarina of Fogo Municipality festivities, the interpretive panels of the World Biosphere Reserve - Fogo Island, fixed at Fogo Natural Park, were inaugurated in partnership with the **Municipality of Santa Catarina of Fogo** and **Fogo Natural Park**. The 5 interpretative panels are important resources for interpretation, information and guidance to visitors about natural resources.

The inauguration was presided over by the **Minister of Education - Dr. Amadeu Cruz** representing the Government of Cape Verde and by the **Mayor of Santa Catarina of Fogo - Alberto Nunes**.

The installation of interpretive panels in Chã das Caldeiras was done in close collaboration with the Fogo Natural Park (National Directorate of Environment - DNA). They were distributed at strategic points in order to provide support to visitors, serve as an interpretation tool for tour guides, and also promote the Natural Park, the Reserve, and its natural resources among the Cape Verdean civil society.

The 5 interpretative panels were produced, in the scope of the Program "Cape Verde Endemic Plants Conservation", funded by the **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)**.



BIODIVERSITY EXHIBITION AND PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF MURAL PAINTING FOR THE PEDRO MONTEIRO CARDOSO SCHOOL'S BIRTHDAY

On October 31, was celebrated the **Pedro Cardoso Elementary School** Day of the São Filipe Grouping I. The date celebrated is a way to honor the Fogo Poet and Patron of the School, **Dr. Pedro Monteiro Cardoso**. The celebration included massive participation of parents, guardians and school partners, where a range of activities were carried out, including some allusive to our Environmental Education Program, implemented in partnership with the **Delegation of the Ministry of Education of São Filipe**.

On this occasion, the mural painting was inaugurated and an exhibition was held, with informative panels and canvases of our biodiversity. The inaugurated mural painting consists of a new strategic approach to Environmental Education, where we intend to convey the conservation message of our biodiversity and its species, reinforce the importance of education and awareness among our children, so that they are engaged early on in the conservation and preservation of our environment and its habitat.



Table composition (from left to right): Estevão Pires Fonseca (DMAA Delegate), Eng. Nuias Silva (Mayor of São Filipe) and Herculano Dinis (Executive Director A. Projecto Vitó).

PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF THE DOCUMENTARY "CAPE VERDE - A SAFE HARBOUR FOR SEA BIRDS"

On December 15, 2022, the documentary "Cape Verde - A safe harbor for sea birds" was officially presented, and also had its official launching on Cape Verde Television (TCV).

The making of this documentary, made by the Portuguese production company, **Ocidental Filmes**, coordinated by the Associação Projecto Vitó and Biosfera, had as main purpose the promotion of Cape Verde as an important sea birds hotspot, as well as to emphasize the efforts applied in conservation, monitoring and research work over the years, in the program "Cape Verde Sea Birds Conservation", funded by **MAVA Foundation** and coordinated by **BirdLife International**.

"Cape Verde - A safe harbor for sea birds" is the first national documentary, which promotes these and other marine and terrestrial species and the places where they live in Cape Verde.



"SUSTAINABLE FISHING" PROGRAM

A NEW CHALLENGE



The "Sustainable Fishing" Program, whose official opening took place in Sal Island, will initially last for 3 years. It is funded by the UK Government's **Darwin Initiative** funding program, will be under the coordination of **BirdLife International** and will have as implementing partners the **Projecto Biodiversidade, Biosfera, SPEA - Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds, Oxford University** and Associação Projecto Vitó.

The project consists in training and raising awareness among artisanal fishermen on the Fogo and Brava islands, in order to reduce the sea birds bycatch, sea turtles, and also to monitor the accidental sharks capture.

In order to present the new program we met with local partners, so as to socialize them and present the project "Empowering the Cape Verdean Communities for Responsible Practices in Artisanal Fishing", included in the "Sustainable Fishing" Program.

As part of the program, the first meeting was also held with fishermen from São Filipe, to introduce the "Guardians of the Sea" sub-program.



DIALOGUE ON PUBLIC POLICIES FOR INTEGRATIVE AND INNOVATIVE MARINE AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT IN CAPE VERDE



With the aim to improve synergies between government institutions and Civil Society Organizations, to positively influence the development of integrated strategies and plans for conservation, marine and coastal management, the project "**Policy Dialogue for Integrative and Innovative Marine and Coastal Management in Cape Verde**" was born.

This project was implemented through a national consortium between environmental protection NGOs, consisting by **Projeto Biodiversidade, Biosfera, BIOS CV, Lantuna, Fundação Maio Biodiversidade** and the Associação Projecto Vitó. It was led by Projeto Biodiversidade, and was funded by the **GEF Small Grants Programme** and in close partnership with the **Ministry of Agriculture and Environment**.

In its conclusion phase, a Workshop was held in Praia for the final socialization of the whole process and the results achieved, as well the presentation of the Base Study document and the Joint Action Plan.



Till next time...



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World Biosphere Reserve Fogo Island

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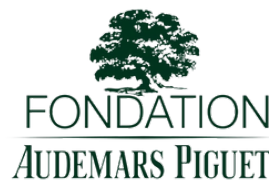


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