



ASSOCIAÇÃO PROJECTO VITÓ

## EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE BETWEEN TWO BIOSPHERE RESERVES - ISLANDS OF FOGO AND EL HIERRO

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VISIT US



**PROJECTO VITÓ**  
CABO VERDE

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**TWO ISLANDS UNITED BY THE  
ATLANTIC**

## MEETING WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE OF CASA DAS BANDEIRAS



We met with Mr. Henrique Pires - Representative of the Casa das Bandeiras on Fogo Island, in order to establish a partnership. During the meeting several issues were addressed, including the possibility of reconciling the cultural and environmental aspects. Since we already have a project which consists in the "Support in the implementation of the Biosphere Reserve on the island of Fogo", we would like to establish links that will allow the affirmation of the island of Fogo as a World Biosphere Reserve, as declared by UNESCO.

## MONITORING OF SEABIRDS ON THE ISLET OF CIMA RESUMES

The Rombo Islets Integral Nature Reserve is classified as a true biodiversity hotspot, given the high number of terrestrial and marine species. Seabirds are one of the main ones that reside in this Reserve.

After almost 2 months of pause, the seabird monitoring work on the islet of Cima has resumed with two technicians, Domingos Montrond and Fábio Cardoso.

In the first weeks of February, we carried out some activities such as: placement of nets in the different colonies; in Rabo-de-Junco's colony we checked 76 nests, ringed 6 young adults and 6 nestlings, placed 12 GPS and 8 activity GEOs, recovered 5 overwintering GEOs; in João Preto's colony 2 overwintering GEOs were recovered; and in the Pedreiro's colony, of the 231 nests checked, 69 had egg.



## MEETING WITH THE DELEGATE OF THE DELEGATION OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OF THE ISLAND OF FOGO



We received in our office for a courtesy visit, the Delegate of the Delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of the island of Fogo - Mr. Estevão Fonseca.

As the Delegate is the maximum representative of the Environmental Authority on Fogo Island, during the meeting, we had the opportunity to present our organizational structure, the conservation programs under implementation, as well as the projects that are under development, bringing him up to date on the activities carried out by the Association.

Delegate Estevão Fonseca has recently begun his duties on the island of Fogo and we would like to express our total openness for necessary collaborations.

## JOE PIRES VISITS OUR ASSOCIATION



It was with great pleasure that we received in our office Mr. Joe Pires, who was the key person for the recording of the song "Gongon é di nos tudu".

Joe Pires was on vacation in Cabo Verde and used this time to get to know our team better and also the biodiversity conservation work we do. He was very available for other future collaborations.



## CABO VERDE SEA BIRD CONSERVATION WORKS ON SANTO ANTÃO ISLAND

Admilton Pina has been designated by our Organization as the technician responsible for carrying out the work of Conservation of the Seabirds of Cabo Verde, more specifically of the Gongon, in the island of Santo Antão.

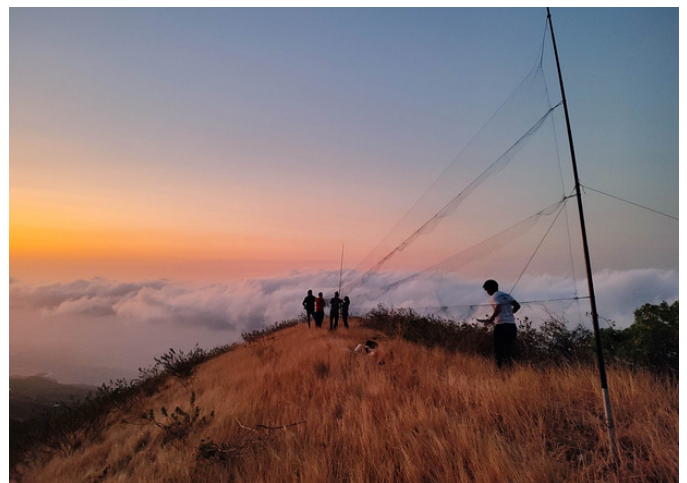
He will stay for a few months on the aforementioned island, together with Alexandro Morais (technician from our Organization) and Adilson Fortes (driver of the Natural Park of Cova, Paúl and Ribeira da Torre), to carry out the necessary conservation activities.



## GONGON MONITORING ON FOGO ISLAND

In Fogo Island, the monitoring work of the Gongon started in October 2022 and several activities were carried out, including the review of breeding colonies, capture/recapture with Japanese net, GPS placement and threat control.

From January 3 to March 31, we were able to review 8 colonies, totaling 101 nests, of which 27 were active (10 with egg and 17 with nestling), 50 were empty, 14 failed nests (10 eggs and 4 nestlings) and 5 new nests were found. In nests, 13 adults were ringed and 68 adults were recaptured.





## WORKSHOP OF THE 3RD PHASE OF THE PROJECT "SEABIRD CONSERVATION IN CAPE VERDE"

The workshop for the **3rd phase of the Project "Seabird Conservation in Cabo Verde"**, as well as the **2nd meeting of the Steering Committee for the Darwin Initiative Project in Cabo Verde**, took place in Praia from March 6th to 8th. We were represented by Ivandra Gomes - Coordinator of the Cabo Verde Seabirds Program and Andreia Leal - Coordinator of the Sustainable Fisheries Program.

This workshop was extremely important for the continuation of these projects, and was attended by **BirdLife International, University of Oxford, national NGOs** involved in the project: Biosfera I, Projecto Biodiversidade, Bios.CV, Lantuna and Associação Projecto Vitó, as well as public institutions linked to fisheries and the environment: **DNA - Direção Nacional do Ambiente, DNPA - Direção Nacional de Pesca e Aquacultura and Instituto do Mar - IMAR.**



**CAMPAIGN**

# SOS EDU

If you find an injured or lost  
bird, contact us at 358 11 22  
or through social media.

***SAVE A BIRD, PROTECT A LIFE!***



## CEIDA TEAM VISIT

It is with great pleasure that we receive in our office the team from **CEIDA - Center of University Extension and Environmental Divuligation of Galicia**, which in partnership with the **Municipality of São Filipe** was visiting the island of **Fogo - World Biosphere Reserve**.

We had the opportunity to meet this team and present our organization and its structure, the conservation programs and areas of action, as well as the new project "Support in the implementation of the Fogo Island Biosphere Reserve", funded by **GEF SGP**, which together with the three municipalities of the island of Fogo we intend to implement.





# VISIT TO PARQUE NATURAL DE FOGO, CORE AREA OF THE WORLD BIOSPHERE RESERVE ON FOGO ISLAND



We visited the **Natural Park of Fogo, core area of the World Biosphere Reserve on the Island of Fogo**, with a delegation consisting of the team from CEIDA - Center of University Extension and Environmental Divulcation of Galicia, the Municipality of São Filipe, the Pedro Pires Institute for Leadership and the Delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of the Island of Fogo.



During the guided tour, we were able to present the interpretation work of the Fogo Island Biosphere Reserve (5 interpretative panels) that has been developed so far and that are located from the entrance of the Natural Park to the Monte Velha forest.

Possible partnerships, collaboration and technical training were also argued, since CEIDA promotes environmental education in all social sectors, scientific and cultural exchange in order to solve environmental problems, encouraging ecological practices to everyone.





## REDISCOVERY OF *ACTINIOPTERIS RADIATA* ON SÃO NICOLAU ISLAND AFTER 129 YEARS

*Actiniopteris radiata* belongs to the drought-resistant, poikilohydric ferns and prefers stony, dry, sunny places on rocky slopes, walls and hillsides. During the dry season, the leaf segments are bent downwards. This species has a wide global distribution and in Cabo Verde it can be found on the islands of Santo Antão, São Nicolau and Fogo.

The last observation in São Nicolau was made by Cardoso Junior, J. in 1894, in the Ribeira da Prata area. However, during field work our technician Cátio Pina, found it on the island of São Nicolau more specifically in the area of Fragata.



## ANOTHER REDISCOVERY

During the Inventory of Endemic Trees of Dragoeiro and Marmulano species on the island of Santo Antão, we were able to identify a rare fern, whose name is *Adiantum reniforme*, from the *Pteridaceae* family. This fern in Cabo Verde occurs only on the island of Santo Antão and is **Critically Endangered**.

Given the data, its last observation was in 2015 by Gardèr, according to the Global Biodiversity Information System (GBIF).

## ENDEMIC TREE INVENTORY ON SANTO ANTÃO ISLAND



Adilson Gonçalves and José Luis Correia, technicians from the Program for the Conservation of Endemic Plants of Cabo Verde, have been working on the Inventory of Endemic Trees of the Species **Dragoeiro** (*Dracaena draco* ssp. *caboverdeana*) and **Marmulano** (*Sideroxylon marginatum*), on the island of **Santo Antão**, one of the most important islands for the distribution of these two species and with the largest number of Cape Verde endemisms.

They managed to inventory 605 specimens of Dragoeiro and 261 specimens of Marmulano, with the support of the Delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Santo Antão, technicians of the Protected Areas, INIDA - Cabo Verde and above all by the people of the communities who are providing important information for the success of this mission.



## CARNAVAL 2023

Two carnival groups from the Island of Fogo requested our support for the carnival and we embraced this cause because it is an excellent opportunity to spread the word about **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**.

We agreed with the groups of **Fogo em Chama** on the theme "**Fogo Island Biosphere Reserve**" and **Faixa da Terra** on "**Biodiversity Conservation**". Both did an outstanding job and Fogo em Chama was the winning group.

We have taken another important step in the empowerment of Civil Society on Fogo Island regarding the **UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve!**





## PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT "EMPOWERING CABO VERDE COMMUNITIES TOWARDS RESPONSIBLE PRACTICES IN ARTISANAL FISHERIES" IN ILHA BRAVA

Our technical team was in Brava Island to make the presentation of the project "Empowering Cabo Verde communities towards responsible practices in artisanal fisheries", as part of our new program "Sustainable Fisheries". Thus, they met with the City Council, Delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Biflores, Maritime Port Institute and Fishing Cooperative of Lomba and Tantum to make the socialization of this project.

It was possible to meet with fishermen from Furna and Lomba, for the presentation of this project and the "Guardians of the Sea" program, and also to apply questionnaires about accidental fishing, with a good adherence from them.



## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

In order to promote knowledge and inform the local population about the species we work with in Cabo Verde, as well as the need for their conservation, were given:

- 2 lectures in schools, reaching a total of 90 students;
- 9 talks in kindergartens, totaling 15 monitors, 331 children, 22 posters and 4 books distributed;
- 1 talk in the community with 36 participants;
- Presentation of the documentary "Cabo Verde - a safe harbor for seabirds" in the 6 schools on the island of Fogo, with a total of 588 students participating;
- 4 awareness campaigns in communities on the island of Fogo, distributing 77 pamphlets.



**AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS IN THE COMMUNITIES**



**LECTURES IN SCHOOL GROUPINGS**



**PRESENTATION OF THE DOCUMENTARY ABOUT SEABIRDS**

## APPLICATION OF QUESTIONNAIRES ON STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ATTITUDES



The Projecto Vitó Association in partnership with the **University of Cabo Verde - UniCV** and **Goethe University Frankfurt - Germany**, was involved in an environmental project. Two researchers from Goethe University were on the island of Fogo for 3 days, with the mission of applying questionnaires on students' perceptions of current environmental attitudes in all school groups on the island, exclusively to students from 7th to 12th grade.

This activity was successfully carried out due to the collaboration and articulation with the School Delegations, as well as the Grouping Directors.



## SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION IN THE CANARY ISLANDS

From March 8 to 16, 2023, a scientific expedition took place in La Nieves Natural Park in La Palma, Canary Islands to try to locate breeding grounds for the Manx shearwater - *Puffinus puffinus*.

*Puffinus puffinus* is a seabird that has a subspecies that breeds in the Canary Islands, on at least 3 islands. However, little is known about the breeding grounds and due to several factors, the population has been drastically declining.

This scientific expedition was organized by the University of Barcelona, led by Professor **Jacob González-Solis**, who brought together a group of naturalists, researchers, technicians, a nocturnal seabird photographer, a journalist, a thermal binoculars operator, and a sniffer dog to identify the breeding areas of this species.

The Associação Projecto Vitó was also invited to participate with two technicians, being its Executive Director - **Herculano Dinis** and the drone pilot - **Adilson Gonçalves**.





## EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE BETWEEN TWO BIOSPHERE RESERVES - ISLANDS OF FOGO AND EL HIERRO

As part of the collaboration with the **University of Las Palmas**, Gran Canarias and the **El Hierro Biosphere Reserve**, we visited the Reserve. There, between **March 16 and 23**, we had the opportunity to participate in a public activity at the Sustainability Park of Las Canelitas, in order to present the work done since the beginning of the collaboration between the two islands, **Fogo and El Hierro**. The meeting was chaired by the President of the Cabildo of El Hierro - **Alpidio Armas**, accompanied by his Counselor of Tourism and Transport - **Lucia Fuentes**..

During the event, **Yurena Candelario** - Manager of El Hierro Biosphere Reserve and the Director of Proyecto Vitó - **Herculano Dinis**, gave a contextualization about this collaboration between the two Biosphere Reserves.

At the end of the meeting there was a commitment, in conjunction with the authorities of the island of Fogo, to organize a visit of the Cabildo of El Hierro delegation to the island of Fogo in the near future.







## TWO ISLANDS UNITED BY THE ATLANTIC

During the visit to the World Biosphere Reserve of El Hierro, our team had the opportunity to meet with the participation bodies of the Reserve. At the meeting it was possible to discuss several points, including: the environmental and cultural richness, the experiences, challenges and opportunities that these island territories have.



We were also able to visit the Las Cancelitas Sustainability Park, the El Hierro Biosphere Reserve Interpretation Center, the Marine Reserve, viewpoints, among other strategic points on the island. The Manager of the El Hierro Biosphere Reserve - Yurena Pérez Candelario, was the one who accompanied and guided us on all the visits.

From the collaboration between the two Reserves, we already have some results, among them, the production of 4 interpretative panels about the two islands that share several similarities.



## CAPACITY-BUILDING EXCHANGE BETWEEN PROJECTO VITÓ AND BIFLORES

In order to foster cooperation and intensify biodiversity conservation activities, the **Biflores** team (Brava Island) composed of its **Executive Director - Dheeraj Jayant** and 4 other technicians, was on the island of Fogo to conduct an exchange with our organization, in order to promote exchanges of experiences between various conservation programs and departments. This exchange will serve as capacity building for both teams.

Sharing the same purpose, which is to conserve and preserve the flora and fauna of the two islands, we were in several strategic points on the island of Fogo for 5 days, presenting the work done and the work that is still in progress. We visited the Natural Park of Fogo and the Monte Velha Forest, as well as the interpretative panels there; we followed some botanical gardens and wall paintings; and we also had the opportunity to interview the President of the National Montado Association - Mr. Germano Centeio, so that the Biflores Team could learn about the process of plant production and recovery of degraded areas.



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