

NEWSLETTER



VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC TO THE INTEGRAL NATURAL RESERVE OF THE ISLANDS OF ROMBO - ILHÉU DE CIMA



**CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN ON THE
SPAWNING BEACHES**



**TRAINING OF SPAWNING
BEACH MONITORS**



VISIT US

ASSOCIAÇÃO PROJECTO VITÓ

14 YEARS IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

We have been working tirelessly for 14 years to protect and conserve biodiversity.

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who has contributed in some way to the growth of our Association. From the founding members, to the partners, board members, technicians, and volunteers.

HIGHLIGHTS



TABLE OF CONTENTS OF THE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

5	Sea Birds
7	Sustainable Fishing
9	Endemic Plants
11	Environmental Education
14	Sea Turtles
20	Other Activities

**VISIT OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC TO ILHÉU
DE CIMA**

**FIRST TRAINING
ACTION TO THE
GUARDIANS OF
THE SEA**

**1ST SYMPOSIUM OF
FLORA AND NATURAL
RESOURCES OF THE
CABO VERDE
ISLANDS**

**START OF SEA
TURTLE SEASON
2023**

VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC TO THE INTEGRAL NATURAL RESERVE OF ROMBO ISLETS - ISLETS OF CIMA



It was with great honor that we received for the first time at the Integral Natural Reserve of the Rombo Islets - Islets of Cima the Honorable President of the Republic of Cabo Verde - José Maria Neves.

The President, together with his entourage, the Mayors of the Municipalities of the Island of Fogo and members of their respective teams visited our camp, where we had the opportunity to present the sea turtle and seabird conservation work carried out on the islet of Cima and also carry out other activities such as a cleaning campaign on one of the nesting beaches of the sea turtles and a visit to the colony of the loggerhead turtle.



DISCOVERY OF 10 GONGON NESTS IN A SINGLE DAY IN SANTO ANTÃO



NEW GONGON NESTS DISCOVERED ON FOGO ISLAND

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 1ST GONGON CHICK ON FOGO ISLAND



ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 1ST GONGON CHICK ON SAN NICOLAU ISLAND

TRAINING ACTION IN THE INTEGRAL NATURAL RESERVE OF THE ISLETS OF ROMBO

From May 10 to 21, technicians from the Biodiversity Project were at the Integral Natural Reserve of the islets of Rombo - Islet of Cima for a training action and exchange of experience on seabird monitoring. This action was coordinated by our technician Domingos Montrond.

In the islet of Cima we can find 5 species of seabirds, namely: Pedreirinho, Pedreiro azul, Pedreiro, João preto and Rabo-de-junco. And during the training action the following work was developed: tracking of birds with GPS and geolocators, review and monitoring of colonies, placement of Japanese nets and control of threats.

TOGETHER IN CONSERVATION!





FIRST TRAINING ACTION FOR THE GUARDIANS OF THE SEA

The Guardians of the Sea Program aims to involve and empower fishermen to monitor and control infractions in their fishing areas and thus create in each one a sense of ownership of biological and natural resources.

In this sense, in partnership with the Center for Employment and Professional Training of Fogo and Brava, during 1 month the training was given to the fishermen of the Municipality of São Filipe.

Four modules were taught: First Aid, Fishing Legislation, Fish Preservation and Financial Education. In total there were 4 Trainers and 22 fishermen trained.

The next steps of the Program will be the delivery of the safety and monitoring kits and the start of monitoring of the marine megafauna by the fishermen.





PARTICIPATION IN THE MARINE SURVEILLANCE CENTER

We participated for the first time in the inspection nucleus currently existing in the Fogo and Brava region, in order to learn about the challenges of fisheries inspection in this region. The "fisheries surveillance center" is coordinated by the local fisheries inspectors and counts with the participation of the Coast Guard, the Maritime and Port Institute and the Maritime Police.

The partnership we are developing and strengthening is part of our Sustainable Fisheries Program, coordinated by BirdLife International Africa and funded by the Darwin Initiative.



MEETING WITH RESTAURANT OWNERS



In the scope of the Sustainable Fishing Program, we have initiated contact with the restaurants on the island of Fogo, with the objective of starting the certification process regarding the provenance of the fish that is purchased and sold by these establishments.

The strategy is to **certify the restaurants** that will comply with a set of standards to ensure that the fish sold is of sustainable origin.



As part of the Endemic Plants Conservation Program, the production of endemic plants is a very important activity. Thus, we started the process of sowing endemic plants, in partnership with the National Montado Association, for the production of 12,000 endemic specimens in the nursery in Achada Furna, where, 5 species (Língua de vaca, Lantisco, Cravo brabo, Malagueta galinha, Funcho) have already been sown.



1ST SYMPOSIUM OF FLORA AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE CABO VERDE ISLANDS



We participated in the 1st Symposium of Flora and Natural Resources of the Cape Verde Islands that took place in the new Campus of the University of Cape Verde, between April 20 and 22. We were represented by the Executive Director - Herculano Dinis, who presented an oral communication in plenary on the theme: **Associação Projecto Vitó: Priority Actions for Biodiversity Conservation in the Cabo Verde Islands**. Also, the Executive Director was moderating session 4 of the symposium program entitled: "Patterns of diversity in terrestrial and aquatic environments of Cabo Verde."

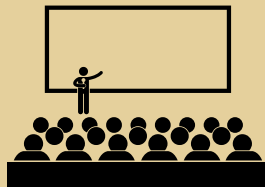
On the occasion of the symposium the book "Guia Ilustrado da Flora e Vegetação da Reserva Natural de Santa Luzia" was also presented, where, together with Biosfera I, we provided logistical support as well as participated in the co-authorship of Chapter II.



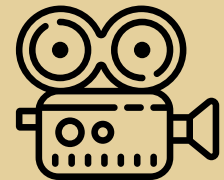
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES



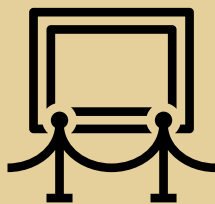
**AWARENESS
CAMPAIGNS**



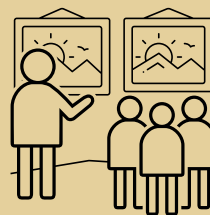
**LECTURES IN
SCHOOL
GROUPINGS**



**PRESENTATION OF
THE SEABIRDS
DOCUMENTARY**



**EXHIBITION
OF INFORMATIVE
SCREENS**



**STUDY
VISITS**



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

To celebrate the World Environment Day - June 5, we held a walk through the streets of the city of São Filipe, in order to take the message of environmental awareness to the general population, under the slogan "Combat plastic pollution". During the walk we presented posters with various messages, encouraging a decrease in the use of plastic in our daily lives, as well as the change of attitudes that must be urgent.

Seven kindergartens, two schools, including parents and guardians, and local partners were present.





PROFESSIONS FAIR



The Professions Fair in high schools is very important to guide the students about their next professional step. And this year the motto followed the same logic in the different schools we were in, namely: Pedro Verona Pires School, Cova Figueira High School, Mosteiros High School, and Dr. Teixeira de Sousa High School.

Some of the technicians from our Association were present in the different Fairs, to talk a little about each one's college degree, professional career, and the work developed in the scope of biodiversity conservation.



SEA TURTLE SEASON BEGINS 2023



Sea turtle conservation work is always intense and requires a lot of dedication. With this in mind, we would like to wish the monitors of all NGOs in Cabo Verde GOOD LUCK.

Especially to ours, continue with the same determination, delivery, and perseverance. We are always together, cheers!

ENVIRONMENTAL WEEK - TAOLA+

In the scope of the Environmental Week promoted by the Cape Verde Environmental Conservation Network - TAOLA+, the members representing this Network met with the Parliamentary Specialized Commission for Economy, Environment and Spatial Planning, to present the results of the Project "Dialogue on public policies for integrative and innovative marine and coastal environment management in Cape Verde".

The meeting also served to establish collaborative ties between TAOLA+ and the Specialized Committee.



As part of the Environmental Week promoted by TAOLA+, a meeting was held on May 16 between the National Directorate of Environment and representatives of all environmental NGOs in Cabo Verde.

The meeting was a crucial moment for the discussion of various themes related to environmental conservation in Cabo Verde. We were represented by the Executive Director - Herculano Dinis, who discussed the major issues involving Biodiversity Conservation on the islands of Fogo and Brava, and also on the Rombo Islets Integral Natural Reserve.





CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN ON THE SPAWNING BEACHES

With the approach of the Sea Turtle spawning season, we have been to the beaches of Santa Catarina (Praia Grande, Fajã and Alcatraz), São Filipe (Fonte Bila, Nossa Senhora da Encarnação, Vale de Cavaleiros, Salinas, Sopra and Praia Grande) and Mosteiros (Praia Guente, Praia Caís and Fajãzinha), where, together with local partners, we have carried out cleaning campaigns.



CAPTURE OF SEA TURTLE IN SÃO FILIPE

SENSITIVE CONTENT



During the morning prospection carried out on the beaches of the city of São Filipe, our technicians found a slaughtered turtle in the possession of the offenders. The offenders immediately left the scene and the National Police was called in.

RESCUING A SEA TURTLE



A sea turtle - *Caretta caretta* was found in the Port of Vale de Cavaleiros by a fisherman - Julio Lopes. We were on site along with the Veterinarian - Janice Silva, who proceeded with the medication of the animal for three days. The turtle was very weak, with many parasites and fortunately it recovered and was returned to its natural habitat.

FIRST SEA TURTLE ACTIVITIES ON ILHÉU DE CIMA



Sea turtle activity only intensifies in the Integral Nature Reserve of the Rombo's islets - Cima islet, which allows us to further reaffirm that the islet of Cima is a true biodiversity hotspot.

TRAINING OF SPAWNING BEACH MONITORS



We held the "Training on Monitoring and Protection of Sea Turtles" directed to the Monitors of the nesting beaches of the island of Fogo and the islet of Cima. The training lasted 2 days, and its main objective was to train the monitors for a good performance of their work during the season.

Through the partnership with the Maio Biodiversity Foundation, the technician Jairson da Veiga gave the theoretical training covering different topics such as: Biology, Ecology and Monitoring of Sea Turtles, Nest Translocation. And we also went to Fonte Bila beach for a practical session.



On the last day of the training we had the presence of the Maritime and Port Institute Delegate from the Island of Fogo - Marino Rodrigues, who talked a little about the Legislation of Sea Turtles.



INTEGRAL NATURAL RESERVE OF ROMBO ISLETS - CIMA ISLET

OVERALL DATA - FROM MAY TO JUNE



Total number of tracks:

58

Total number of nests:

32



They were also recorded:

2 recaptures of 2018

3 females marked as new



VISIT OF THE "TOURISTIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCING OF RURAL VILLAGES" PROGRAM TEAM

The team is developing a project together with the Environment Fund and the Tourism Fund to promote 18 rural villages in Cabo Verde, 3 of which are on the island of Fogo (Campanas de Cima, Pai António and Chã das Caldeiras).



VISIT BY THE CANDIDATES FOR MISS SÃO FILIPE 2023

We had the privilege of receiving at our office the candidates for Miss São Filipe 2023, with the intention of getting to know them better as well as their projects, and also to present them a little bit about the work developed by us.



VISIT OF THE VICE-CONSUL OF THE U.S. EMBASSY PRAIA - CAPE VERDE

It was with great honor that we received in our office the Vice-Consul of the U.S. Embassy Praia - Cabo Verde, along with his Advisor, for a courtesy visit. This visit served to present the functioning of the Association, as well as the Conservation Programs and the areas of action.



AGRICULTURAL AND INNOVATION FAIR 2023

We were present at the Agricultural and Innovation Fair - FAI 2023 in the city of Nova Sintra on Brava Island, where we held an exhibition with information materials about the biodiversity of the islands of Fogo and Brava, the Rombo islets, as well as the work developed there.

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