

JUL-SET 2023



3RD EDITION

NEWSLETTER



INAUGURATION OF THE SIGN



Inauguration of the Vessel



Launch of the Guardians of the Sea Program



VISIT US

HIGHLIGHTS



**ACTIVITIES OF THE
GUARDIÕES OF THE
SEA PROGRAM**

**FIXATION OF ENDEMIC
PLANTS IN THE NATURAL
PARK OF FOGO**



**INCLUSIVE
EDUCATION**

**INTERNATIONAL
EXCHANGE**



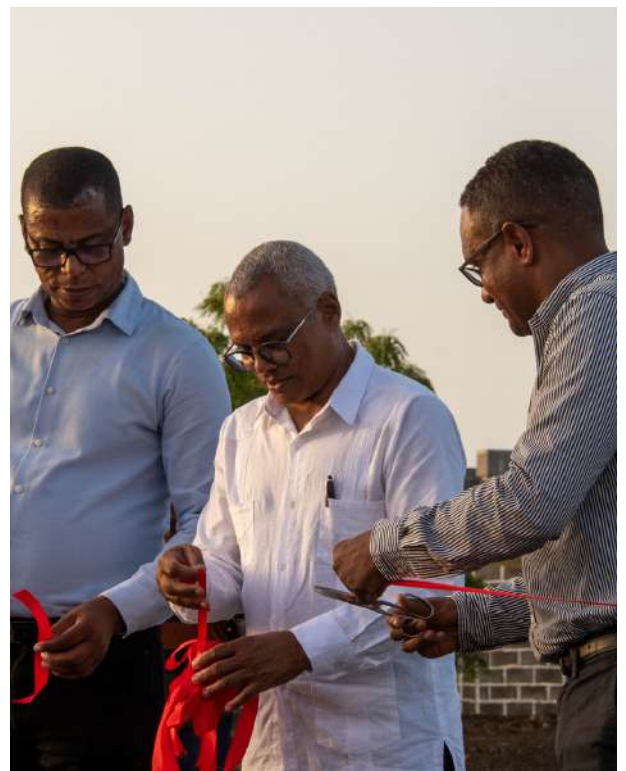
INAUGURATION OF THE SIGN



This sign constitutes one of the contributions to the implementation of the **WORLD BIOSPHERE RESERVE OF FOGO ISLAND.**

The production of the **"FOGO BIOSPHERE RESERVE"** sign is part of our project **"Support for the implementation of the Fogo Island Biosphere Reserve"**, financed by **GEF SGP** and coordinated by our **Department of Communication and Marketing**.

We count on co-financing from the Audemars Piguet Foundation, São Filipe City Council and the National Directorate of the Environment, for the production of the sign.



INAUGURATION OF THE VESSEL



Inauguration of our vessel called "Vénus", which will provide logistical support in the conservation work carried out in the region of Fogo, Brava and the Integral Natural Reserve of the Islets of Rombo – Cima Islet.



The inauguration ceremony was attended by the President of the Republic - Dr. José Maria Neves, the Presidents of the Municipal Chambers of São Filipe, Nuias Silva, and Santa Catarina, Alberto Nunes and other guests.



The acquisition of the vessel Vénus is the result of the Exit Fund, offered by the MAVA Foundation, resulting from the partnership established with our Association in recent years.

LAUNCH OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE SEA PROGRAM

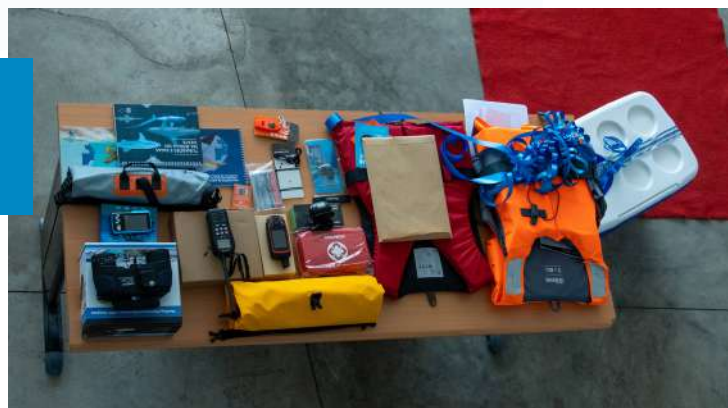
Launch of the Guardians of the Sea Program, part of the project “Empowering Cape Verdean communities for responsible practices in artisanal fisheries”, financed by the Darwin Initiative and coordinated by BirdLife International. **The Program aims to involve and train fishermen to monitor and control infractions in their fishing areas.** The event proceeded with the delivery of training certificates and safety and monitoring kits to the 22 Guardians of the Sea.

CERTIFICATE DELIVERY



THE GUARDIANS OF THE SEA

MONITORING KITS



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION



PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY!

GUARDIANS OF THE SEA PROGRAM - BRAVA ISLAND

Training was given to 23 Guardians of the Sea from the towns of Lomba and Furna. The modules covered were: Data collection (sighting of marine megafauna, accidental captures and infractions in fishing areas), Identification of marine megafauna and Use of GPS. This entire process was carried out in collaboration with Biflores.



GUARDIANS OF THE SEA PROGRAM - FOGO ISLAND

We completed training for the twenty-two Guardians of the Sea on the island of Fogo, after finishing the last module on "Freediving Techniques", which took place in the Port of Vale de Cavaleiros.





GUARDIANS OF THE SEA

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES



First meeting with the Guardians of the Sea on the island of Fogo, with the aim of taking stock of the results achieved so far. The Guardians have already managed to collect some data on marine megafauna and also stated that the materials offered are crucial to performing this highly important function.



Action to reinforce training in monitoring marine megafauna on the high seas.

Eleven of the twenty two Guardians of the Sea from the island of Fogo were on board in our vessel *Vénus*, with our team from the Sustainable Fisheries Program, for a training action.

SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION

INTEGRAL NATURAL RESERVE OF THE ISLETS OF ROMBO - CIMA ISLET

From June 15th to October 15th, our Sea Turtle Program team was at the Integral Natural Reserve of the Islets of Rombo - Cima Islet, to carry out the Sea Turtle Conservation Campaign and the results achieved were:

786 nests and 2702 tracks, 26 nests were studied, 51 females were marked and we recorded a total of 44 recaptures and 3 rescues.

RESCUE OF A SEA TURTLE



OPENING OF THE 1ST STUDY NEST



MEETING WITH MONITORS OF SEA TURTLE NESTING BEACHES ON FOGO ISLAND



Since the start of the Sea Turtle Conservation Campaign, two meetings have been held with the Monitors of the nesting beaches.

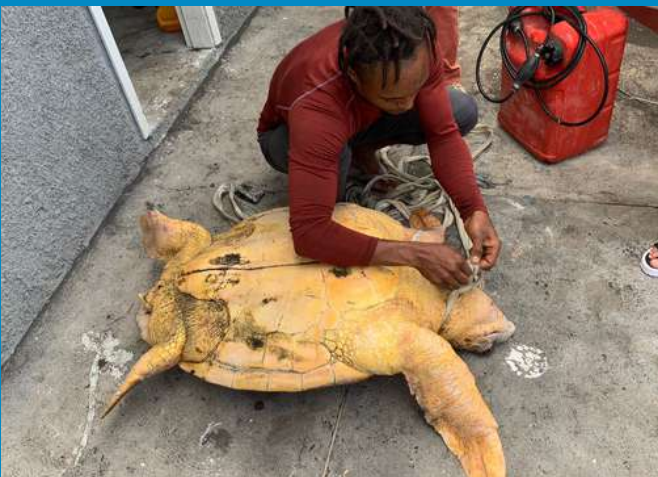
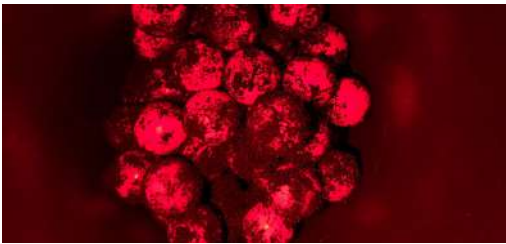
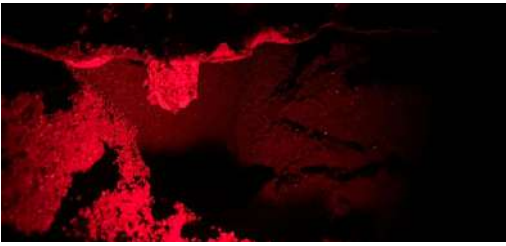


These meetings aim to evaluate the conservation work carried out, analyze the results obtained and also outline the best strategies to continue with the campaign.



NIGHT VISITS TO SEA TURTLE NESTING BEACHES

During the Sea Turtle Conservation Campaign, night visits were made to the 16 nesting beaches on the island of Fogo.



RESCUE OF A SEA TURTLE

After reporting the capture of a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) in the town of Salinas, our team, together with the authorities, went to the location. The turtle was tied up in captivity and we managed to free it in time and return it to the sea.

SEA TURTLES CATCHING

During the Sea Turtle Conservation Campaign on the island of Fogo, 31 captures were recorded, covering the three Municipalities.



GENERAL SEA TURTLE MONITORING DATA FOR THE ISLAND OF FOGO

Nests

1151

Tracks

1782

Rescue

2

Captures


31



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



**AWARENESS
CAMPAIGN IN
COMMUNITIES**



**LECTURE TO DEAF
STUDENTS**

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



At the invitation of the Delegation of the Ministry of Education of São Filipe - Fogo, together with the Multidisciplinary Team to Support Inclusive Education (EMAI) we gave a lecture on the Conservation of Sea Turtles to deaf students.

VISIT TO THE ENDEMIC PLANT NURSERY WITH THE FOGO NATURAL PARK TEAM



Our team from the Cape Verde Endemic Plants Program, together with the team from the Fogo Natural Park, visited our endemic plant nursery. This visit aimed to socialize the work carried out with endemic plants, from production, specimens produced and the priority areas for their fixation.



FIXATION OF ENDEMIC PLANTS IN THE FOGO NATURAL PARK



Start of the mega planting campaign of 10,148 specimens of 7 species of endemic plants (Lantisco, Funcho, Língua-de-vaca, Malagueta galinha, Cravo-brabo, Mostardinha e Piorno) produced in nurseries, which will be fixed on the outer edge of the Natural Park Of Fogo. All of this work was developed in partnership with the National Montado Community Association.



SEABIRD CONSERVATION IN THE INTEGRAL NATURAL RESERVE OF THE ISLETS OF ROMBO - CIMA ISLET

Work was carried out with three of the five species that nest on Cima Islet:

João preto
(*Bulweria bulwerii*)



66 active nests
4 GEO placed
4 GPS recovered
54 ringed chicks

Rabo-de-junco
(*Phaethon aethereus*)



37 active nests
4 GEO placed
5 GEO recovered
17 GPS placed
8 GPS recovered
16 ringed chicks

Pedreirinho
(*Hydrobates jabejabe*)



5 active nests
1 ringed chick

SHEARWATERS CAMPAIGN - ILHA BRAVA

During the Shearwater (*Calocnetris edwardsii*) Monitoring Campaign, on Brava Island, several activities were carried out and the results obtained were: review of 100 nests, of which 11 are new and 76 are active with egg in the 4 existing colonies; 42 adults were ringed; 76 adults were recaptured; 44 GPS were placed of which 38 were recovered; and of the 20 geolocators placed, 10 were recovered.

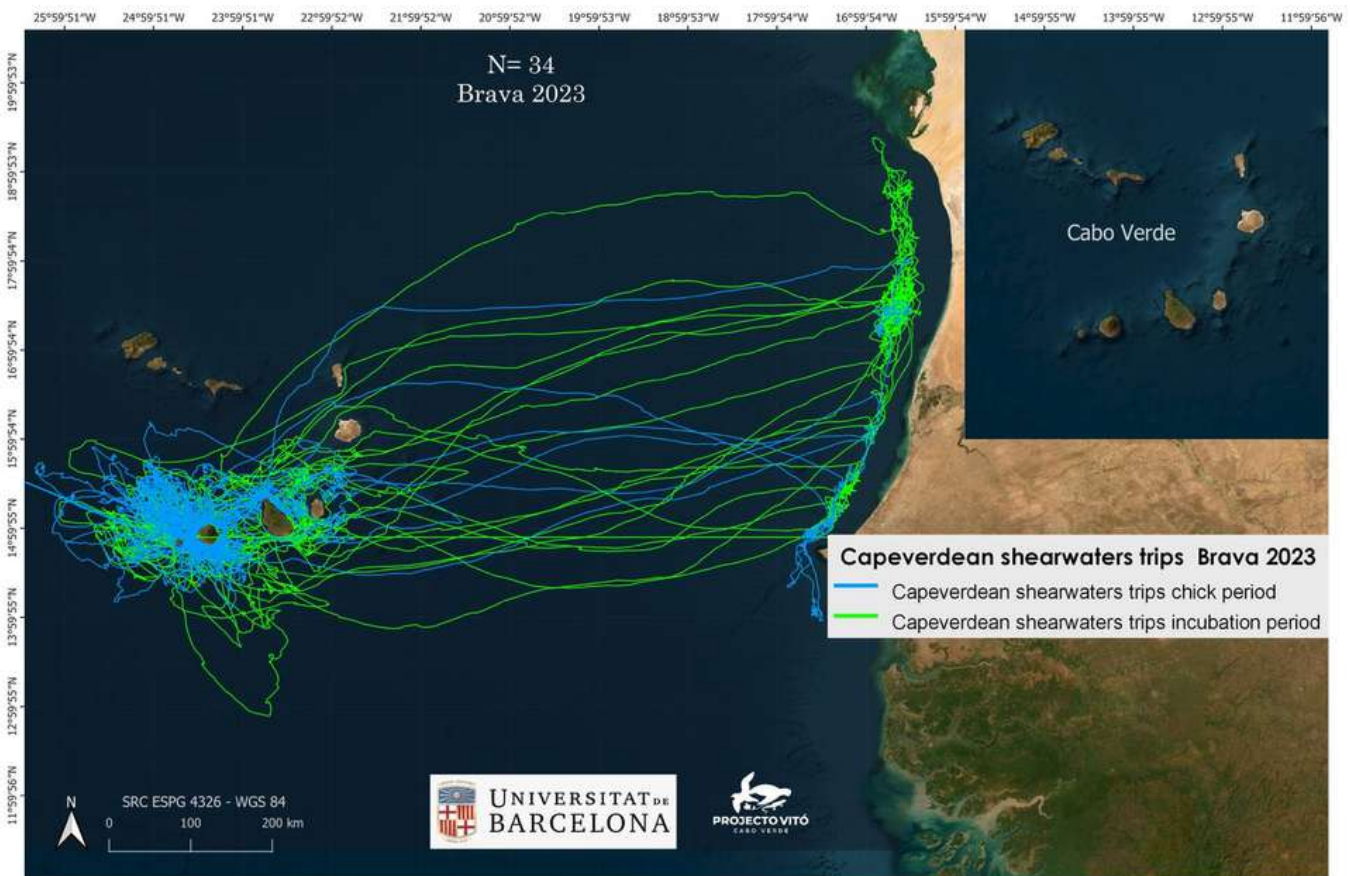


IMPACT OF RAIN AND NATURAL FACTORS ON CAPEVERDEAN SHEARWATERS REPRODUCTION ON BRAVA ISLAND

The heavy rains and bad weather that occurred in the Cape Verde archipelago during the months of August and September caused extensive damage. The impacts were negative regarding the reproduction of Capeverdean Shearwaters (*Calonectris edwardsii*) on Brava Island. We identified the death of 21 adults and 5 chicks (some buried and others among the rocks), with the collapse of rocks, 7 nests were destroyed. We also recorded the death of 4 adults of Alcatraz (*Sula leucogaster*).



CAPEVERDEAN SHEARWATERS TRAVEL MAP - BRAVA ISLAND



INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

Resulting from the partnership between the Projecto Vitó Association and the University of Barcelona, 2 technicians from our Association were in the Canary Islands to participate in the Seabird Campaign, together with students from the University mentioned above.

CATIO PINA

He was at Montanha Clara Islet – Integral Natural Reserve, where he worked with the species *Calonectris borealis*, *Hydrobates pelagicus* and *Bulweria bulwerii*.

The campaign lasted two months and the activities carried out were: **placement and recovery of GPS and Geolocators, placement of vertical nets, ringing and obtaining biometric measurements, collection of blood and feather samples.**



IVANDRA GOMES

She was in Veneguera working with the *Calonectris borealis* species.

For a month they carried out the following activities: **tracking and marking nests, tracking adults with GPS and Geolocators, ringing adults and collecting samples, biometrics and collecting samples from chicks and controlling threats in the colony (rats and cats).**



WORLD CLEANUP DAY

Since 2018, World Clean Up Day has brought together millions of people around the world for the biggest waste collection day. Therefore, we took on the responsibility of carrying out a cleaning campaign on Fonte Bila beach and managed to collect **MORE THAN ONE TON OF TRASH.**





TESTIMONY OF AN INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER

"Hello, my name is Sarah! I am a third year Biology student at the University of Barcelona. I arrived a month ago to work as a volunteer with seabirds in Cape Verde and develop my final course project. My experience at Projecto Vitó Association has been very enriching, I am learning a lot about fieldwork and having the opportunity to work directly with different species of birds and even sea turtles.

I still have another month to go, and I'm facing it with great enthusiasm and a desire to learn as much as possible!"



VISIT OF THE FORMER AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CAPE VERDE

We welcomed the former Ambassador of the United States of America in Cape Verde, Donald C. Johnson, to our office for a courtesy visit.



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH

Our technician, Helder Souto, participated in the Local Conference of Youth under the motto "Sports, Youth and Climate Action", organized by the Cape Verdean Olympic Committee. The aim of this conference is to integrate the voice of youth in intergovernmental negotiations on climate change.





Bart Vercruysse

Night photographer Bart Vercruysse spent 10 days on an expedition on Brava island, together with our team, to capture images of the Capeverdean Shearwater (*Calonectris edwardsii*). These images are part of the "**Petrels by night**" project, which includes species from all the islands of Macaronesia and the North Atlantic. The mission also continued to the Integral Nature Reserve of the Islets of Rombo - Cima Islet.



1ST INTERNATIONAL NATURE TOURISM CONFERENCE

We were present at the **1st International Nature Tourism Conference** in Lagoa - Santo Antão, organized by the Delegation of the Ministry of Tourism and Transport.

Our Executive Director - Herculano Dinis, participated in Panel III - "The participation of Local Government and the Non-Governmental Sector in Tourism".



PARTICIPATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN THE GEOTRAINING PROGRAM

As a result of the collaboration between the Projecto Vitó Association, the University of Frankfurt - Germany and the University of Cape Verde, our Executive Director - Herculano Dinis, participated in the GeoTraining Program.



GeoTraining promotes the analysis of environmental and remote sensing data, through geospatial technologies in research and teaching. It is a training program for the academic qualification of young researchers from Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and South Asia for DAAD Program grantees in the country/region.

All the data used in this program was the result of the Bis-Fogo project and our Director, in addition to being a field specialist, also participated as a mentor for young researchers in the process of planning their professional careers.



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