

nos é #17

biosfera!
CABO VERDE

2022
MAY TO AUGUST
NEWSLETTER



ACHADOS BEACH, SANTA LUZIA



#17

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New Executive Director of Biosfera

Hello Ambassadors for Nature!

I am Nadina Rodrigues, the new Executive Director of Biosfera. I'm part of Biosfera «family» since 2014, as Financial and Human Resources Coordinator.

With a degree in Business Management and being passionate about nature, I found in Biosfera the purpose of making a difference in the conservation of our environment.

Biosfera has established itself as a transparent, credible and innovative NGO in the conservation of coastal and marine species and their habitats. Over the years, I have contributed to this cause, with my will, dedication and professionalism .

It is with great satisfaction and motivation that I assume the leadership of this fantastic team, with the goal of continuing the execution of our conservation strategy, strengthening relationships with our partners/funders, and working to further mobilize the Cape Verdean society to protect the environment.

Taking on the leadership of Biosfera is a great challenge, which I face with pleasure since we are a focused, competent, dynamic and reliable team.

I count on you to further strengthen our commitment to the environment!

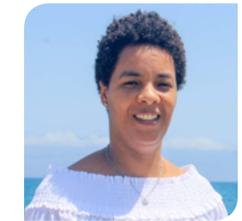
«We are Biosfera»

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Nadina Rodrigues



CONTENT

- 2 CABO VERDE'S FIRST LADY PARTICIPATES IN THE MEGA-CLEANUP CAMPAIGN IN SANTA LUZIA
- 3 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND EDUCATION AT THE SUMMER CAMPS
- 4 ARTIFICIAL NESTS - A NEW FORM OF CONSERVATION
- 5 BIRDLIFE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS UNDER THE MOTTO «IT'S TIME»
- 6 BIOSFERA PARTICIPATES IN LISBON OCEANS CONFERENCE
- 7 STRENGTHEN TECHNIQUES FOR SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION
- 8 1ST AFRICAN CONGRESS OF PROTECTED AREAS
- 9 IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT TERRESTRIAL REPTILES



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CABO VERDE'S FIRST LADY PARTICIPATES IN THE MEGA-CLEANUP CAMPAIGN IN SANTA LUZIA

The First Lady of Cabo Verde, Débora Katisa Carvalho - as Ambassador for Nature of our NGO, participated for two days in the Mega-cleanup Campaign in Santa Luzia, cleaning the extensive sandy beach of Achados beach to receive the nesting sea turtles, *Caretta caretta*.

Together with the First Lady and volunteers, the Biosfera's team went through Achados beach, one of the beaches with the largest number of sea turtle nesting areas on the island, in order to remove the trash from the sand, which was then placed in wooden containers specifically built to store the collected trash safely, without the risk of it ending up back in the sea. Much of this waste is plastic, tons of nets, and discarded fishing materials, much of which come from countries of the West African Coast and ending up on this deserted island.

On site, the First Lady witnessed that Santa Luzia, despite

being uninhabited, still suffer the consequences of «human disturbance» indirectly, due to the amount of garbage that wash ashore, every year.

The First Lady launched a special appeal to the Cape Verdean population for a greater awareness when they go to the beach, in order to leave it clean when they return home, but also to a national mobilization in search of solutions to remove the garbage that is stored every year on the island of Santa Luzia.

Besides the cleaning action, Débora Carvalho, had the opportunity to visit other parts of the island and get to know, in loco, the work we do in the Santa Luzia reserve, as well as the challenges we face daily.

Cabo Verde's First Lady helps clean up Achados beach and calls on the Cape Verdean population to be more aware and also to find solutions to remove the garbage that is stored in Santa Luzia.



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND EDUCATION AT THE SUMMER CAMPS

Concerning the Environmental Awareness and Education plan, Biosfera visited, during the school's summer vacation, a number of Summer Camps on the island of São Vicente, where issues of conservation and environmental preservation were addressed.

During each action, the Biosfera team shared knowledge about various species of seabirds of Cabo Verde, as well as the problem of marine pollution and plastic, the sustainability of species, curiosities about sea turtles and also the conservation work that Biosfera does in the Santa Luzia Marine Reserve.

Summer camps such as Myrtle, ALAIM, Jorge Barbosa, Jardim Bambi, were visited, reaching a total of 400 students who were made aware of their natural environment, and creating synergies in favor of environmental protection. There were also some guided tours to the Wastewater Treatment Plant of São Vicente to observe Migratory Birds, to

the Environmental Interpretation Center, where students had the opportunity to learn more about seabirds, sea turtles, whales, crustaceans, among others, and also to the Center for the Study and Support of Turtle Recovery, a place that is used to recover injured sea turtles.

Some of the students also participated in the beach cleaning campaigns that were held. Others had the opportunity to play traditional Biosfera games through the Stand Edu, which further boosted their knowledge about the bird species that exist in Cabo Verde.

Biosfera raises awareness about conservation and environmental preservation issues among about 400 students in summer camps.



ARTIFICIAL NESTS – A NEW FORM OF CONSERVATION

As part of the project «Seabird habitat recovery - Guidelines to build artificial nests», funded by MAVA Foundation, in partnership with the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA) and Associação Projeto Vitó, a technical meeting was held in October 2021 (São Vicente) with the participation of NGOs working with seabirds in Cabo Verde. In 2022, some practical workshops were held, on the construction of Artificial Nests on Santo Antão, Raso and Rombo islets (Fogo/Brava).

During these workshops experiences were shared among the participants of each organization working with seabirds, and a field trip for practical activities was also held. At the end of the project, a practical guide and some educational videos were produced and are available on the internet with instructions on how to build artificial nests for some seabird species (vimeo.com/showcase/9427834). The information provided in the guide and videos are the result of the output work shared and done in Cabo Verde and reflect the solutions found for the

construction of artificial nests for seabirds in this country. The whole conservation community in Cabo Verde can use these tools, as well as people working with seabirds in other countries. The artificial nests thus, allow the potential increase of existing colonies, by increasing the density of nests with the best conditions where they do not exist, or creating new nesting sites that allow the establishment of new colonies, in areas with little impact of serious threats.

Some of the nests installed by Biosfera in previous years have already been successfully occupied!

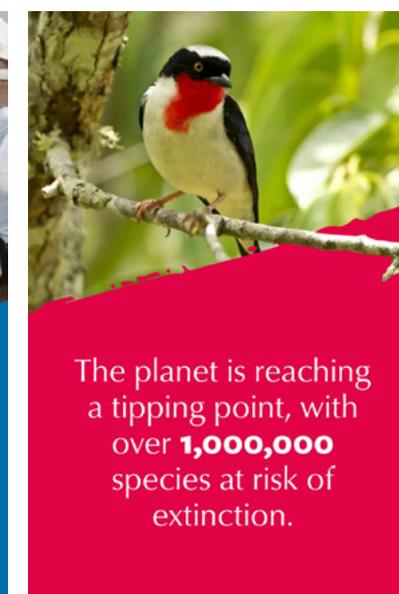
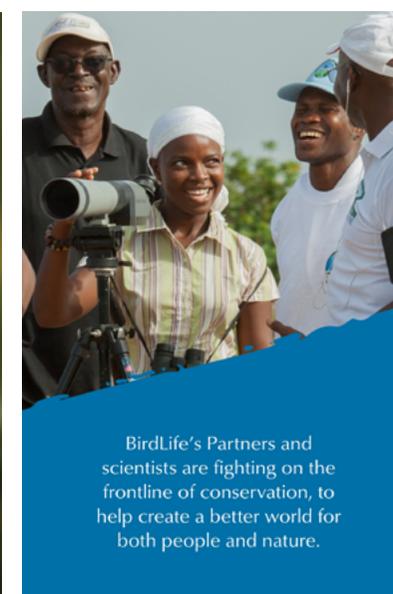


Technical/Practical Workshops about Artificial Nests that allow to increase the potential of already existing colonies, increasing the density of nests with the best conditions.



BIRDLIFE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS UNDER THE MOTTO «IT'S TIME»

BirdLife, a partner of Biosfera, celebrates 100 years of existence this year, under the motto «it's time for action». To celebrate the anniversary, BirdLife organized a world congress on September 11th, a historic moment that brought together conservationists and environmental defenders from all parts of the world to work together to defend the planet.





BIOSFERA PARTICIPATES IN LISBON OCEANS CONFERENCE

Biosfera, along with several international partners such as: Ocean Leaders of Edinburgh, Planet Ocean, Unesco, and many others, promoted at the United Nations Conference in Lisbon, a side event, which had the motto: «It's all about people: building inclusive leadership and cross-sector collaboration for a prosperous ocean». At this event, the president of Biosfera, Tommy Melo, gave a speech where he presented the «disease» of consumerist behavior as one of the main causes of all the problems that surround Natural Ecosystems and that will make the survival of our species on this planet impossible if we do not change the discourse and start a deeper work closer to the communities.

Biosfera met with several entities, strengthened old alliances and established new ones, in order to continue its work locally, but at the same time to internationalize many of

the approaches that have worked and that can be replicated elsewhere. According to Tommy Melo - «we have demonstrated that, despite working in a small country, often fighting for several years against the state itself to be able to advance more conscious public policies, Cabo Verde and its technicians have managed to be an example of resilience and competence. Even without the deserved support of the Cape Verdean government, we have been recognized by leaders of outside countries, which in many aspects can be considered more developed than ours, and the appreciation of our knowledge and experiences abroad is quite visible... THE SHOEMAKER'S CHILDREN ALWAYS GO BAREFOOT...»

«It's all about people: building inclusive leadership and cross-sector collaboration for a thriving ocean.» was the motto chosen for this year's conference.



STRENGTHEN TECHNIQUES FOR SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION

With the increase in the population of the common sea turtle detected in the westernmost Cape-verdean islands in recent years, we considered it necessary to hold a workshop to train as many people as possible from the communities and different NGOs, in order to provide an efficient and coordinated response to the conservation of this species.

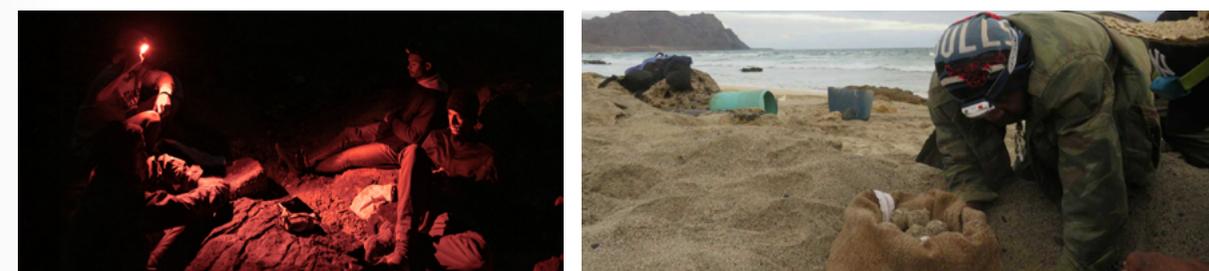
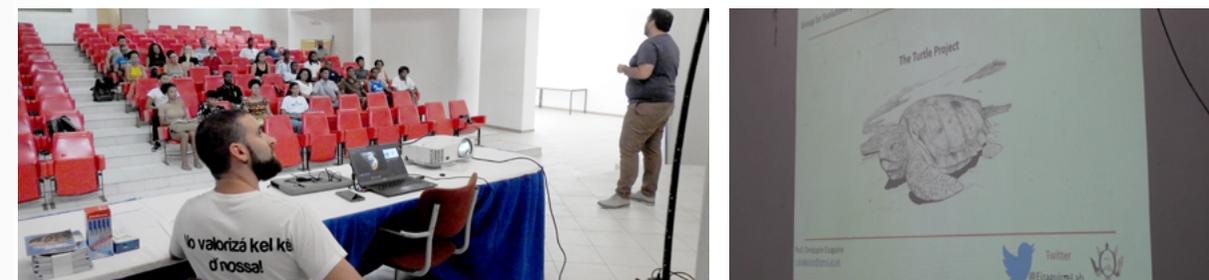
This workshop covered different topics, such as the biology and ecology of the different sea turtle species, legislation in Cabo Verde, conservation and research methodologies, scientific data management, ecotourism as a conservation tool, and strategies for funding a project, as well as field practices.

For the training, we counted on different Biosfera technicians, as well the expert scientist Christophe Eizaguirre, from Queen Mary University of London. Christophe is a researcher with more than 10 years of experience in the study and conservation of sea turtles in Cabo Verde. In total, more than 40 people participated in the workshop, divided between people from different communities in São Vicente, technicians from different NGOs

in São Vicente, Santo Antão and São Nicolau, and also participants from the Tourism Association of São Vicente and São Nicolau.

The final result of the workshop was very positive, generating more knowledge, in terms of methodologies and data analysis, among the different NGOs that work or want to work in sea turtle conservation.

40 trainees from São Vicente, Santo Antão, and São Nicolau now have more knowledge in sea turtle conservation techniques.



1ST AFRICAN CONGRESS OF PROTECTED AREAS

The first African Protected Areas Congress (APAC) took place from July 18-24 in Kigali, Rwanda. Representatives of the most important environmental NGOs from each country of the continent, as well as local and international funders, representatives of different public and governmental institutions and scientists from different parts of the world, gathered to discuss, share knowledge and highlight the creation and good management of protected areas (marine and terrestrial) as one of the best tools for the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Biosfera, along with other national NGOs (FMB, APB, Projecto Vitó, BiosCV and Lantuna) were present, showing the work done in different areas of action, learning from the experiences and working methods of other teams, doing excellent work, networking with different NGOs and funders.

Among all these established relationships, we would like to highlight the collaboration and fellowship of the different working groups in which Biosfera was present, such as IUCN, MAVA, BirdLife International, PRCM and PPI.

Achieving 30% of the ocean and land surface area protected and well managed by 2030 remains the main goal and challenge of environmental conservation worldwide. On Biosfera's part, we will continue to study, propose and defend this goal to help our country reach this target, and thus protect the valuable marine and terrestrial ecosystems that Cabo Verde has and from which its population benefits every day.

Environmental NGOs, local and international funders, public and governmental institutions, and scientists from different parts of the world have come together for the creation and good management of protected areas (marine and terrestrial).



IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT TERRESTRIAL REPTILES

Acting to help conserve and improve the populations of endangered species was one of the reasons for the creation of Biosfera, and today, it remains one of our main objectives.

To do this, it is essential to better understand the biology and ecology of these animals and to harness the knowledge of the scientists who dedicate their lives to this and we, as conservationists, use this knowledge to create efficient and successful conservation and management plans.

In this context, during the second week of July, Biosfera invited Dr. Raquel Vasconcelos, from TROPICIBIO (CIBIO/ BIOPOLIS), to conduct a workshop for Biosfera technicians, field coordinators and for students of the Technical Atlantic University (UTA), on the biology, ecology, taxonomy and methods of study and conservation of terrestrial reptiles present on the island of São Vicente and Santa Luzia Nature Reserve.

This workshop was divided into two parts, the first held on the island of São Vicente and the second on the island of Santa Luzia, at the Biosfera camp in Francisca beach. This training involved more than 20 participants and left a pleasant collaboration between the two institutions for the study and better knowledge of the target species: *Chionina stangeri*, *Tarentola substituta* and *Hemidactylus bouvieri razoensis*. The lack of knowledge, and in many cases the fear instilled in certain harmless animals, is one of the main reasons why these animals remain on the brink of extinction. Let's learn more about them in order to better protect them!

A workshop held on the island of São Vicente and Santa Luzia, with 20 participants whose goal was to learn more about reptiles in order to better protect them.





Keider Neves
Fundraising Coordinator

Dear partner, my name is Keider Neves, I am a Marine Biologist, and I joined the Biosfera team in 2019, as Coordinator of the Sustainable Fisheries Program.

After three years, I now assume the position of Fundraising Coordinator, a position that I will perform with all my dedication.

I count on you in this new journey so that together we can work towards a healthier environment.

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with the support of:

