



**biosfera**  
LABO VERDE

Association for Environmental Defense

# Biosfera 1 Newsletter

## Camping Season 2016



**2nd Trimester 2016 Series 1**

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## Members Spot

This space is yours!

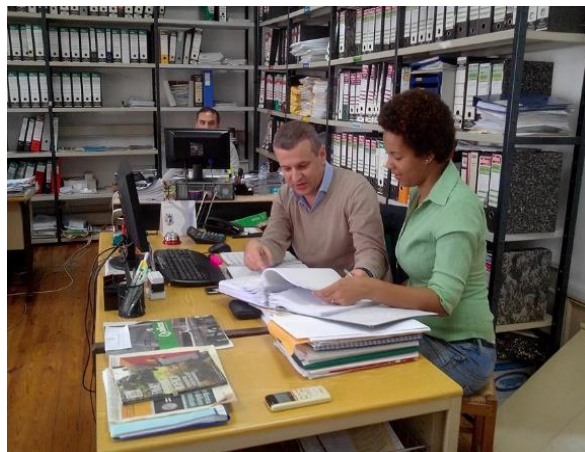
If you want to share some news or photos, please contact us!

If you're not yet a member of Biosfera,  
please contact us and find out how to be!



## Oikos and SPEA minister training action in accounting and administrative management for Biosfera 1

Nadina Rodrigues, administrative assistant of Biosfera 1 participates in training action in accounting and administrative management during the month of May in Lisbon (Portugal). This training and capacitation took place in the offices



of the Non-governmental Organization **OIKOS- Cooperation and Development** coordinated by José Luís Monteiro (Project Manager) and Rafael Drummond (Financial and Administrative Coordinator) and also the **SPEA - Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds** coordinated by Pedro Geraldès (project Manager).

According to Nadina Rodrigues, this training has strengthened her expertise in financial and administrative management of projects.

It is recalled that (1st Trimester 2016 Series 1 Newsletter) this project is funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) lasting 11 months, and also aims to strengthen communication and image capacities of the NGO Biosfera 1 and the feasibility study of invasive ants control in Raso islet.





## Biosfera 1 rehabilitates osprey in partnership with MindelVet

Biosfera 1 has received and treated wildlife found in a weakened state by concerned citizens, although not having, yet, a fully equipped rehabilitation center.

In early May, two ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) were found in a state of bewilderment and left in Biosfera 1's office for treatment and subsequent release.

According to Tommy Melo, biologist and president of Biosfera 1, there is the possibility of them being intoxicated, as both eagles were found in the same day in a similar state and at a nearby location (Cova d'Inglesa). One of them succumbed to his injuries, despite all care.

Technical / professional assistance was given by the Veterinarian Salvador Mascarenhas of MindelVet clinic.

MindelVet plans to sign a protocol of cooperation with the Biosfera 1 to ensure that all the animals left in the headquarters of NGOs receive qualified medical treatment.

To check out the recovery video, please click on the link below:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=29&v=KaTjwQtP9pw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=29&v=KaTjwQtP9pw)



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## **Santo Antão receives Biosfera's technicians to identify nesting areas of shearwaters for the Project Alcyon.**

The Alcyon project of BirdLife International is already in its fourth year. This project has helped in monitoring and tracking of marine and migratory birds in the Reserve of Santa Luzia and islets Branco and Raso and even on the island of São Vicente (Water Treatment Plant Waste Zone).

This year, the project was extended to the island of Santo Antão for the purpose of observation and performance of listening points of seabirds with focus on the Cape Verde shearwater (*Calonectris edwardsii*). For two weeks, a team formed by a field technician and a marine biologist roamed the North-West area of Santo Antão to camp and try to listen to the calls of shearwaters on the steep mountains of the island. For the marine biologist and coordinator of activities, Isabel Rodrigues, the greatest difficulty has been the access to nesting areas of these birds due to the steep slopes of Santo Antão. However, we believe that this was only a first approximation and throughout the project we may still find rafts (great quantities of birds resting at sea near the shore, moments before flying to the nest) that may be useful for GPS positioning and ringing in order to improve the counting and tracking.

(Continues...)





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This activity is within the implementation of the National Action Plan for Shearwater Conservation signed in December 2014 by BirdLife International (funder of the project), National Directorate for the Environment, Biosfera 1 and various governmental and non-governmental institutions, national and international.



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## CEPF funds study of viability and control of invasive ants in Raso islet.

Within the project **Strengthening organizational capabilities and field research in Raso islet, Cape Verde**, funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Biosfera 1 held for the first time in Raso Islet, field work in order to draw a distribution map of the species of invasive ants that may be negatively influencing the survival of important endemic bird species in this islet. The methodologies of land have been implemented with the help of bio-security offices of Queensland (Australia) which has already extensive experience in invasive species worldwide.

These ants, reddish in color, commonly called fire ants, are highly resistant to the harsh climate of the islet. At first glance, ground technicians believe that these ants are confined to areas used for landing on the islet.





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## Vessel Jairo Mora Sandoval on land for maintenance work.

Biosfera 1's vessel, Jairo Mora Sandoval offered by Global Sea Shepherd, was placed, last May, on land for a thorough maintenance. Jairo Mora was received by ONAVE, construction and repair site of small fishing vessels, for cleaning and hull maintenance, painting, among others. The greatest difficulty found by Ivan Pires, captain of the vessel, has to do with the lack of more advanced safety conditions on site and the need of more experience by the Jairo Mora Sandoval crew, since it was the first time that the vessel was placed on land for maintenance and inspection.

It is important to note that in Cape Verde there is, according to Pires, a lack of parts such as zinc plates (important material for the maintenance of the hull of the vessel) that are not available in the national market and which made it difficult to complete the work on time .

The Biosfera 1 team, had help from the Ocean Builders, a non-governmental oriented organization that voluntarily joined the ship's crew and the shipyard in the maintenance work, whom Biosfera thanks for the important contribution.

(Continues...)



Note that Biosfera has been working with Sea Shepherd to be able to register the vessel on behalf of the NGO so that Jairo Mora can finally have the Capeverdean flag, and officially belong to Biosfera 1.





## **Biosfera 1 denounces illegal fishing and visits to the complex of Santa Luzia, Branco and Raso islets.**

The complex of Santa Luzia and islets Branco and Raso have a protection status "Partially Integral ", where the island of Santa Luzia offers restricted and open areas for fishing, and it's neighboring islets are fully protected, which means, fishing and landing without prior authorization from the environmental authority of Cape Verde is not allowed. This law lacks application due to the lack of the government's own means for checking the area.

Biosfera 1 has received and reported complaints about illegal fishing (reduced size gillnets, spearfishing with oxygen bottles) and the presence of tourists and national individuals with no training in nature conservation, that rent fishing boats causing the destruction of habitats of emblematic and endangered species.

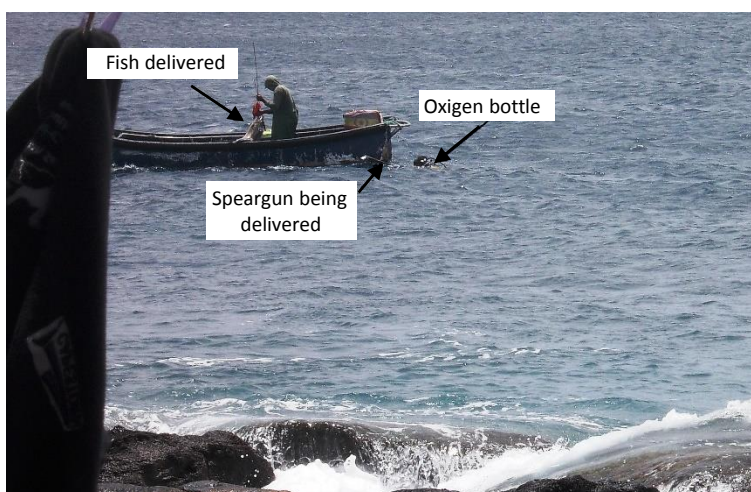
The situation is worsened by tourists that write on social networks, their experiences when they visit the islets with artistic photos over the nests of endemic birds, unaware of the great harm that these trips have caused to the environment and the national economy .

(Continues...)



Note: Blog of a tourist who visited the Raso islet illegally (<http://joshrijones.blogspot.co.uk/2016/04/cape-verde-trip-report.html>).

It should be noted that the government of Cape Verde received from the WWF one vessel named Calhandra (Lark) to patrol the waters of the Reserve. The captain of Biosfera, Ivan Pires received a small training on handling the boat in case of emergency.



Spearfishing with oxygen bottles.



Tourists being collected from Raso.



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## Camp setting in Santa Luzia and islets Reserve.

As in other years, the hot weather brings sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) and Cape Verde shearwaters (*Calonectris edwardsii*) that return home for spawning.

The Biosfera team is already on the ground, from early June to protect these and other species, both in Santa Luzia and in Raso islet. This year, in partnership with CIBIO-Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources, there will be a continuing of the work started last year with the giant geckos (*Tarentola gigas*) of Raso islet and also a team from the University of Coimbra that returns to Raso to collect data for genetic analysis and study foraging areas of these seabirds.

Santa Luzia volunteers will have the visit of the Notre Grand Bleu NGO team from Tunisia that will learn with Biosfera, some monitoring techniques of sea turtles.

The 2016 activities will be financed by various national and international partners, including: CVTelecom, DNA, Alcyon, CEPF, Sea Shepherd.





## Sponsors



## Editors

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