

RAMPAO Small Grants program

Project title

MPA of Santa Luzia, Raso and Branco wildlife Restoration and fauna follow-up

Country : Cabe Verde

Organization : MPA of Santa Luzia, Raso and Branco

Project justification mentioning the specific MPA conservation objective that is targeted by the project

The Biosfera and their partners propose to repair de damage made by the men in centuries of use for the resources in the actual Reserve. For that we will work in four different approaches:

- 1 - Eradicate and control the invasive species like feral cats, mice and fire ants.
- 2 - Recolonize Santa Luzia with the species already extinct like the Raso lark, sea birds and the giant gecko.
- 3 - Continue follow up the population of sea turtles, sea birds, terrestrial reptiles and coral reefs.
- 4 - Promote awareness actions inside and outside Cabo Verde.

But to improve all of these actions we need the boat (with the engine) to dislocate from São Vicente Island to the Reserve.

Field of activity identified by the RAMPAO to which the project is attached

The actions this project propose lead to several priority activities identified by the RAMPAO like:

- x support for MPA management;
- x conservation and ecological monitoring;
- x Habitat restoration and,
- x Purchase of tools and technical equipment in support of MPA operations

Main project objective

Help the Cabo Verde Government achieve an effective management of the major Marine Reserve of the country beginning with the Reserve wildlife follow up and restoration

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<p>Brief description of the planned activities</p>	<p>We already prepare a document (after 18 months of studies) showing the feasibility off the action we propose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feral cats eradication from Santa Luzia, using different methodologies; - Sea Birds, Raso lark and giant gecko reintroduction on Santa Luzia. - Continue the follow up of the population of sea birds on Raso and Branco Islets, marine turtles on Santa Luzia and terrestrial reptiles on Santa Luzia, Branco and Raso Islets; - Finish the reference terms for future follow up of the coral reefs (fauna-flora associated) already initiated; - Help the actual Reserve Director board to create and implement a Biosecurity protocol and surveillance model; - Develop awareness activities to involve local people and Cape Verdean communities outside the country (we have twice cape- verdeans living outside of Cabo Verde and they have a lot of influence in the economy and in the old traditions like eaten sea turtle and sea birds).
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<p>Main expected results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Santa Luzia free from feral cats and mice population controlled; - Successful reintroduction of raso lark, sea birds and giant gecko in Santa Luzia (they are restricted to Raso Islet and in the case of the giant gecko and raso lark the conservation status are really unfavorable because of that); - The conservation status off all fauna and flora (inland and underwater) will became higher since the management plan actions are implemented; - The majority of the cape Verdeans outside the country will be aware of the National conservation issues and they became proactive in
<p>Targets and/or beneficiaries of the project (ecological targets or beneficiaries / groups of individuals)</p>	<p>The ecosystem of the major Marine Reserve of Cabo Verde as well as the fishermen that use the Reserve (around 120 men) and their family will benefit directly by the project, but because the actions developed in this Reserve can also be used in several others protected areas with the same problems in Cabo Verde, we can say that the benefit is for the Cabo Verde Wildlife in general as the cape-verdeans outside the country. Cabo Verde is a priority biodiversity corridor inside the sub region, so, after all, the world will win with the safeguard off the</p>
<p>Project duration (the length should not exceed 8 months)</p>	<p>The hall project will take 3 years and the engine we pretend to purchase will help for the beginning to the end of this project but, right now, in the 2015, the field season start in June and the engine for the most important tool (the Biosfera boat) is really necessary</p>

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[Comments and RAMPAO recommendations](#)

As you can see, this is a large project and the replicability in others protected areas of Cabo Verde is quite probable. In this project Biosfera have several partners' advisers with a large experience like RSPB (Royal Society of Bird Protection), PII (Pacific Invasive Initiatives) Natural Park of Madeira, Coimbra University, Cambridge University and SPEA (Portuguese Society for Birds Study). This Small Grant can be the first step in a larger partnership between Biosfera and RAMPAO. We hope that all of us, together, we will achieve the main goals necessary to preserve and conserve our natural richness and provide conditions to develop a sustainable management for the habitats and people.