

TITLE OF THE PROJET

Strengthening marine turtle conservation strategies in the one of the world's largest loggerhead rookery (Boa Vista Island, Cape Verde, West Africa) with an increasing participation of local communities

Statut : Encours

Structure: Turtle Natural Reserve (Reserva Natural Tartaruga)

PAYS : CABE VERDE

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

The protection of the endangered loggerhead sea turtle in Boa Vista islands is protect the third loggerhead population in the word. Moreover, this population is the only relevant in the entire West Atlantic from the South Africa cost to the North Europe. Is classified in the eleven most endangered sea turtle population in the word. The Cape Verde loggerhead turtle constitutes a regional conservation unit, genetically distinct from other loggerhead populations in the Atlantic and Mediterranean.

The proposal aims at providing full protection and monitoring the loggerhead turtles during the 2015 nesting season (from May until October) in the Natural Turtle Reserve (SE coast of Boa Vista Island), that harbours 25% of the nests in the island, records the highest pressure by uncontrolled turtle watching and seriously threatened by hunters. This potential threatened will be avoid and training in environmental education from universities and localities students will be provide. Moreover, we will hire local people and involvement them in all our activities. We will organize awareness activities in schools, hotels and all local communities.

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

- Support for MPA management;
- Conservation and ecological monitoring;
- Bio-ecological and socio-economic monitoring;
- Communication, education and environmental awareness;
- Sustainable Tourism;
- Sustainable fisheries management;
- Purchase of tools and technical equipment in support of MPA operations

Main project objective

The main objective is to guarantee loggerhead turtles protection on João Barrosa beaches, located within the Natural Turtle Reserve (SE coast of Boa Vista Island). Furthermore, different activities will be conducted to encourage environmental awareness among both nationals and visitors, and to support sustainable development of local communities in terms of training and job opportunities

RAMPAO Small Grants program

Brief description of the planned activities

A. Loggerhead turtle fieldwork and protection activities

- Set up and management of a turtle camp with not less than 25 capeverdian staff and capeverdian and international volunteers to develop all the actions planned on the nesting beaches of Joao Barrosa from mid May till October;
 - Daily nocturnal beach patrols for the protection of all beaches with at least three daily patrols led by one monitor, covering the entire night over the nesting season, in order to minimize the risk of harvesting of loggerhead turtles, uncontrolled tourism and another threats, uncontrolled access to the beaches by vehicles;
 - Daily matinal beach surveys on the entire study area during the entire nesting season to monitor the loggerhead turtle nesting activity (censuses of tracks and nests) and mortality, to rescue disoriented or injured females, to monitor hatching success and hatchling survival on the beaches;
 - Routine turtle fieldwork activities: identification and PIT-tagging of females, collection of biometric data, external assessment of health status, study and monitoring of marked nests on the beach and relocation of doomed nests to the hatchery;
 - Research activities to increase the scientific knowledge and to contribute to the conservation and proper turtle management: predation, survival, abundance, light pollution, causes of egg mortality, emergent diseases, and other potential threats;
- creation and management of a beach hatchery with no less than 400 nests.

B. The Institutional collaboration for the preservation and management of critical turtle habitats on Boa Vista

- Including the discussion, design and implementation of management measures in order to protect critical marine turtle habitats from aberrant tourist activities (non-authorized turtle tours, artificial lighting, circulation of 4x4 vehicles, etc.).

C. Education and awareness campaigns with the local people

- During the sea turtle nesting BIOS.CV will organize and conduct educational activities in the infantile schools and the high school of Boa Vista in collaboration with teachers and coordinated with the school educational programs. .
- During the nesting season, BIOS.CV will organize group visits of locals and students of the community to the turtle camp for showing turtle nesting as well as all the activities conducted by the NGO on the beach
- During the nesting season a minimum of 2-3 days stays of young people from the high school or adults from the villages will be organized to favor a deeper knowledge and the participation of local motivated people in the NGO fieldwork and the ecotourism activities on the beaches.

D. Specialized formation of local and capeverdian people in environmental, protection and touristic activities.

- Specialized formation on management of protected areas and biodiversity conservation and monitoring during the summer with practices within the volunteer program of BIOS.CV. This course will be open to students from the University of Cape Verde and foreign universities.

E. Financial and technical final reports: analysis of data and information and elaboration of reports.

<p>Main expected results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To reduce loggerhead turtle mortality in Cape Verde derive from human activities (direct and indirect capture); - To monitor the trends of Boa Vista loggerhead turtle nesting population (numbers, spatial and temporal distribution); - To substantially increase the number of marked and recaptured females in order to contribute to a better estimate of population parameters; - To increase hatching success in João Barrosa beaches; - To increase the participation of the local communities in conservation and sustainable management as well as in environmental and awareness activities; -To increase the number of experienced workers on turtle conservation and monitoring as well as ecotourism (including turtle watching) in Boa Vista; -To collaborate with national environmental authorities and international partners in the definitions of management plan to conserve critical turtle habitats in Cape Verde.
<p>Targets and/or beneficiaries of the project (ecological targets or beneficiaries / groups of individuals)</p>	<p>The main beneficiaries of the project are the loggerhead sea turtle population in Cabo Verde who will be protected during the nesting season and the young local people that will receive trainer in conservation and ecotourism activities.</p> <p>The sensibilization and participation of local communities on the project together with the formation of young people from the island, will significantly reduced the capture and consume of turtle meat improving the protection of natural resources. Formed people form the community could participate or ecotouristic activities involving sea turtles, creating employmen and improving turtle protection.</p> <p>Training university students who will give answers to environmental challenges on the island of Boa Vista and the national priorities.</p>
<p>Project duration (the length should not exceed 8 months)</p>	<p>The project takes place over loggerhead nesting season from May to October (7 months)</p>
<p>Location</p>	<p>Sea Turtle Natural Reserve, Boa Vista Island, Republic of Cape Verde, West Africa</p>