

FUNDAÇÃO MAIO BIODIVERSIDADE

JANUARY - MAY 2022
Maio Island, Cabo Verde

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NEWSLETTER Nº1



"Maio is an example in Cabo Verde and in the world, based on *djunta mon* (joint efforts), the conservation of biodiversity and social progress based on respect for local culture and gender equality."



FMB'S VISION

"To promote the protection of biodiversity and social progress of Maio island through conservation actions and the empowerment and economic sustainability of local communities."

FMB'S MISSION

FMB VALUES

RESPECT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

We keep the environmental impact of our activities to a minimum and promote the conservation of biodiversity.

WE VALUE LOCAL CULTURE

We support the values and traditions of local communities and cultures.

RESPECT AND INCLUSION

We listen and recognise the other as an equal, in an inclusive attitude, to mobilise society and our partners to achieve our mission.

PERSEVERANCE

We are committed to our goals and embrace challenges with optimism and persistence to achieve our mission.

ABILITY TO ADAPT

Our sense of opportunity, capacity to adapt, and willingness to evolve as needed allow us to succeed in changing contexts.

TRANSPARENCY AND RIGOUR

We are honest, meticulous and diligent and we assume our mission towards society and our partners in a responsible manner.

VISIONARY PERSPECTIVE

We are innovative and use the best knowledge available to implement projects that have a positive and long-lasting impact on biodiversity and communities in Maio.



1ST EDITION OF COMPETITION ZONE + ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

"The concern with the environment should be a constant, because we are part of it."

WINNERS: BATUCADEIRAS "NOVA IMAGEM" OF PILÃO CÃO

The "Environmentally friendly zone" competition, was launched in 2021 by FMB in partnership with the Maio Local Council (CMM) and the Delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (DMAA) directed to community groups. The aim of this competition was to encourage communities in exercising environmental citizenship. Nine groups took part and had to carry out the following activities in their respective communities: clean-up campaigns in the villages and on the beaches, environmental awareness-raising sessions, participation in night-time turtle patrols, creation of green spaces and embellish of facades.

MAIO 2025 PROGRAMME

Maio World Biosphere Reserve

Maio 2025 Programme, funded by the European Union is composed of four (4) partners, Maio Local Council (CMM) which is the promoter of the programme, Mértola Heritage Protection Association (ADPM), Maio Biodiversity Foundation (FMB) and the Marques de Valle Flôr Institute (IMVF). This programme aims to promote an integrated sustainable development model for the island.

FMB, as part of the Maio 2025 Programme, has been carrying out activities such as cleaning campaign sessions on the beaches and in the communities of Maio, and workshops in the communities about Maio World Biosphere Reserve.

To keep our beaches clean and in favourable condition for the sea turtle nesting season, to help keep communities clean, and to contribute to maintaining the title of UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, within Maio 2025 Programme, FMB carries out clean-up campaigns every month in Maio.

A total of 10 beach clean-up campaign and 1 village clean-up campaign, has resulted in 1 tonne of rubbish collected in 2022.

The workshops about Maio Biosphere Reserve in the communities are a way to disseminate and bring knowledge about this title to people from different locations on the island. These workshops are followed by a field trip to protected area closest to the community.

Currently, 4 workshops have been held, in Porto Inglês city, Barreiro, Figueira and Morro communities, and an ecological walk entitled Maio World Biosphere Reserve.





TRAINING IN KNOWLEDGE AND MANAGEMENT OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES

"RELATIONSHIP OF BALANCE BETWEEN HUMANS AND THE BIOSPHERE."

As part of the implementation process of the Biosphere Reserves of Cabo Verde, a training on knowledge and management of the World Biosphere Reserves was held in Maiobetween 31st January and 2nd of February.

The training, organised by the National Directorate of Environment (DNA), the Delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (DMAA), and supported by Maio 2025 Programme and Maio Biodiversity Foundation (FMB), had as a general objective: to ensure that the process of implementation and operation of UNESCO's RBs is a success and a key element in the socio-economic development of the territory; and following objectives: 1) to make known the concept of the Biosphere Reserve, the functioning and obligations of the interested parties, 2) to assist the successful implementation of the project through capacity building of social agents, technicians and managers, 3) to encourage the active participation and involvement of local communities.



SCIENTIFIC STUDIES

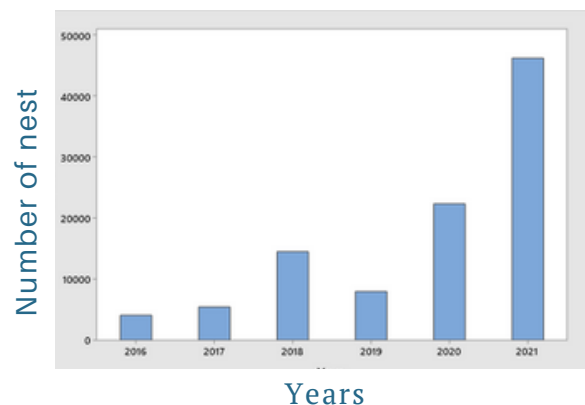


Globally important refuge for the loggerhead sea turtle: Maio Island, Cabo Verde

Published online by Cambridge University Press: 05 October 2021

Juan Patino-Martinez , Leno Dos Passos, Inês O. Afonso , Arnau Teixidor, Manjula Tiwari, Tamás Székely and Rocio Moreno

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Over the years FMB has contributed greatly to the enrichment of science, through research and the publication of scientific papers in the most diverse scientific journals in the world.

In 2022, 5 articles have been published: "Globally important refuge for the loggerhead sea turtle, Maio island, Cabo Verde"; "Ghost crab predation of loggerhead turtle eggs across thermal habitats"; "Light sandy beaches favour hatching success and best hatchling phenotype of loggerhead turtles"; "Presence of an invasive huntsman spider species, *Heteropoda venatória*, in Porto Inglês, Maio island, Cabo Verde archipelago"; "First records of the West African torpedo in Cabo Verde Archipelago, eastern Atlantic"; "Potential impacts of sea-level rise and beach flooding on reproduction of sea turtles"; "Antibiotic Resistance and Virulence Profiles of Gram-Negative Bacteria Isolated from Loggerhead Sea Turtles (*Caretta caretta*) of the Island of Maio, Cabo Verde"; and "Macroplastic Ingestion by Loggerhead Turtles on the Island of Maio, Cabo Verde".

NATURE WATCHERS

A team of 4 nature Watchers was created by FMB as part of a project funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) to support the co-management of Maio Protected Areas (PAs), by performing several monitoring to the fauna and flora in Maio PAs; habitat improvement, especially for reptiles; and, PAs delimitation (with pyramids of lime-painted stones) which also serve as shelter for the terrestrial reptiles.



At the moment, the team has: 1) concluded an inventory of all terrestrial plants existing in the PAs; 2) recorded illegal human activities; 3) species monitoring; 4) community awareness raising on the value PAs; and, 5) carried out the first behavioural study of endemic terrestrial reptiles of Maio.



FISHERMEN AND CONSERVATION



In general, some Maio island fishermen have regularly contributed to the conservation of fish stocks and to the conservation of nature and natural resources for several years. This has been done in various ways, for example, some of these fishermen have been contributing with public sightings since 2014, informing the marine team of marine animal sightings at sea and also helping to rescue sea turtles. This data is very important as it helps in the knowledge about the distribution of the animals throughout the year and their abundance. Other fishermen, such as the "Guardians of the Sea", contribute by monitoring illegal fishing activities in the sea around Maio.

In addition to this, FMB and partners have also been working since 2014, but in particular more frequently since 2017, with the Fishermen's Associations of Maio, empowering the associations so that they can have knowledge and the necessary tools to design projects, request funding, but also to have greater organisational capacity.

We leave a special thanks to all the fishermen who contribute to a better and more sustainable Maio, and to the partners of these activities: fishing animators, fishing inspector, Maio Local Council and Delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment.

MARSH AWARD FOR MARINE CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP



"MARSH CHRISTIAN AWARDS"

FMB was awarded the Marsh Christian Awards, which demonstrates the excellent work FMB has done, particularly for the Guardians of the Sea initiative, our Turtle Protection Programme, the Joint Enforcement Group, our Homestay Programme and other work associated with empowerment of fishermen. It was great to recognise the enormous effort and dedication of all the team members who spend a large part of their time on the ground making sure things are done in the best possible way.

GUARDIANS OF THE SEA

"Guardians of the Sea" is a programme where fishermen are the main actors in monitoring illegal fishing activities taking place in the sea. This programme was initiated at Maio Island by FMB in 2016, initially funded by US Wildlife & Services, then by Darwin Initiative, ARCADIA and MAVA Foundation, and has been supported by our longstanding partners, Fauna & Flora International (FFI).

In the last two years, this programme has been expanded to other islands, and is now being replicated on a total of seven Cape Verdean islands (Brava, Fogo, Santiago, Maio, Boavista, Sal, São Vicente), making it the first national programme of this kind.



10TH EDITION OF THE WEST AFRICAN REGIONAL COASTAL AND MARINE FORUM WEST AFRICAN



This event was held by the Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation (PRCM) in partnership with MAVA FONDATION, Birdlife Internacional and other local partners, and brought together several marine conservation experts to discuss sustainable coastal zone management in West Africa, in Saly, Senegal, from 29th March to 01st of April.

Janete Agues, Coordinator of the Education and Sustainable Development Programme represented our FMB at the side-event "Survival of the sea turtle in West Africa" and presented a scientific paper on the community-based sea turtle conservation programme on Maio Island.

'Environmental greetings, and many thanks to all our partners and funders who contribute to the conservation and sustainability of our oceans!'





THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTNERS AND FUNDERS.

