



# FUNDAÇÃO MAIO BIODIVERSIDADE

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OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2022  
Maio Island, Cabo Verde

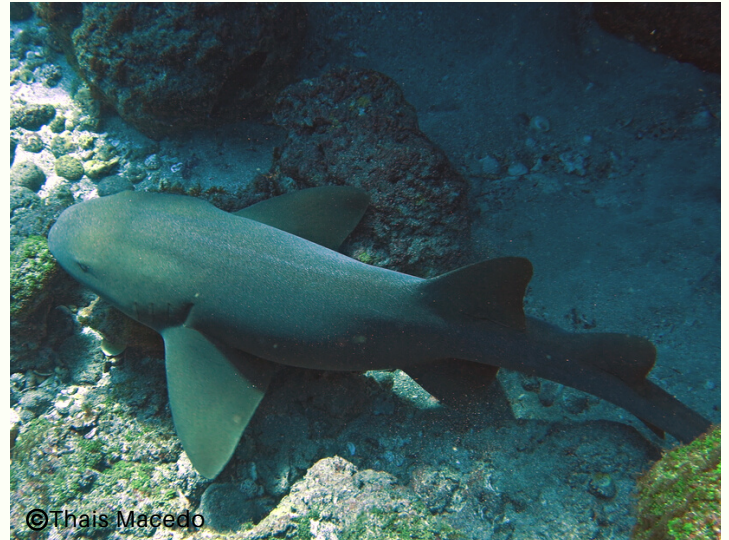
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**NEWSLETTER**  
**Nº 3**



# NURSE SHARK



The nurse shark *Ginglymostoma cirratum* is a species of elasmobranch, a group which includes sharks and rays, widely distributed in the tropical and subtropical Atlantic Ocean, and in the Eastern Pacific. In West Africa its distribution ranges from Gabon to the Cabo Verde Archipelago, where the species occurs on shallow reefs and sandbanks close to the shores

Sharks are globally threatened with extinction.

Maio Island is an important site for the conservation of these animals essential for the health of the oceans.

In the north of Maio Island, the bay of Praia Real is considered an important breeding and nursery ground for nurse sharks and other shark species. In this bay is possible to observe aggregations of the species for a depth of 1 meter.



In Praia Real, it is forbidden to fish, go into the water or swim because it is a protected area of integral protection, classified with the aim of protecting sharks that can reach 4.3 metres in length and have nocturnal feeding habits. They feed on invertebrates such as lobsters, octopuses, bivalves and some species of fish.





# MAIO SELVAGEM



Between the months of October and December, FMB marine team developed an educational programme called 'Maio Selvagem', for the Sea Guardians (GoM) and fishmongers in Maio.

In the weekly meetings, that took place at different sites on the island, there were presentations and discussions, where participants shared their experiences of fishing, recovering the memory of the past. In addition, they also took part in the activities, such as creating proposals of marine protected areas based on the knowledge acquired, with the aim of ensuring the protection of marine ecosystems and the sustainability of fishing resources in Maio.

The map on the right, which resulted from the 8th session of the programme, represents the sites selected for the creation of temporary (green) and permanent (orange) MPAs.





## EXCHANGE BETWEEN CABO VERDE AND GUINEA-BISSAU

As part of the Sea Turtle Survival Project (STM) funded by PRCM, FMB, represented by its executive director Rocio Moreno, the coordinator of the education and sustainable development programme, Janete Agues and the coordinator of the scientific programme Juan Patiño, spent a week in Guinea-Bissau on an exchange experience with the Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas (IBAP).

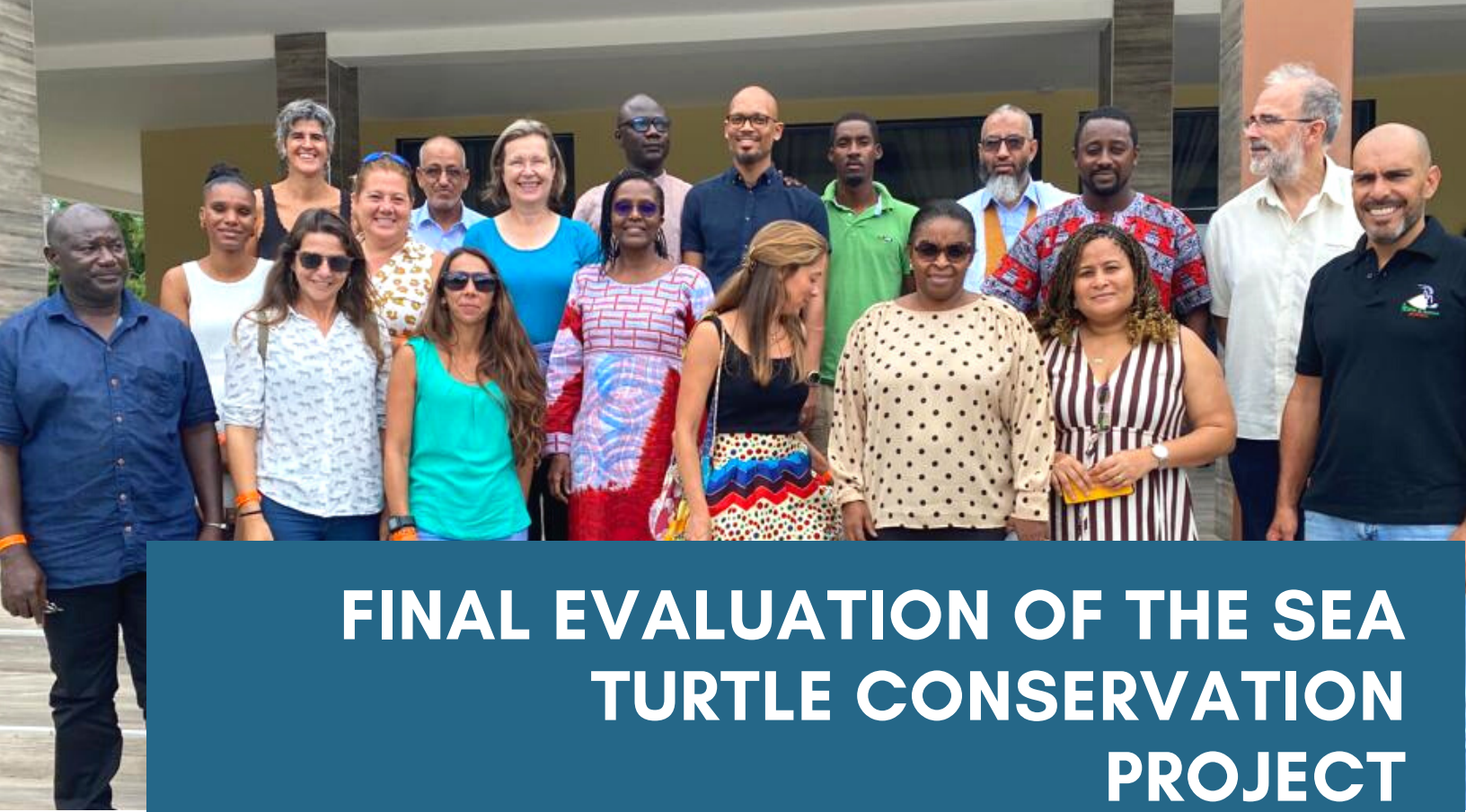
Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau are united by language, history and culture and both are considered regions of special importance of global importance for sea turtles, harbouring one of the world's largest populations of loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and green (*Chelonia mydas*) turtles.



As part of this mission it was possible to meet IBAP and visit João Vieira-Poilão Marine National Park, a protected area located in the south of the Bijagós Archipelago in Guinea-Bissau. This visit aimed at sharing experiences in terms of monitoring methodologies of species focused on sea turtles, particularly the green turtle "*Chelonia mydas*" and strategies for education and awareness of the population.

A special thanks to the Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas (IBAP) for the excellent reception and organization of this exchange mission.





# FINAL EVALUATION OF THE SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION PROJECT

WEST AFRICAN REGION

As part of the final evaluation of the sea turtle conservation project in the West African region funded by the MAVA Foundation covering the islands of Maio and Boa Vista, and the countries of Mauritania and Guinea-Bissau, FMB attended the meeting held from 10 to 14 October in Saly, Senegal.

The meeting was attended by the different partners allowing a joint evaluation of the activities, progress, results and impacts of the project's implementation in this region.



A special thanks to MAVA Foundation for their support to the organisations and for the care with the sea turtles in Maio.

# COASTAL ZONE AND ADJACENT SEA MANAGEMENT PLAN

## MAIO ISLAND

The National Institute for Territorial Management (INGT) held the public presentation of the Coastal Zone and Adjacent Sea Management Plan for Maio Island - POOC\_M do Maio, funded by MAVA Foundation, through the Regional Wetlands International for West Africa (WIACO) partner for the implementation of the project "Survie des Toutues Marines en Afrique l'Ouest" in conciliation with the "Project to Reduce the Impacts of Infrastructure in Coastal Areas in Cabo Verde", on October 17th.

POOC\_M is a territorial management instrument very important for the planning and managing the coastline and the sea, determining the areas of vulnerability and risk, regulating the criteria of occupation and implantation of infrastructures, aiming at safeguarding and protecting territorial, environmental and patrimonial resources and values.



The implementation of the POOC\_M will bring the following impacts on the local communities and people: i. helps the Local Community to know the weaknesses and potentialities of its resources; ii. gives strength to the community in the defence of its resources, namely allowing the denouncement and impugnation of acts that harm a good exploration, conservation and protection of biodiversity; iii. reinforces the dynamisation of an environmentally friendly and more sustainable economy; iv. reinforces the active capacity of the local communities in decision making; v. will allow more security and a better quality of life for the communities.

We congratulate INGT for the excellent work done in Maio Island.





## TRAINING IN SHARK CAPTURE AND TAGGING

From November 7th to 13th, FMB marine team and other Cabo Verde NGOs were in Sal Island for a training in shark capture and tagging with Dr Julia Spaet, an expert on the subject.

During the training, participants learned different capture techniques, how to take body size measurements, insert tags with identification codes and collect tissue samples, always keeping in mind the safety of the animal and of the team.

The capture and tagging of sharks is important for the identification of nursery areas as well as for tracking population trends over the years, contributing to more efficient management measures for the protection of endangered species.



***Thank you Fauna and Flora International and Arcadia Fund for facilitating and funding the training.***



# STRATEGIC MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE PROGRAMME MAIO 2025

The meeting, co-chaired by Maio Town Council and the European Union was also attended by the island's Municipal Assembly, representatives of the State's decentralised services and the police and the: Marques de Valle Flor Institute, Mértola Heritage Protection Association and Maio Biodiversity Foundation.

At the meeting, the results of the first year in the various sectors of intervention were shared. It was also an opportunity to discuss the main challenges and actions needed to enhance Maio 2025 Programme in the coming months, including strengthening coordination between the various actors to promote real inclusive and sustainable integrated development for the island for the benefit of local populations.

Source: EU-Cape Verde webpage.







## 1ST FMB GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On November 19th, FMB opened its doors to its members for the 1st General Assembly, held this year in the hall of the Municipal Assembly in Porto Inglês City.

During the assembly session the new statutes were presented and approved, a presentation of the activities of 2021 was made, approval of the annual report and accounts of 2021, as well as the presentation of the activities developed during the year of 2022.

The presentation and voting of the candidate lists for the first election of new members of the social organs, in which the list "Maio Junta Mon", the only candidate list, won the election with 41 votes for and 1 against. From the 14 members of the social organs of the elected list, 11 are Cape Verdeans and the great majority are from Maio.

In the words of António Araújo, president-elect of the National Direction of the elected list: "From now on, it will be even easier to promote fluid and regular communication between the population, the different actors of civil society and the authorities. We count on you and your dynamism to make FMB grow even more, have more and more members and supporters and be even more effective."

We thank our members for their presence and count on everyone to achieve our goal of a healthy and sustainably developed in Maio.



# PROJECT DIALOGUE ON PUBLIC POLICIES FOR AN INTEGRATIVE AND INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT IN CABO VERDE

From November 7th to 11th FMB, represented by the executive director, Rocio Moreno, together with representatives of other Cape Verdean NGOs and various ministries and authorities, participated in a dialogue aimed at improving communication between Cape Verdean conservation NGOs and the government.

The intention is to establish concrete, solid and long-lasting alternatives and to propose new approaches so that the interested parties can better coordinate their activities, with a view to better governance, efficiency in the use of resources (financial, technical and material), and the materialisation of a future, towards an egalitarian and sustainable development of the country and its communities.



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



## FMB's VISION

"Promote the protection of biodiversity and the social progress of Maio Island through conservation actions and the empowerment and economic sustainability of local communities."

## FMB's MISSION

**FMB WISHES EVERYONE A HAPPY  
ECOLOGICAL AND SUSTAINABLE  
CHRISTMAS  
THAT THE YEAR 2023 BE A YEAR OF  
MEASURABLE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES,  
COMMITTED TO THE SUSTAINABILITY OF  
BIODIVERSITY, HABITAT AND  
LOCAL COMMUNITIES.**



Designed by Andreia Adrião & Honorine Sylva

