



BIOPAMA



Technical equipment to improve the protection of endangered loggerhead sea turtles on their nesting beaches

Type of priority area

Marine Protected Area

Terrestrial Protected Area

Primary objective

Management Effectiveness

Target groups

Local Communities

National or local PA agency

Main activity focus

Illegal activities

Threatened Species

Monitoring/Patrol equipment

Duration
01.11.2020 – 31.10.2021

Type of grant & budget
Small Technical Grant | 81,199 €

Location
Cape Verde, Western Africa

Protected & Conserved Areas
Curral Velho, Ramsar Site of International Importance; Reserva Natural Ponta do Sol; Reserva Natural Boa Esperança; Reserva Natural da Tartaruga; Parque Natural do Norte

WDPA ID
109005

BIOPAMA RRIS Link
<http://rris.biopama.org/country/cv>

Project Lead

Fundação Tartaruga Cabo Verde

Project Partners

Turtle Foundation Germany

Description of the project:

The first project activity is focused on the purchase of two vehicles, one for the drone team and the second for the dog team as these are particularly suitable for their specific needs. The vehicles will allow both teams to become more independent and to reach their full potential.

Given that the female sea turtles come to the beaches to lay their eggs at night, all direct protection measures have to occur at night. Even under bright moonlight conditions, it is impossible to detect poachers hidden between bushes and dunes with the naked eye or conventional binoculars. For this reason, two thermal imaging binoculars for night-vision will be purchased. These will help a part of the Sea Turtle Surveillance Task Force, who mainly support the drone team during night operations.

The second project activity aims at enhancing the Sea Turtle Surveillance Task Force capacities through trainings. A driving training safety will be offered to employees, in order to provide them with a safe driving feeling, and also to protect the vehicles so as to give them the longest possible life duration. The second training will be for the ground team rangers on the use of the night-vision devices – these are highly technical devices and it is important for the team to use them correctly and strategically.





Diagnostic Tools Used

Action Plan for Sea Turtles in West Africa 2017 – 2022 (initiated by MAVA Foundation)



The BIOPAMA AC Objective(s) Addressed

- Enforce the legal framework required to achieve effective biodiversity conservation in protected areas;
- Support local communities' initiatives aiming to enhance the livelihoods of local people whilst effectively contributing to protected area management.



Priority Need Addressed

The overall aim of the project is to reduce poaching of endangered sea turtles on Boa Vista. This will be done through the implementation of two new techniques aimed at better protecting sea turtles: Conservation Dogs and Night-Vision Drone. Both projects are designed to provide technical, logistical, and strategic support to the "Sea Turtle Surveillance Task Force" (STSTF) initiative, initiated by the Cape Verdean Ministry for Agriculture and Environment. The priority will be to improve patrol operations teams by the acquisition of field equipment and devices and training.



The change the project implementation will bring for the protected areas

Thanks to the new equipment and training, the Sea Turtle Surveillance Task Force (STSTF) will be able to increase effectiveness of beach protection through improved, independent, and unrestricted mobility. Beaches can be monitored more frequently during the sea turtle nesting season while increasing the range of patrolling activity. The expected result is to cover 55 single beaches from 7 geographically distinguish beach-areas with a total of 15 km².

The new equipment and the training will not only make the work of the teams safer and more efficient and will allow for strategic improvements in night-time beach surveillance, some of which would not even be possible without them. Taken together, both the temporal and spatial coverage of beach protection by the STSTF teams is significantly increased and the quality is improved.

Thanks to the support of BIOPAMA it is expected that poaching activity will continue to decrease on Boa Vista quickly, effectively, and sustainably. This would be a major contribution to the recovery of the endangered sea turtle population in Cape Verde.

This project is financed by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States through the BIOPAMA Programme. The contents of this material are the sole responsibility of <Fundação Tartaruga Cabo Verde> and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the EU nor of the OACPS.

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The project (Technical equipment to improve the protection of endangered loggerhead sea turtles on their nesting beaches) is financed by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States through the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme.

BIOPAMA assists the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to address their priorities for improved management and governance of biodiversity and natural resources. BIOPAMA provides a variety of tools, services and funding to conservation actors in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The BIOPAMA grant-making facility is managed by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and supports projects on the ground to strengthen the management and governance of protected and conserved areas, with a total budget of 21 million Euros.