

CEPF Small Grants

Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot

Environmental Safeguards Indications

Project Title: **Save the São Tomé Giant Land Snail: Teaching and Learning to Preserve**

Will the proposed project support any physical construction or rehabilitation?

The project involves the construction of a conservation centre for the São Tomé giant land snail (Obô Snail) in São Tomé Island. The centre will be constructed in the Botanical Garden, a property of the Obô Natural Park of São Tomé and under the authorization of the Obô Natural Park Director (or Forest Direction indications depending on the current authority). The centre will be constructed in a circular shape and with a diameter of 10 m with fences, fixed to the ground through a 20 cm stone wall and it will be covered in the top with a shade net. It will be built without applying any intervention to the surrounded environment and to the soil. The centre won't have a permanent state and it will be possible to remove the structure if necessary. The species of plants that will be planted inside the centre will be chosen to recreate as close as possible the species' habitat. The purpose is to maintain the centre's environmental and aesthetic conditions as similar as possible as the natural conditions found inside the Obô Natural Park. The Botanical Garden already hosts another structure which purpose is to breed endemic orchids, with an educational purpose and the snail centre will have a similar function, observing the rules and indications given by the São Tomé Obô Natural Park.

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Health and Safety Policies

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Will the proposed project require you or your team to interact with live animals?

The animals that will be bred inside the centre are the following species: *Archachatina bicarinata* and *Archachatina marginata*. These species belong to the Achatinidae family and are normally handled by human population as a food source or as pets. However, as gastropods may be, in specific conditions, vector of diseases, it will be mandatory for the people of the team that handle these animals, to use sanitary norms that are normally used in snail breeding activities such as disinfecting hands after touching the species. For this purpose, disinfectant products will be always available inside the centre. The people that will handle the species are Martina Panisi and one or two assistants that will be helping in the centre. They will be measuring, sizing the snails, moving the species from one site to another and cleaning the structure.