

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name	BIOS.CV –Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Development (BIOS.CV)
Project Title	The turtle challenge: Integrating conservation, tourism and local community development on Boa Vista Island.
CEPF GEM No.	187
Date of Report	30.11.2016

CEPF Hotspot: North Africa

Strategic Direction: SD1

Promote civil society involvement in Integrated Coastal Zone Management to minimize the negative effects of coastal development in coastal and marine priority key biodiversity areas: Beaches of Boavista Island

Grant Amount: UD\$ 19.660

Project Dates: 01.04.2016 – 30.11.2016

1. Implementation Partners for this Project (*list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project*)

- National Directorate of Environment (or DNA, national authority responsible for the conservation and management of the natural heritage of the country) and Department of Protected Areas of Boa Vista (or DPA, local institution depending on the DNA).
 - Both institutions participated in the coordination and the supervision activities of the project.
 - The implementation of a sustainable fundraising initiative was discussed with these environmental authorities, as well as the municipality, civil organizations and stakeholders.
 - A hatchling release program proposal, intended to raise money for local communities, was submitted to the DNA at the beginning of the turtle season
 - A representative of the DPA participated in the communication training conducted in mid-November.
- University of Cape Verde (provides interns and volunteers for Bios.cv's turtle research and conservation activities).
 - Students from the University of Cape Verde (UniCV) were hired to work at our turtle camp.
 - Bios.cv covered the flight and food expenses of UniCV students (Biology, Marine Biology and Marine Sciences) to stay in Boa Vista for periods of 1 month and receive turtle fieldwork training. Two students were working on their bachelor degree thesis.
 - This annual collaboration between Bios.cv and UniCV was included in the CEPF project as an indispensable part for the monitoring activities of the beaches and

as a way to involve the local population in the sustainable management of the environment.

- MTCF - Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).
 - This USA institution has been supporting sea turtle conservation in Cape Verde since 2009.
 - This year, the MTCF supported an education program involving all environmental NGO's of the island to engage local communities in conservation activities.
 - The MTCF does also supports the annual meeting of the national network of marine turtle conservation (TAOLA).
 - The 2016 loggerhead turtle nesting season was possible thanks to the co-funding of this institution, CEPF and Riu Hotels & Resorts.

- RIU Hotels&Resorts (so far, the most important tourist investor in Cape Verde):
 - This company has been supporting our environmental conservation, information, education and awareness activities since 2012.
 - The company shows interest in collaborating with the hatchling release program to raise money for local communities.
 - Bios.cv conducts weekly environmental information and awareness activities at the two RIU resorts existing on the island.
 - The project supported by CEPF demanded the collaboration with the tourist sector to sensitize visitors, to facilitate to fundraising initiative and to reduce the impacts of outdoor activities on the ecosystems.

- EDB-CSIC - Spanish National Research Council.
 - This institution has been supporting marine turtle conservation and research in Boa Vista since 2005.
 - Adolfo Marco, associated researcher of the EBD-CSIC, has been the scientific advisor of the 2016 season.
 - All scientific studies, including, data management of beach monitoring work follow strict parameters that are supervised by the EBD expert.

- MAVA Foundation
 - Last year, this organization provided funding to compensate the damages produced by hurricane Fred in late August 2015.
 - In May 2016, they organized a workshop tin Boa Vista o discuss marine turtle conservation in Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau.
 - Meetings with stakeholders and competent authorities at a national level are necessary to incorporate project activities into management plans for marine turtles and their critical habitats. These aspects were discussed at the MAVA workshop in May and the TAOLA meeting in November.

- Other environmental NGO': Turtle Foundation, Cabo Verde Natura 2000
 - Both organizations participated in the discussion of fundraising initiatives to support local communities.
 - They also participated in the communication training in mid-November.
 - The CEPF project has been an important step forward in the relationships between the three NGO's, the local authorities and the Varandinha community association. The training in non-aggressive communication was identified as a

first step within the strategy to reapproach local communities. We are all now working together to optimize our resources and achieve our goals.

- Naturalia Lda. (local ecotourism company that has been supporting environmental conservation activities in Boa Vista since 2008).
 - Naturalia covered the travel expenses of environmental education and awareness activities conducted at the turtle camp.
 - In the initial project Naturalia was supposed to support the release of hatchlings at the hotels for fundraising initiatives. Finally, its collaboration limited to conduct information and awareness activities with their clients during the turtle tours.

Conservation Impacts

2. Describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF investment strategy set out in the ecosystem profile

- Promote civil society involvement in Integrated Coastal Zone Management to minimize the negative effects of coastal development

This strategic direction will focus on tourism development in coastal regions as one of the key pressures on the hotspot, which is impacting both terrestrial and marine ecosystems. This will be achieved through supporting civil society involvement in the development and implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) following the newly ratified ICZM protocol under the Barcelona Convention (PAP/RAC 2007)

1.1 Support civil society involvement in the development and implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and the advancement of best practices in integrating nature conservation with the tourism sector

This investment priority will support local stakeholders in target countries to develop and advance multi-sector planning methods in corridors and key biodiversity areas where high-biodiversity values overlap with the interests of the tourism industry. Civil society has a key role to play in inter alia (1) identifying and promoting the integration of conservation priorities in land-use zoning and development planning; (2) ensuring environmental impacts of any development are assessed, avoided, and if necessary mitigated (where possible with net-positive gains for nature conservation); (3) mobilizing public and community concerns and brokering partnerships with government and the private sector, (4) implementing nature conservation mitigation or offsets aspects of coastal zone development and (5) enabling civil society to work hand-in-hand with governments to mainstream biodiversity conservation into development planning. CEPF investments should be targeted where civil society engagement can make a difference, where opportunities and mechanisms exist to influence coastal zone development planning at an appropriate stage, and where the relevant government agencies and/or the private sector are open to civil society involvement. These projects will likely require the forming of partnerships between civil society, the private sector and local and/or national government organizations. These partnerships and relationships will be developed using local frameworks and mechanisms, visioning workshops, and land use planning exercises with relevant government and local authorities.

1.2 Raise awareness and influence the choices of the European tourist market and tourism businesses in favor of tourism practices appropriate for nature

Cooperation with tourism companies and governments. Actions may actively promote alternative destinations of natural value, where tourism activities could have a positive impact on natural resources and local communities. Furthermore, the wider tourism business in the region can also make significant changes by altering their practices in support of biodiversity. Innovative solutions implemented by civil society will receive support to spread tourism practices appropriate for nature.

*Conservation activities have been focused on the protection of the most important loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) nesting beaches, training of national and international volunteers in marine turtle fieldwork, training of rangers, supervision of turtle watching activities within our area and execution of environmental education and awareness activities.*

Bios.cv works in partnership with national authorities in the elaboration of conservation laws for species and habitats and in the development of a national management plan for the conservation of threatened/endangered species of the Cape Verde biodiversity.

3. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project

- Reducing sea turtle mortality on the nesting beaches.
 - Setting a turtle field camp on Joao Barrosa Beach from May 15th to November 27th
 - 3 turtles killed in our area
 - Monitoring and conservation activities 9,803 tracks counted and 1,541 turtles monitored (database annex 1)
- Increase hatching/emergence success on beaches with high egg mortality.
 - Implementation of a hatchery program to rescue doomed nests (425 nests out of the 3,785 recorded on the beaches were translocated to the hatchery). Also, 123 control nests were marked on the beaches. (database annex 1)
- Increase the participation of local people in the conservation and sustainable management of marine turtles. (see photos)
- All paid staff (7) working at the field camp came from the University of Cape Verde (UniCV), but 2 young locals with not superior studies. Third consecutive year that a person from the rural communities has been hired to work on loggerhead turtle monitoring and conservation activities.
- Bios.cv has covered the flight and food expenses of 12 UniCV students (Biology, Marine Biology and Marine Sciences) to stay in Boa Vista for periods of 1-2 moth and receive turtle work training. Two students were working on their bachelor degree thesis. Another two students were hired as rangers by the DNA-DPA.
- Between April and June, biodiversity information and awareness chats were conducted at the primary and secondary schools of the island (15 activities, 1,310 students). One activity in the camp with 30 children 4-6 years old.
- From June to November, Bios.cv collaborated with other environmental NGO's (Turtle Foundation and Natura) in an education program funded by the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund to engage local communities in conservation activities.

- Generate a regular and sustainable fundraising activity that can be used to support local communities
 - 8 contacts were established with representatives of the environmental authorities, municipality, local associations and leaders to discuss the implementation of a sustainable fundraising initiative to support local communities.
 - A proposal was submitted to the National Directorate on the Environment (DNA), including a protocol for a hatchling release program at the hotels of Boa Vista.
 - 4 contacts with the tourist sector were held looking for support for the hatchling release program at some of the largest tourist resorts of the island. RIU Hotels & Resorts (major tourist investor in Cape Verde) and TUI (largest tour operator in the country) show interest in this program.
 - Weekly environmental information activities at Riu Hotels in Boa Vista (79 activities from April to November).

- Redefine the strategy of collaboration between stakeholders and of relationship with the local communities.
 - A new component was defined instead of FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES because this one could not be fully implemented.
 - An Effective Communication and Interpersonal Relations training (14-18 November) was attended by 9 members of the 3 main environmental NGOs of Boa Vista and a representative of the Department of Protected Areas, as coordinator of the joint work. (annex 4)

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

1. Reducing sea turtle mortality on the nesting beaches.
2. Increase hatching/emergence success on the beaches with high egg mortality.
3. Increase the participation of local people in the conservation and sustainable management of marine turtles.
4. Generate a regular and sustainable fundraising activity that can be used to support local communities
5. Redefine the strategy of collaboration between stakeholders and of relationship with the local communities.

4. Actual progress toward long-term impacts at completion

4. Legislative (March) and municipal (September) elections in 2016 kept all the governmental institutions in stand-by for almost one year, making it difficult the coordination between conservation groups and competent authorities. The DNA is thinking of implementing fundraising activities to support local communities in 2017, with a management committee constituted by representatives of the competent authorities and the NGO's.
5. The communication training was a first step to improve interactions between stakeholders and the local communities.

The other three impacts can be regarded as completed this 2016 season and will be resumed next years.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

1. Improve protection of nesting beaches.
2. Involve local communities in turtle conservation.
3. Enhance involvement of competent authorities in the management and conservation of sea turtles.
4. Better management/regulation of turtle watching activities.
5. Involvement of tourist sector in the support of local communities

5. Actual progress toward short-term impacts at completion

1. Low number of turtle killed (3) and increase of productivity (75%)
2. Locals involved in turtle fieldwork and awareness activities.
3. The annual meeting of the national network of turtle conservation, TAOLA, ran from 23 to 26 November and was attended by the new Director of Environment and the coordinator of the Marine Turtle National Plan. All organizations working on turtle conservation were represented at the workshop. Several documents to be submitted to the Government of Cape Verde are being drafted, including a summary of the current situation and problematic around marine turtle conservation in Cape Verde and an action plan that will require inter-ministerial synergies. A steering committee was created and an audience with the Minister of Environment was appointed for late January 2017. Legislation and effective vigilance, turtle watching activities and the use of a tourist tax to support conservation projects and community development were also discussed.

6. Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impacts

Short-term:

- To hold a meeting with the Minister of Environment and see whether he is overt to our proposals.
- To conduct further meeting with other ministries involved in turtle conservation and management.

Long-term:

- To make turtle conservation in Cape Verde sustainable, developing funding strategies and inter-institutional and public-private synergies that allow us to support protection activities, protected areas management, community development and research and monitoring activities.

7. Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Failure to execute the initial component number 2 (fundraising) was considered a major problem. After the intervention of CEPF's technician, the implementation of communication training has been highly valued by all participating stakeholders, improving our relationship and productivity as a working group (see annex 3)

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Component 1 (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer

- 8. Describe the results from Component 1 and each product/deliverable**
- 9. Repeat point 8 above for each Component in your approved proposal**

1. Hatchling Release Programs: Official permit for hatchling release program

Component Nº: 1	Hatchling Release Programs	
Activity Nº:	1	Meeting authorities responsible for the conservation of protected species
	2	Explain pro and against of hatchlings release programs
	3	Develop a protocol for hatchling release programs to minimize negative impacts
	4	Get the support of hotel companies and tour operators to the hatchling release program

- Official support of turtle hatchling release programs at tourist resorts: Protocol defined and initiative likely implemented next year (annex 2)

2. Rapprochement strategy with local community and stakeholders: Done communication training for environmental NGO's staff (report annex 5)

Component Nº: 2	Rapprochement strategy with local community and stakeholders (first step)	
Activity Nº:	1	Organize training with the stakeholders and trainer
	2	Communication training for environmental NGOs staff

- Joint work of the 3 NGO's more participative, organized and productive.



Communication training for environmental NGOs staff

3. Management and Conservation:

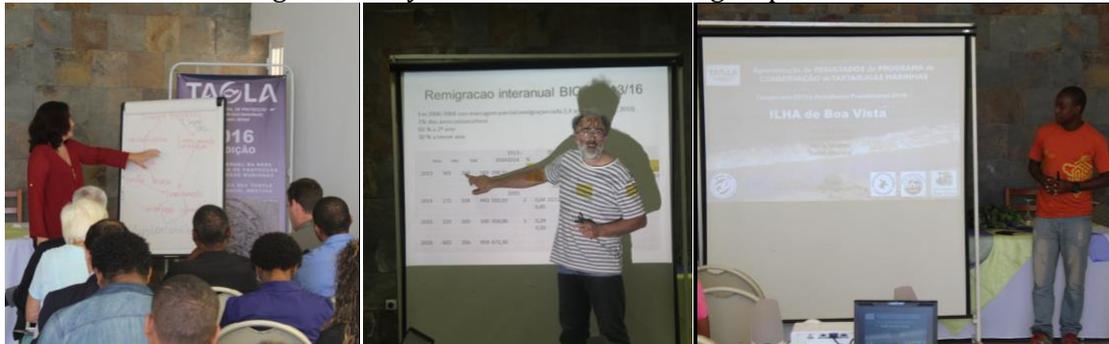
Number of education and awareness activities conducted, Turtle-watching guidelines published, Turtle-watching regulations and guidelines incorporated into protected areas management plans

- Reinforce environmental information and awareness activities (95 activities)



Environmental information and awareness activities

Contribute to the conservation (Taola and MAVA workshops) and management of turtle nesting beaches (Report to DNA annex 6): The documents to be submitted to the Minister of Environment are being drafted by all turtle conservation groups.



Bios presentations in Taola workshop: Carolina Oujo, Adolfo Marco e Samir Martins

2. If you did not complete any component or deliverable, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?

Legislative elections in March, municipal elections in September and Presidential election in October have paralyzed the country and the administration, making it difficult to develop some of the project activities (fundraising, management and tourism legislation). The institutional 'blackout' meant a delay of some activities that could not be implemented in the stipulated term.

3. Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results

- Annexe1- data related to 1405 female marked and released
- Annexe 2- The turtle hatchling release protocol can be used next year
- Annexe 3- Taola 2016 Boa Vista
- Annex 4 proposta Cabo Verde – ONGs
- Annex 5 Apreciação formação comunicação Boa Vista CEPF
- Annex 6 BIOS.CV Ficha Resultados 2016

The documents to be submitted to the Minister of Environment are being drafted by all turtle conservation groups.

Benefits to Communities

4. Please describe the communities that have benefited from CEPF support

*Please report on the size and characteristics of communities and the benefits that they have received, as a result of CEPF investment. Please provide information for all communities that have benefited **from project start to project completion.***

Community Name	Community Characteristics								Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit											
	Subsistence economy	Small landowners	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*	Size of Community				Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g. health care, education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional knowledge	Improved representation and decision-making in governance	Improved access to ecosystem services
								50-250 people	251-500 people	501-1,000 people	Over 1,001 people									

*If you marked “Other” to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

Lessons Learned

5. Describe any lessons learned related to organizational development and capacity building.

6. Describe any lessons learned related to project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

- To develop project proposals together with local representatives of the competent national authorities to secure their full support and compliance with the project goals and activities.

7. Describe any lesson learned related to project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

- We must have a more fluent communication with the donor organization to overcome the problems that may come up over the implementation of the project and, event, reformulate the project activities if it was necessary.
- During years of elections, Cape Verde becomes a country administratively stand-by, making it difficult the implementation of projects and policies. This is something that the Government has to change, since the citizens cannot accept that this happens.

8. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

Sustainability / Replication

9. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated

The approach is replicable in other islands of the archipelago, especially in those with a similar controversy concerning tourism development and environmental conservation such as Sal and Maio

10. Summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability

Communication training was a successful and increased our capacities to work together for reach sustainability

Safeguards

11. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social and environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered

N/A

Additional Funding

12. Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
MTCF -USFW	A	USD\$ 18.000	
RIU	A	18.000 €	
MAVA	A	3.500 €	

* Categorize the type of funding as:

- A *Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B *Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)*
- C *Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

Additional Comments/Recommendations

- We held meetings with community leaders to make them part of the making of decisions and keep them updated on the course of the process.
- Early during the implementation of the project, we sent competent national authorities the project proposal and protocols. The lack of a feedback impeded the execution of priority project activities and a solution to the management of all incomes generated to support local communities with total transparency.
- We selected a safe site for the construction of our hatchery.

13. Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

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