

Process Framework

February 2019

CEPF Grant 108423

BIOSFERA 1

A Sustainable Model of Certified Fisheries for the Protection of Santa Luzia Marine Reserve biodiversity.

Santa Luzia island, Cape Verde

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization.

Biosfera 1

2. Grant title.

Implementation of actions that guarantee the maintenance of the Biodiversity of the Santa Luzia AMP.

3. Grant number

CEPF Grant 108423

4. Grant amount (US dollars).

131,706.56 USD

5. Proposed dates of grant.

March 2019 – March 2021

6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken.

Cape Verde, islands of Santa Luzia, Branco and Raso islet

7. Date of preparation of this document.

February 2018

A. Project Background

This section will briefly describe the project including design elements and potential social and environmental issues. Where possible, include maps of the project site and surrounding area.

1- Summary of Project

The Desert Islands of Santa Luzia, Branco and Raso categorized as highly-threatened, are located in the Republic of Cape Verde and represent the largest marine reserve of the country. Due to their biodiversity-richness, conservation importance and vulnerability, these islands are considered Priority Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and documented in the CEPF hotspot profile for the Mediterranean Basin. For many years, their distance to the main islands, such as São Vicente and São Nicolau, was their only protection, since the resource exploitation was limited and done only with traditional techniques. However, with the technological advance in equipment and boat capabilities, the Desert Islands are now under an ongoing increase of resource exploitation, being Santa Luzia the one with the most unfavorable status. Owing to their unparalleled value (potentially so in case of Santa Luzia), in 2003 the Cape Verde government created a marine protected area complex (MPA) comprising the three islands (Raso, Santa Luzia and Branco) and the surrounding Atlantic Ocean to a depth of 200 meters. Despite the MPA creation in 2003, Santa Luzia marine reserve still suffers from deficient conservation and surveillance measures of their marine resources. Threats to its biodiversity and resource overexploitation range from introduction of invasive species, illegal poaching of sensitive and/or endemic species, and deregulated fishing activities within and outside the MPA. To better protect the natural values of Santa Luzia MPA, Biosfera 1, in close partnership with the National Environmental Agency (DNA) and other international partners, started in 2017 a large-scale restoration project (Project Desert Islands) to achieve an effective and integrated implementation of its Management Plan, covering also their fishing resources.

Biosfera, as well as other governmental agencies (DNA, INDP) propose to do a pilot study to evaluate the capacity to implement a system of certified fisheries in São Vicente island, based on the fishing efforts

within Santa Luzia MPA. As part of a sustainable development of fisheries activities within the Reserve, we are at a crucial stage to integrate this certification as an important component of the Management Plan. We believe that this is a necessary step to promote and support the fishermen that prefer to use eco-friendly methods such as artisanal techniques, instead of those who use unsustainable and illegal methods (gillnets, bed nets, dynamite, spear fishing with scuba gear).

During the last years through the continuous work within and outside the MPA, Biosfera has developed a strong and long-lasting relationship with the fishermen communities. The earlier project supported by CEPF (Protecting Threatened and Endemic Species in Cape Verde: A Major Island Restoration Project), was a very successful example of cooperation with these small communities, and on its follow-up, several fishermen have actively participated on Biosfera's conservation activities. Building upon these results and on the trust created within these communities, the proposed pilot project of certified fisheries will be based on 5 important axes:

1. A sustainable management of fish resources to maintain the integrity and biodiversity of marine ecosystems and to support the restoration of healthy fish communities;
2. An integrative model of fisheries in which the development and efficient maintenance of fishing activities comprises all environmental, economic, social and commercial aspects;
3. A model of co-management between the community, government entities and Cape Verdian Environmental organizations to guarantee the viability of this fisheries model in the long-term;
4. To comply with local and national jurisdiction, as well as with international fisheries agreements;
5. A participatory system where voluntary participation and cooperation of fishermen is essential to ensure the recovery and continuation of the traditional fishing techniques, creating a higher value product and securing its management in a medium and long-term.

The acquisition of baseline information such as fishing effort (e.g. number of fishermen per boat), fishermen community origin, targeted fish species and fishing areas used will be essential. This information will be important not only for research proposes, but also for the evaluation of the impact over fish stocks and the overall marine ecosystem. The resulting information will allow DNA and INDP to evaluate the overall fishing activities within the reserve as well as the fishermen compliance to the MPA regulations, so it can later contribute for the future management and planning decisions (e.g. appropriate zoning of protected areas and/or no take zones).

Involvement of the communities in this process is a key feature of this pilot-project and through this process, fishermen will be simultaneously decision-makers, actors and beneficiaries for the management of their coastal resources. With this project, the MPA can be used as an important tool to the improvement of the fishermen communities that primarily depend on this activity for their livelihoods. On the long-term and once proven its applicability at the local level, this project aims to extend to the other fishing communities of São Vicente and São Nicolau that also use Santa Luzia MPA. Without it, the uncontrolled exploitation of fish stocks of Santa Luzia will continue to be done without proper management, since they are not currently monitored, and the authorities lack baseline information of the current degree of exploitation to determine the most sustainable regulations.

B. Description of the Area and Socio-Economic Context



***Figure 1-** Cape Verde islands. The red circle signals Desertas islands. According to the name given to this complex, nowadays all three islands have no permanent people settlements and are used exclusively by fishermen for shelter (i.e. in semi-permanent camps) at night during their fishing trips around the Marine Protected Area.*



***Figure 2-** Close-up of Desertas islands. From left to right: Santa Luzia, Branco and Raso islet. The marine protected area complex encompasses the three islands and the surrounding Atlantic Ocean to a depth of 200 meters.*

The MPA is used by different fishermen communities of two different islands. The ones from São Vicente (Mindelo city, Salamansa) are the most frequent visitors, but the communities from São Nicolau can also be seen (though not so frequently), but only in Raso. All boats are identified with a plate number, but though it is a national ID, locals can identify the community origin by boat colors. The estimations for the fishing communities' size that go to the MPA for each island is app. 150 fishermen for São Vicente and about 30 for São Nicolau (waiting for confirmation). As for their livelihoods, the conditions are transversal to different communities. All of them are oftenly

poor, some more than others, living in plain (often degraded) houses in which normally the entire family depends upon the fishing income (the man fishes and the woman sells).

Cape Verde has a national jurisdiction for fisheries, that applies within the Reserve. Although there is some enforcement of this law, several issues contribute to a frail control and lack of application of penalties upon transgressors and a general sense of impunity among fishermen. For example, following strict regulations, artisanal boats could not navigate more than 2 miles from coast, and Santa Luzia MPA is further away. Patrols to the MPA are infrequent due to lack of funds, resources or governmental will, so illegal practices continue to exist regularly (underwater spearfishing with oxygen tanks, gill nets, illegal mesh size and purse seine, non-compliance of breeding periods and capture of protected species). Despite a strong commitment by DNA to change the current scenario, the MPA management plans is still not legally binding and is waiting for legislative approval, hence there is no legal support yet to penalize trespassers inside the MPA or to enforce the reserve management rules.

Foreign fisher fleets legally cannot operate inside the MPA, though there is anecdotal evidence for some that were seen fishing there.

C. Participatory Implementation

Biosfera 1 has developed a strong relation with fishermen communities, since the start. They work together on the Santa Luzia Reserve and have helped each other several times (providing water or food, shelter or transport to and from the island). Within the scope of their projects Biosfera has organized technical courses (English, informatic technologies, project design, French, etc.) for the fishermen or their children. The CEPF funded project 2013-2015 “Feasibility Study for the restoration of Santa Luzia” included several meetings and workshops with fishermen that have continued after the project end. Several of the staff members of Biosfera are related to fishermen from several communities, or even former fishermen from Salamansa, Sinagoga or Calhau.

Despite there was still no funding for this certification project, recently during meetings it was mentioned to fishermen and most were keen for integration, though detailed information about it was not disclosed.

D. Criteria for Affected People

All the activities related to assessment and monitoring are not expected to have any negative impact on communities.

The project will focus on the community of fishermen of Salamansa (approximately 30 boats). The participation to the certification scheme will be *on a voluntary basis*. The fishermen who choose to engage in the certification scheme will benefit from:

- Fishing equipment;
- Technical support and advice on sustainable fishing practices;
- Premium on fish price.

Therefore, the fishermen engaging in the process are expected to get benefits from the project.

If fishermen who engage in process do not abide by the shared and accepted conditions, they might be excluded from the certification scheme; they would then have to give back some part of the equipment provided.

Fishermen who choose not to engage in the process will not have access to the support of the project. Those who start or continue illegal practices, according to national regulations, might be penalized by the authorities, while those inside the project need also to comply with the MPA management plan regulations which are under the responsibility of the protected area managing body (DNA). The fishermen from other communities that come from time to time to fish in the area are not included by the project at this stage. The usual enforcement, as regards illegal activity in the protected area, would continue under the responsibility of the protected area management, which is outside of the scope of the project.

E. Measures to Assist Affected Persons

As mention in section above, the project is based on voluntary participation.

The fishermen who participate to the project will benefit from fishing equipment, technical support and advice on sustainable fishing practices as well as a premium on fish price. The situation will not change for the others – who cannot claim to be affected by the project.

F. Grievance mechanism:

Stakeholders will be informed about the project through regular personalized meetings where project goals and methods will be explained, and any suggestions will be integrated into the project. Several methods will be used and vary according to target audience: posters, brochures, reports, media communication (radio and television) and social networks (Facebook, Twitter)

The possibility to raise a grievance will be explained during meetings with the Fishermen Association of Salamansa.

A small leaflet will be posted at the municipality, indicating in Portuguese that grievances can be raised:

- To Biosfera 1 (with email and telephone contact)
- To CEPF Regional Implementation Team: Mariana Carvalho (email and phone contact) and CEPF Grant Director (pcarret@cepf.net, +33 6 84 22 17 30)
- And that if no solution is find, the claimant can send written complaints directly to the CEPF Executive Director (at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail), or to the World Bank at the local World Bank office in Cabo Verde.

Biosfera 1 will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.

G. Implementation Arrangement

Biosfera will be reported regularly to CEPF as part of the semi-annual performance reports and will inform RIT and CEPF Grant Director within 15 days in case of complaints.