

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	BIOS.CV – Association for the conservation of the environment and the sustainable development.
Project Title:	Environmental initiatives to enhance ecofriendly tourism in Boa Vista Island,
Date of Report:	30/11/2014
Report Author and Contact Information:	Carolina Oujo oujoalamo@yahoo.es (+238)9556615

CEPF Region: MEDITERRANEAN BASIN BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Strategic Direction: 1: “Promote civil society involvement in Integrated Coastal Zone Management to minimize the negative effects of coastal development in three priority corridors (Southwest Balkans, Cyrenaican Peninsula, and Mountains, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia), and in 20 coastal and marine priority key biodiversity areas in other corridors”.

Grant Amount: US \$ 19800

Project Dates: July 2013 - October 2014

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

- General Directorate of Environment (DGA): national authority responsible for the management and protection of the biodiversity of the country. They issue the official permits that may authorize environmental and research organizations to carry out studies and conservation activities involving protected species and protected areas.

Involvement:

- Review and advice during the writing of good practices for a sustainable tourism.
- A representative of this institution visited Boa Vista to evaluate the results of this project, and serve as a bridge to inform the governmental authorities of unsustainable tourist activities and the impacts they have on the environment.

- Department of Protected Areas of Boa Vista: local institution created under the Project for the Consolidation of the Protected Areas of Boa Vista, funded by UN-GEF, and depending on the DGA. This department deals with all aspects of protected areas policy, including delimitation; management plans and direct involvement of local communities in the sustainable use of the natural resources.

Involvement:

- Prepare a Manual of Best Practices.
- Delimitate a track for 4x4 vehicles, and plot it on a Google Earth map.
- Expand the project to the broad tourism sector.
- Lead the Inter-sectorial Committee for a sustainable tourism in Boa Vista, as representative institution of the DGA on the island.

- Tourism Development Corporation of Boa Vista and Maio Islands (SDTIBM): public company, which includes as partners the State and the Municipalities of both islands. The purpose of the SDTIBM consists on the physical planning, management and administration of Special Tourism Areas (ZTE) on the Islands of Boa Vista and Maio, classified as Integrated Tourism Development Areas (ZDTI) and Tourism Protected and Reserve Areas (ZRPT), with the goal of promoting and developing tourism.

Involvement:

- *Prepare a Manual of Best Practices.*
 - *Delimitate a track for 4x4 vehicles, and plot it on a Google Earth map.*
 - *Expand the project to the broad tourism sector.*
 - *Make part of the Inter-sectorial Committee for a sustainable tourism in Boa Vista.*
- Municipality of Boa Vista: local authority responsible for managing environmental, education, cultural, sanitation and social development issues of the island.
 - Prepare a Manual of Best Practices.
 - Coordinate an educational program, "Eco-ilha: Boa Vista Limpa", for schoolchildren.
 - Organize clean-up campaigns.
 - Expand environmental awareness activities within the local population
 - Participate in the development of good practices for a sustainable tourism.
 - Lead the Environmental Committee of Boa Vista, created in parallel to this Project from the resulting synergies and identified needs not covered by the Inter-sectorial Committee for Sustainable Tourism.
 - Police
 - Involvement:*
 - *Make part of the Inter-sectorial Committee for a sustainable tourism in Boa Vista (low participation).*
 - Secondary School of Boa Vista
 - Involvement:*
 - *To coordinate information and awareness activities*
 - Primary Schools
 - Involvement:*
 - *Participate in the educational program "Eco-ilha: Boa Vista Limpa", organized within this Project in close collaboration with the Municipality.*
 - ASA (Airport and Air Security): institution responsible for the management of the Boa Vista International Airport.
 - Involvement:*
 - *Authorize the placement of permanent environmental information panels at the airport.*
 - Naturalia Capa Verde Lda.: the only ecotourism agency in Cape Verde exclusively specialized in wildlife tours since 2008.
 - Involvement:*
 - *Participate in monitoring and conservation activities involving birds, turtles and cetaceans.*
 - *Present a formal complaint addressed to the DGA regarding the management of turtle watching activities in Boa Vista.*

- RIU Hotels & Resorts: largest hotel company working in Cape Verde.
Involvement:
 - Collaborate with them is crucial to conduct environmental information and awareness activities within their resorts, involving guests and staff.
- Cabeólica: public-private company that manages the wind farms existing in Cape Verde.
Involvement:
 - Fund a bird population monitoring and conservation program in Boa Vista since 2012, involving information, education and awareness activities.
- “Boa Vista Biodiversity”: the edition of this book was funded by a crowd funding platform (www.verkami.es)

In order to expand the project to the broad tourism sector, other local ONGs, associations, tourism agencies, hotels and tour operators were contacted to get involved in the project.

An Inter-sectorial Committee for Sustainable Tourism was created aiming at:

- Expanding environmental awareness activities within the tourist resorts, involving guests, owners and staff.
- Drafting the final Manual of Best Practice.
- Promoting the establishment of an officially recognized trademark for environmentally friendly tourist companies.
- Promoting the creation of a network of only eco-friendly companies that comply with the principles of the Manual of Best Practices.
- Plotting a track for 4x4 vehicles.
- Monitoring outdoor tourist activities and their impact upon biodiversity, habitats and landscapes.
- Preparing a database and a report on those impacts that will be delivered to the governmental agencies, together with a proposal for the establishment of a general network of critical areas along Boa Vista coastline as a base of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management scheme.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPPF ecosystem profile.

This project will contribute directly to the point 1.2. “Raise awareness and influence the choices of the European tourist market and tourism businesses in favor of tourism practices appropriate for nature”, at the same time that contributes to the point 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 proposal also will contribute to the point 1.3. “Support local stakeholders to advance and benefit from nature-based tourism through the diversification of tourism-related activities and generation of alternative livelihoods”.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

Beyond the results that we had set as goals at the beginning of the Project:

- To make tourists and tourism agents aware of the negative effects of environmentally unfriendly tourism practices on the environment.
- To promote principles and guidelines for the conciliation of tourism with the conservation of biodiversity, the ecosystems and the landscape.
- To influence the tourists' choice towards environmental-friendly operators when booking outdoor activities (i.e. wildlife tours, sightseeing tours, etc.).
- To encourage tour operators, travel agencies and freelancers to be environmental friendly.
- To make young local people aware of the influence of eco-friendly tourism in their future, concerning the need of both preserving the natural heritage and providing opportunities for development and welfare.
- To change the tendency of the tourism sector in Boa Vista towards a more environmentally oriented attitude.
- To inform the governmental institutions on the environmentally unfriendly tourism activities on the basis of a comprehensive assessment of their impacts on Boa Vista biodiversity and the measures that can contribute to the establishment of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management on the island.

The mayor achievement has been the creation of an Inter-sectorial Committee for Sustainable Tourism.

- The panels with environmental information we have displayed at Boa Vista airport are available for more than 25,000 tourists that visit Boa Vista every week.
- A stand with environmental information displayed once a week at the two Riu resorts existing on the island has been potentially accessible to more than 4,000 tourists lodged at these hotels per week.
- About 850 students have been involved in our environmental education program.
- Our environmental information and awareness activities have been addressed to approximately 6,000 local people.
- 40 companies, 9 non-governmental organizations and 7 governmental institutions were contacted to participate in the development of the Manual of Good Practices.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: 63.000 hectares (Boa Vista island)

- 3,462 ha. is the total area within the Integrated Zones for Tourist Development where these signals were placed.
- Basically, we can say that the whole island was under the frame of this project, taking into account that environmental information activities, involving habitats and species, were addressed to both the local population and the visitors.

Species Conserved:

Marine turtles (loggerhead turtle, *Caretta caretta*, green turtle, *Chelonia mydas*, and hawksbill turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*).

Marine mammals (humpback whale, *Megaptera novaeangliae* and other cetacean).

Birds (Magnificent frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens*, osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, Egyptian vultures, *Neophron percnopterus*).

Corridors Created:

Delimitation of a track for 4x4 vehicles to prevent habitat degradation and human disturbance in sensitive ecosystems such as bird nesting habitats, wetlands areas, etc.

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

We did not have many troubles to plan and organize environmental education activities addressed to both the local population and the tourist sector thanks to the close collaboration with the Municipality, the Secondary School and RIU Hotels & Resorts.

The elaboration of the biodiversity information banners was relatively fast because of the large expertise of our team.

The edition of the different videos and the book was much more difficult and took a longer time than expected, because of the quality standard that we demanded from ourselves. We did not get to dub the videos in Portuguese (off-voice). The videos were subtitled in English and will be soon subtitled in Portuguese too.

We were not authorized by the airport authorities to place the environmental information in more visible areas, since these zones are allocated for commercial advertising. The director of the airport visited by chance one of our environmental information tables set within the social events organized by the Municipality and he showed himself impressed by the quality of the information offered. Because of this, he gave us authorization to place permanent environmental information at the main gates of the airport.

The fast and uncontrolled growth of tourism in Boa Vista in the last few years, the late development of new laws to counteract and regulate problems and conflicts resulting from aberrant practices, and the lack of permanent competent tourist authorities on the island have caused a situation where there is not any control of whom conduct tourist activities. Also, even though we may identify the consequent environmental problems created, to quantify these problems is impossible because of the large amount of illegal or clandestine operators that work with absolute freedom.

In several occasions we contacted the General Directorate of Tourism (DGT), but they did not show much interest in making part of the project. This institution is only represented in Praia, the capital of the country, and in Sal Island. The lack of involvement of the DGT in the project can be attributed to the lack of a local representative of this institution in Boa Vista that would be aware of the current situation of tourism development on the island and the urgent need of implementing effective measures to regulate tourist activities. On the contrary, the SDTIBM, whose headquarter is in Boa Vista, joined the initiative as soon as we get into contact with them.

The Manual of Best Practices for the sustainability of tourist activities resulted from the close collaboration among the SDTIBM, the Department of Protected Areas (institution depending on the DGA) and the Municipality. This manual included the delimitation of a track for 4x4 vehicles. The different tourist companies helped with the identification of the most conflictive areas and with the definition of the last plotting. An Inter-sectorial Committee for Sustainable Tourism was created during the meeting to present the final results. This committee, led by the Department of Protected Areas, includes representatives from the SDTIBM, the Municipality, the environmental associations (Varandinha, Turtle Foundation and Bios.cv), the Police, the tour operators and the travel agencies (Boa Vista Ma Bo, Barracuda, Destination Travel Solutions and Quad Zone). A formal proposal is being developed to be submitted to the Parliament for review and approval.

Because of the current situation of the tourism in Boa Vista, it is not possible to create a network of officially recognized hotels and tour operators to promote and consolidate eco-friendly tourist practices on the island.

There were problems with the Department of Protected Areas of Boa Vista that, without legal competence and official support from the DGA and DGT, decided to indiscriminately issue permits to conduct turtle tours and apply a corresponding tax. The DGA is currently conducting an audit because of the complaints presented by Naturalia (an local ecotourism company) and the information corroborated by Bios.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The delimitation of a track for 4x4 vehicles had not been initially contemplated by the project. During the several meeting carried out with the different agents, the use of 4x4 vehicles was

identified as one of the most detrimental activities to the natural ecosystems of the island. The definition of this track facilitated the involvement of rental cars and ATV tour companies in the project, and was finally recognized as one of the most significant outcomes.

The Bios' refusal to participate in the management of the turtle tour imposed by the Department of Protected Areas of Boa Vista initially hampered an open collaboration between both organizations. Bios just monitored the turtle tours licensed by the Department of Protected Areas within the nesting beaches that the DGA assigned to our organization, without offering any kind of guide service in exchange for money or donations, since we believe that this practice was illegal and was an unfair competence with companies legally constituted. To our surprise the DGA had not any knowledge of the management measures unilaterally implemented by the Department of Protected Areas concerning the turtle tours, and has opened an internal investigation into the matter.

Project Components

Project Components: Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.

Component 1 Planned: **Enhancing Environmental Awareness**

Component 1 Actual at Completion: Finished

5 roll ups, a Biodiversity book (**copyright of the author, not reproduce or publish on internet**), 4 videos, 2 beach clean-ups involving visitors and local people, 69 environmental information and awareness activities within tourist resorts, permanent environmental information at the airport, environmental education programme in the primary school (6 activities, more than 130 children involved) and the secondary school (20 lessons and 2 bird watching activities, more than 700 students involved), awareness activities in social events organized by the Municipality (6 events).

Component 2 Planned: **Promoting ecofriendly tourism practices**

Component 2 Actual at Completion: Finished

Manual of Best Sustainable Tourism Practice (750), Interactive map (www.bios.cv/trilho/), 12 traffic signals, 1000 stickers, trademark for environmentally friendly companies and organizations (no officially recognized), 2 public presentation of the manual, creation of an Inter-sectorial Committee for Sustainable Development (draft in Portuguese), companies and organizations committed to meet the good sustainable practices (document signed by several institution, and still others continue adhering).

Component 3 Planned: **Assessment of outdoor tourist activities and their impact upon biodiversity**

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

Bird, whale and turtle reports.

Draft of a formal proposal to be submitted to the Parliament (still pending of submission).

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

No

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

see annexes

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kn0yfr4blqy5mde/AADEbYE1Z8us2rWDLmD874ZCa?dl=0>

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

When designing the project only measures for ecofriendly tourism were taken into account, being necessary later to extend the concept to sustainable tourism, adding issues affecting the private sector and the communities.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

The Municipality and the SDTIBM have their own Environmental Departments. We normally focus on the national environmental authority, that is the DGA, but these local institutions, also share responsibilities concerning the environmental management on the island, and are open to work on behalf of a sustainable development.

One of the biggest problems in Boa Vista is the practically lack of cooperation between the municipality and the central government, since they belong to different political parties.

Close contact and collaboration with both the Municipality and the SDTIBM finally gave very good results and a significant improvement in the synergy between tourist development and environmental conservation.

In order to give a greater visibility and disseminate the activities that have been carried out during the execution of the project, we are currently restructuring our website, as well as preparing more educational material.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

The companies have overtly shown their willingness to participate and collaborate logistically and financially to conservation. It's something that in Boa Vista it had not been taken into account till the rapprochement between the two sectors, environmental and tourism, through the joint work of the Committee.

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Crowd Funding	A	US \$ 7000	Biodiversity book
RIU Hotels & Resorts	A	US \$ 12000	Public awareness activities
Cabeólica	A	US \$ 9000	Bird monitoring/conservation
US Fish and Wildlife Service	A	US \$ 18000	Marine Turtle Field Station

**Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:*

A) Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF 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 project.)

C) Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

Institutions and companies directly involved in the tourist industry and the environmental protection of the island, that till then were working independently, joined to create this Committee. Actions are now unified to increase their scope and impact. A final document summarising all the proposals aiming at monitoring and managing the tourist activities to guarantee the sustainability of both the industry and the environment is in preparation to be submitted to the Parliament as soon as possible (the delimitation of 4X4 tracks is one of these proposals).

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.

The Department of Protected Areas of Sal has shown its interest in the measures being undertaken in Boa Vista and is prone to constitute a similar Committee on this island. If this initiative moves forward, it would be possible to think of a partnership between both committees, Boa Vista and Sal, in order to have more strength at a national level. Boa Vista and Sal account for the chief tourist destinations in Cape Verde.

The General Directorate of Tourism has an office on Sal. It is very likely that if a committee is created in Sal, this could call the attention of the DGT, being able to be the final push for this institution to support the proposal for a sustainable tourism to be submitted to the Parliament.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

annex

Additional

Comments/Recommendations

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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Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
 Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. (Attach annexes if necessary)																																																
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	yes	39.928	39.928	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Áreas Protegidas Boa Vista</th> <th>Área Terrestre</th> <th>Área Marinha</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1. Monumento Natural Monte Estância</td><td>739 ha</td><td>---</td></tr> <tr><td>2. Paisagem Protegida Curral Velho</td><td>1.635 ha</td><td>---</td></tr> <tr><td>3. Parque Natural do Norte</td><td>8.910 ha</td><td>13.137 ha</td></tr> <tr><td>4. Reserva Natural Integral Ilhéu de Baluarte</td><td>7,65 ha</td><td>87 ha</td></tr> <tr><td>5. Reserva Natural Integral Ilhéu de Curral Velho</td><td>0,77 ha</td><td>41 ha</td></tr> <tr><td>6. Reserva Natural Integral Ilhéu dos Pássaros</td><td>0,82 ha</td><td>38 ha</td></tr> <tr><td>7. Reserva Natural Tartaruga</td><td>1.439 ha</td><td>13.436 ha</td></tr> <tr><td>Complexo de Áreas Protegidas do Leste da Boa Vista</td><td>13.179 ha</td><td>26.749 ha</td></tr> <tr><td>8. Monumento Natural do Ilhéu de Sal Rei</td><td>89 ha</td><td>---</td></tr> <tr><td>9. Monumento Natural Monte Santo António</td><td>459 ha</td><td>---</td></tr> <tr><td>10. Monumento Natural Rocha Estância</td><td>253 ha</td><td>---</td></tr> <tr><td>11. Paisagem Protegida Monte Caçador e Pico Forcado</td><td>3.357 ha</td><td>---</td></tr> <tr><td>12. Reserva Natural de Boa Esperança</td><td>3.631 ha</td><td>379 ha</td></tr> <tr><td>13. Reserva Natural de Ponta do Sol</td><td>465 ha</td><td>283 ha</td></tr> <tr><td>14. Reserva Natural do Morro de Areia</td><td>2.131 ha</td><td>436 ha</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Áreas Protegidas Boa Vista	Área Terrestre	Área Marinha	1. Monumento Natural Monte Estância	739 ha	---	2. Paisagem Protegida Curral Velho	1.635 ha	---	3. Parque Natural do Norte	8.910 ha	13.137 ha	4. Reserva Natural Integral Ilhéu de Baluarte	7,65 ha	87 ha	5. Reserva Natural Integral Ilhéu de Curral Velho	0,77 ha	41 ha	6. Reserva Natural Integral Ilhéu dos Pássaros	0,82 ha	38 ha	7. Reserva Natural Tartaruga	1.439 ha	13.436 ha	Complexo de Áreas Protegidas do Leste da Boa Vista	13.179 ha	26.749 ha	8. Monumento Natural do Ilhéu de Sal Rei	89 ha	---	9. Monumento Natural Monte Santo António	459 ha	---	10. Monumento Natural Rocha Estância	253 ha	---	11. Paisagem Protegida Monte Caçador e Pico Forcado	3.357 ha	---	12. Reserva Natural de Boa Esperança	3.631 ha	379 ha	13. Reserva Natural de Ponta do Sol	465 ha	283 ha	14. Reserva Natural do Morro de Areia	2.131 ha	436 ha
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2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	no	0	0	Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	yes	63.000	63.000	
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	yes	37936	37936	
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	no			

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics								Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit																			
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Increased Income due to:				Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other							
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services																
Total																												

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit: