

## CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

<b>Organization's Legal Name:</b>	Associação Projetos Biodiversidade
<b>Project Title:</b>	Estabelecendo a Gestão Cooperativa da Área Marinha Protegida para Conservar a Área Chave para a Biodiversidade da Ilha do Sal, Cabo Verde CEPF-108493
<b>Grant Number:</b>	
<b>Hotspot:</b>	Mediterranean Basin II
<b>Strategic Direction:</b>	1 Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the conservation of biodiversity in coastal areas
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$190,961.00
<b>Project Dates:</b>	May 01, 2019 - November 30, 2023
<b>Date of Report:</b>	January 23, 2024

### IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

Delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Sal (D-MAA, from Portuguese "Delegação do Ministerio de Agricultura e Ambiente do Sal"):

The only implementation partner for this project was the park authority, represented by the island's Delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment. Their involvement in the project was positive, despite continuous mishaps that affected the capacity to implement the activities. After the lack of response from the central authority, the new local delegation, which was only set at the beginning of 2020, took full responsibility and ownership of the initiatives. When possible, the staff participated in all training and field activities, including biodiversity surveys, deployment of signs, PA patrols. The Delegate, the maximum representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment on the island, led workshops and meetings with the stakeholders. They played their role as the only authority for the PAs and always presented Associação Projeto Biodiversidade (APB) as their main implementing partners. New activities were always discussed and agreed upon and its implementation was in direct coordination.

### CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Improved Management of the Protected Area of Costa Fragata (346ha terrestrial + 2,347ha maritime).	All the activities implemented improved the overall management of the Protected Area. On land, signs were placed in the entries and visitation spots of the PA and 7 km of official paths were delimited. The

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	<p>perimeter of the PA was also delimited with the placement of small green posts, which help users and managers identify where is its limit. The team implemented a monitoring plan, targeting birds, plants and reptiles regularly. Nesting sea turtles monitoring and protection was enhanced with the use of drones. PA staff, when present, was trained and participated in the main activities. The project supported the PA patrols for almost 2 years, until the guards were withdrawn. On the sea, fishers from the communities of Santa Maria and Pedra de Lume were engaged in the conservation of the marine resources. A participative monitoring of marine megafauna started and fishers also engaged in the protection of nesting sea turtles.</p>
<p>A revised Management Plan and Monitoring Plan are in place for the Protected Area, a participatory/co-management system is in place, and at least 5 capacities of the staff of the protected area increased.</p>	<p>A monitoring plan was put into practice, with plant surveys conducted twice per year (before and after the rainy season), and bird and reptiles surveys once per year. Infraction monitoring was conducted once per week while no Protected Areas guards were present. No official revision of the Management Plan was developed. In different conversations and meetings with the National Directorate of the Environment, they made clear that this was not their priority and that in any case this should be done by the Government.</p> <p>A participative system was created at the beginning of the project, with workshops with the different stakeholders during the inception and follow-up of the project.</p> <p>MPA staff received training on monitoring sea turtles, terrestrial reptiles, birds and flora. On top of that, the guards participated in all the surveys as well as in the sea turtle patrols. MPA staff also received training on diplomacy and conflict resolution and about environmental legislation.</p>
<p>Reduction of the illegal fishing of protected species within the MPA.</p>	<p>During the first years of the project Guardians of the Sea reported few infractions within the Protected Area, mainly related to fishing practices using scuba tanks. However, in 2021 the Government regulated the collection of "buzios" (a species of conch shell very commercial), allowing the use of scuba tanks. At the same time, they also regularized the use of spearguns for commercial fishing purposes. Although this practice was still forbidden within the Protected Area, a few more infractions were reported. We could assume that illegal fishing activities inside the PA were never occurring in big numbers, or that fishers considered the use of tanks and spearguns as a legal activity. Either way, the</p>

<b>Impact Description</b>	<b>Impact Summary</b>
	illegal fishing of protected species within the Protected Area was never reported.
Increased technical capacities and increased financial and administration capacities of APB.	APB staff received training on biodiversity monitoring and is now capable of conducting surveys for plants, reptiles and birds. The team also received basic training on GIS software and regularly used the Google Earth platform to display the results of the surveys. The management staff received training on financial management and participated in training to use the financial management software Primavera. After that, the NGO started using this software for finances. An external financial audit was conducted and a list of recommendations was given, some of which were implemented, improving the management procedures of the organization.

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

<b>Impact Description</b>	<b>Impact Summary</b>
Improvement of visitors experience in a better preserved MPA, and reduction of negative impact of tourism through better information and guiding ; At least two tour-operators engaged to adopt better, biodiversity-friendly practices.	A total of 10 signs were placed in the entrance and most visited spots of the Protected Area. From those, 4 signs indicate the entrance and exit to the PA and 6 are information boards. In addition, two areas were delimited to reduce the pressure of visitors and 2 signs were also placed there. 7 km of official paths were visually delimited using rocks, which helped most of the visitors to use the right accesses to the PA and reduced their impact. Some areas have shown signs of quick dune regeneration thanks to the reduction of traffic and the planting of native plants. In addition, up to 26 excursion providers and tour-operators have signed Code of Conduct for visitors and tour-guides for the Protected Area and Voluntary Agreement.
Increased skills in plant conservation methodology for APB (5-6) and MPA (2-4) staff	10 staff of APB and 3 MPA staff participated either in the training or later conducted plant surveys with the lead technicians.
Baseline data for the distribution of key plant species and a regular survey scheme defined	The baseline of flora diversity and distribution was set in 2020 with three surveys. Since then, two surveys per year (before and after the rainy season) were conducted. From 2023 onwards, one survey will be scheduled during the months of October to December (after rain).
At least 5 fishermen join the Guardians of the Sea stewardship programme and get benefits from their participation.	6 boats and 11 fishermen joined the Guardians of the Sea program In total, 54 fishermen have joined the program thanks to other projects.
10% reduction of the number of loggerhead nests lost by anthropogenic threats related to	From 2019 until 2023, Costa Fragata nesting population represented an average of 23% of Sal's

Impact Description	Impact Summary
the degradation of the dunes, and 30% of Sal's loggerhead nesting population protected.	loggerhead turtles. In 2023, and for the first time, 0 turtles were reported poached in Costa Fragata, a big decrease from the 16 reported in 2020. The drone patrols helped decrease poaching attempts in Costa Fragata and nearby beaches.
Increased population of the native Tamarix senegalensis in the protected area by at least 200 individuals.	Since the start of the reintroduction of individuals of Tamarix senegalensis from our plant nursery, a total of 203 individuals were planted and are still alive. This brings the total population to approximately 273, as only 73 plants were counted in the first surveys. Although this species is not listed as threatened by the IUCN, it is listed as endangered by the national red list of threatened species, and is key for the dune habitat of Costa Fragata.
A minimum of 500 kids and youth with increased awareness regarding native and endemic plants.	During 2022, endemic plants were one of the main topics covered by our annual education and awareness program. Reaching over 3,143 kids from all the public schools of Sal. Additionally, in 2023 a group of 13 youth visited the plant nursery and the field to learn more about endemic plants.

### Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

One of the best-unexpected impacts of the project was the engagement of the fishers and fishing association after the success of the Guardians of the Sea program, which went beyond this project's objectives. Many fishers supported different activities of the organization almost completely voluntarily. Fishing associations asked APB to conduct underwater cleanings to celebrate their local festivities. Two groups from Santa Maria and Palmeira offered their time to conduct night patrols on some nearby nesting beaches. They were always willing to take our team in the different marine surveys, and sometimes even complained when we were not calling them to do so. This is an impact that is difficult to quantify, but that does make a difference in our efforts to conserve and protect marine biodiversity.

In 2022, after the clear success of this project and the implementation of the first initiatives of ecosystem restoration, we started lobbying with one of the largest resort groups in the country (RIU Hotels and Resorts) to secure funds for another Protected Area management project (Ponta Sinó). The same year, and after the visit of a Landscape Architect (an activity supported by this project), the company agreed to fund our management proposal. However, we asked them to arrive at an agreement directly with the Ministry of Environment, to ensure that the project would be implemented with the full participation of the national authorities. Finally, on the 21st of April an agreement was signed between the RIU Hotels and Resorts and the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture for the joint implementation of a management project for this Conservation Unit, with the mobilisation of over 400.000€. Projeto Biodiversidade is the implementation partner for the side of the private company. This is the first time in Cabo Verde that a Protected Area is funded through a Public-Private-Initiative, and based on the evidence and work done by a conservation group.

In June we organised the first carbon footprint compensation activity for a large group of Toshiba company workers. During the activity, we performed a beach clean-up of the beach and we planted some of the Tamarix senegalensis grown on our new plant nursery. This activity aimed at compensating the carbon footprint of Toshiba's group trip, and we fundraiser over 4.000€ that will support part of the NGO staff costs.

During 2023, we established contact with two projects from two universities from the Canary Islands, one led by the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and another by University of La Laguna. The projects are about the regeneration of sand dune ecosystem and the specific plant diversity that helps the recovery, and the promotion of tourism in special geomorphologic areas of the Macaronesia. Currently, we are preparing an exchange visit with the universities to set a strong collaboration between us, to support APB on the recovery and protection of Costa Fragata and Serra Negra Protected Areas (and KBAs). APB team will be visiting the universities and the Protected Area of Dunas de Maspalomas ([www.masdunas.es](http://www.masdunas.es)) at the end of January, 2024.

## PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

### Overall results of the project:

Costa Fragata KBA and Nature Reserve with improved management and knowledge. One of the main results was the improvement of the management of the Protected Area and KBA of Costa de Fragata. This was achieved through the implementation of its Management Plan, the constant monitoring of its biodiversity and the infractions, and the inclusion of the private sector during the project. More in detail, the project activities resulted in:

- Seven kilometres of official tracks were visually delimited, reducing the number of vehicles driving off the tracks. In addition, four direction signs in the main crossings and entrances.
- Entrance signs were placed at the four official entry points to the PA, together with information signs (with maps and regulations) and interpretative signs in the main stop spots. In addition, secondary information signs were placed at the main tourist stop to protect the dunes. This was the first PA on the island with official signs.
- The full terrestrial perimeter of the PA was visually delimited with small concrete poles placed every 50 meters. This is also the first PA with a visual delimitation on the island.
- New monitoring protocols for plants, birds, terrestrial reptiles, and nesting sea turtles were developed, together with survey forms and identification guides.
- Plant diversity within the PA is well-known now, with the detailed distribution of all plant species (38), including six endemic plants. Over 34 bird species were also identified within and/or around the PA, including three endemic subspecies. Finally, two endemic species of terrestrial reptiles were also found living and reproducing in the PA.
- The private sector participated in different workshops and meetings throughout the project. This ensured a good level of acceptance of and compliance with its implementation. As a result, over 17 tour operators, agencies and tour companies signed a Code of Conduct for the implementation of different activities within the PA. This code of conduct was adopted by the D-MAA, which in 2023 made its endorsement mandatory to apply for a turtle-watching excursion permit. During this process at least 9 more companies signed the code of conduct, making the total a minimum of 27 different companies.
- All these results contributed to improving the visitors experience of the PA, with many excursions using the interpretation panels daily, and the request for more signs by some private users.

Fishing communities of Sal engaged and empowered in the protection of marine wildlife, with improved livelihoods.

The implementation of the Guardians of the Sea program in Sal was one of the biggest successes of the project. This success, and its initial visibility, were most probably directly responsible for the start of a cascade chain of new funds and projects in Sal and in other islands of Cabo Verde, with the program being active now in at least six different islands.

Fishers are now taking an active role in conservation initiatives of marine resources in several islands.

- The project directly engaged six boats and 11 fishers, the first Guardians of the Sea of Sal. However, the program was quickly scaled up to more than 25 boats and over 50 fishers joined the program at the end of the project thanks to new funds.
- A group of Guardians of the Sea and other fishers have been patrolling a nesting beach next to the city of Santa Maria since 2021, with poaching events decreasing for the first time to 0 in the 2023 nesting season.
- The program also improved the knowledge of the presence of marine megafauna within and around the PA, including 178 sightings of 10 different species of seabirds (4), elasmobranchs (3), sea turtles (1) and cetaceans (2).
- Thanks to an improved strategy of incentives, we managed to identify key needs for the three fishing communities of Sal Island, through a capacity-building plan with their fishers associations. The livelihood of those communities was improved by implementing a system of microgrants, in which the fishers associations had to develop and implement mini-projects with our supervision and the funds of the project were allocated to incentives to the fishers. The livelihood of the 12 fishers participating in the program was also improved through a constant program of capacity building and the delivery of safety and fishing equipment.

Key biodiversity is better protected on land and in the sea.

As an indirect result of the improved management of the Protected Area and of the implementation of the Guardians of the Sea program, many key species were protected. In addition, the use of drones for anti-poaching and for biodiversity monitoring started to be implemented by the project with success and is now well-established in the different programs of APB.

- Fishers from the different communities reported that since the Guardians of the Sea program started, they started to free alive sea turtles, seabirds and even sharks caught accidentally in their lines (by-catch). This not only applies to the Guardians of the Sea itself but also to the rest of the community.
- Poaching of nesting loggerheads in Costa Fragata PA decreased with the use of thermal-vision drones for night patrols, reaching 0 turtles recorded killed within the PA for the first time in the 2023 nesting season. The relative percentage of relocated nests due to light pollution also decreased since the start of the projects an average of 8.1%, from 34.4% of all nests relocated in 2019, probably thanks to a healthier dune ecosystem.

First initiatives of dune ecosystem restoration implemented.

The project also resulted in the first trials of dune restoration in the island, using native and or endemic plants, that were grown in a small plant nursery, and with soft fencing and signalling of the areas. After the success of this first experience, the initiative was scaled up with the creation of a larger plant nursery.

- A nursery for endemic and native plants was created with over 1050 m<sup>2</sup> of surface. Up to 5 different species are being produced there, mainly the *Tamarix senegalensis* and the endemic *Phoenix atlantica* and *Acacia caboverdiana*.
- Approximately 500m<sup>2</sup> of degraded dunes within the PA under restoration, using *Tamarix senegalensis* from the plant nursery to fix the sand. This species has also increased its wild population from over 70 specimens at the beginning of the project to 273 today. It is important to note that, although not endemic or listed as threatened by the IUCN, the tamarisk is a protected species in Cabo Verde listed as Vulnerable, and was historically depleted from the PA for firewood.

Improved organizational and technical capacity of APB.

Finally, APB has grown at organizational and at technical level since the start of the project. In fact, the project has lasted for over half of the lifetime of the organization and left a strong impact on our ideology and strategic objectives (represented in our new Strategic Plan for 2024-2028). Some of the highlights are:

- The project increased our plant capacity to conduct biodiversity monitoring surveys for plants, reptiles and birds. Two technicians from APB are prepared to conduct those surveys, and several others have experience supporting them. Since the start of the project, plant surveys have been conducted in another PA and KBA (Serra Negra) and in a development site to prevent impact on the protected species.
- Thanks to a project extension, we were able to introduce drone monitoring as part of the project. That was an inflexion point for the protection and monitoring of wildlife in Sal. Four staff members are well-trained to use drones on either night beach patrols or biodiversity monitoring.
- The organization has also improved its financial management, with better procedures and introducing the use of financial software.



**Results for each deliverable:**

<b>Component</b>		<b>Deliverable</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Results for Deliverable</b>
3.0	Support authorities in the enforcement on MPA's regulations on coastal areas.	3.3	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) filled up with Park authority at beginning and end of project.	METT filled up and submitted in 2019 and 2024.
6.0	Strengthen technical and institutional capacity development of APB	6.2	Report, poster or oral presentation given by APB staff to one regional MED event.	Poster and oral presentation in the 3rd Mediterranean Plan Conservation Week. Poster and two oral presentations in the 1st African Protected Areas Congress.
6.0	Strengthen technical and institutional capacity development of APB	6.3	Organizational audit.	
6.0	Strengthen technical and institutional capacity development of APB	6.4	Report on the implementation of the Process Framework, provided every six months to CEPF.	
6.0	Strengthen technical and institutional capacity development of APB	6.5	Final completion report and impact report provided at the end of the project.	Final completion report being finalised for submission.
1.0	Support the Protected Areas department in the implementation of the MPA Management Plan and create a monitoring strategy for key species within the MPA and its surroundings.	1.1	Monitoring Plan	Regular surveys for plants, sea turtles, terrestrial reptiles and birds were conducted throughout the project. Databases are being kept and updated with the new surveys, which are planned now to be conducted once per year.



Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	Support the Protected Areas department in the implementation of the MPA Management Plan and create a monitoring strategy for key species within the MPA and its surroundings.	1.2	Conservation Status Reports of the MPA.	
1.0	Support the Protected Areas department in the implementation of the MPA Management Plan and create a monitoring strategy for key species within the MPA and its surroundings.	1.3	Placement of 10 signs and 2 informative boards as demonstrated by pictures of the signs and boards posted.	12 signs, including 3 entry/exit signs, 4 regulation boards, 2 interpretative boards and 2 dunes conservation signs placed in the Protected Area. In addition, 4 direction signs were also placed.
2.0	Development of participatory decision-making programme for sustainable practices in activities that main stakeholder, from the private sector, conduct within the MPA area.	2.1	Protocols & codes of conduct adopted by, at least, 2 main tour operators and 10 excursion providers.	25 tour-operators and excursion providers signed the Code of Conduct.
3.0	Support authorities in the enforcement on MPA's regulations on coastal areas.	3.1	Records on authority's response	Authorities responded to most of our calls, mostly against turtle poaching attempts and illegal sand mining. On two occasions a poacher was taken to the tribunal.
3.0	Support authorities in the enforcement on MPA's	3.2	Monthly internal reports on reported infractions.	Internal reports on infractions were elaborated and sent to the authorities.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	regulations on coastal areas.			
4.0	Implementation of a participatory surveillance and monitoring program on the sea (Guardians of the Sea).	4.1	List of fishermen who join the GoS program with signed agreements; Report of the GoS programme progress after year 1 and 2.	6 boats and 11 fishers joined the Guardians of the Sea program supported by the CEPF. Following the success, we were able to get new project and to increase the number of GoS to 54.
4.0	Implementation of a participatory surveillance and monitoring program on the sea (Guardians of the Sea).	4.2	Monthly reports on illegal activities and monitoring of marine megafauna.	Data regarding sightings of marine megafauna and illegal activities was collected every week. A database of marine monitoring was created and is still being fed by the active GoS. Results have been presented to the participants every year.
5.0	Implementation of capacity building and outreach programme for MPA rangers and stakeholders.	5.1	Participant lists of MPA staff to training sessions, and evaluation of the training.	All planned capacity-building initiatives were conducted and participation lists have been uploaded.
5.0	Implementation of capacity building and outreach programme for MPA rangers and stakeholders.	5.2	Participant lists of fishermen to the workshops and pictures of the workshops; safety protocols on board agreed by fishermen.	
6.0	Strengthen technical and institutional capacity development of APB	6.1	Internal protocols for APB's management, administration and technical procedures; CSTT/GTT forms filled up and submitted to CEPF at initial and final stages of project.	Financial and administration procedures improved during the project, including the Operational Manual. CSTT and GTT filled up and submitted at the start and end of project.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	Support the Protected Areas department in the implementation of the MPA Management Plan and create a monitoring strategy for key species within the MPA and its surroundings.	1.4	AMEND SEPT22 Official proposal for the delimitation of the southern perimeter of the protected area is designed and approved by the Municipality.	Never developed. Despite the initial engagement of some members of the City Hall (councilmen), there was a clear lack of engagement from the technicians who were appointed to develop the plan with us. Some initial meetings were conducted, but their lack of time, interest and capacity (we had to explain and help them with their basic software), stopped us from achieving this goal. In addition, we found out that the same City Hall has presented an official demand to the government to declassify part of the southern area of the PA. Once this last mishap is solved, we will pursue again this goal.
1.0	Support the Protected Areas department in the implementation of the MPA Management Plan and create a monitoring strategy for key species within the MPA and its surroundings.	1.5	AMEN SEPT 22 / Native and endemic plants used to recover coastal sand dunes ecosystems, as demonstrated by photo report	Mainly the native <i>Tamarix senegalensis</i> and <i>Sesuvium portulacastrum</i> were used to recover over 500m <sup>2</sup> of coastal dune ecosystems.

**Tools, products or methodologies that resulted from the project or contributed to the results:**

Many products were created during the first years of the project to support the fieldwork and the management of the Protected Area. The most relevant products that resulted from and contributed to the project are:

- Protocols to conduct biodiversity monitoring surveys for plants, reptiles and nesting sea turtles.
- Identification field guides for the birds and plants of the Protected Area of Costa Fragata, and data collection sheets.
- Biodiversity databases for birds, reptiles and plant species of the Protected Area. During the project, and after the field surveys, we produced distribution shapefiles for visual analysis.

- Protected Areas signs, including entrance/exit signs, information and regulation signs, interpretative signs, small secondary information signs and direction signs. The signs were designed by APB staff and produced locally. This means that it can be easily adapted to other Protected Areas, maintaining the visual identity of all Protected Areas of Sal Island. Signs were later adapted and deployed to another Protected Area.
- Protected Area information leaflet and poster in Portuguese and English.
- Updated Code of Conduct for visitors and tour guides for the Protected Area and Voluntary Agreement that was signed by over 26 different companies. The Code of Conduct is still used by the Park Authority.
- Poster and abstract presented during the 3rd Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week and the 1st African Protected Areas Congress. The poster presented how we used a participative management of a Protected Area approach to conserve plant diversity.
- Report from the field visit of a Landscape Architect, including the Protected Areas of Costa Fragata and Ponta Sinó. The report was later used to lobby for funding a similar project for the Protected Area of Ponta Sinó, signed in 2023.

On the other side, the project created the basis for the successful Guardians of the Sea program, which expanded after starting it with this project. That included all the fieldwork and training material later used for other projects and adapted to other islands for other NGOs. Some of the products are:

- Contract/agreement for fishers to join the Guardians of the Sea program.
- Marine megafauna training presentation and identification guides.
- Monitoring kit manuals (radio and GPS).
- Sightings reporting forms and infractions forms.

Finally, the project supported the development of the organization. A part of several capacity-building workshops, where the trainers left some training material, the project also resulted in:

- Organizational Diagnosis performed by an external company, which produced several reports to guide the development of the organization. Three products were created: the Diagnosis Report, a list of Weaknesses and possible Solutions and a list of Strengths and possible drivers to enhance them.

## PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
1.0	Number of initiatives with private sector resulting in adoption or maintenance of	1	Partnership with RIU, planting of trees etc.	4	1 - A partnership with the Riu Hotel allowed the set up of the first plant nursery for <i>Tamarix senegalensis</i> , from which the first specimens of

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	biodiversity-friendly practices				<p>the species were translated to the PA to restore ecosystems. And We lobbied the RIU Hotels chain to support the management of another Protected Area, with similar habitats as Costa Fragata. This resulted in the signing of an agreement between the company and the environmental central authority for funds up to 400.000€. APB will coordinate the project.</p> <p>2 - Together with Mitu &amp; Djo Kite School, which is located within the PA, we protected 2 adjacent areas to their school where dunes had disappeared due to their activity. The areas are now successfully recovering, which motivated the implementation of other dune recovery initiatives.</p> <p>3 - After the success of the first plant nursery, we partnered with APP Ambiente, the company in charge of managing the Waste Water Treatment Plant of Santa Maria, adjacent to the PA limits, to set a larger plant nursery,</p>

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					where we are now producing up to 5 different endemic and native species. 4 - We managed to secure funding from TUI, the largest tour-operator of the country, to carry on works to improve the access roads to the PA and, as a consequence, reduce the use of alternative paths. The funds amount to 19,000€.
2.0	Number of KBAs under improved management and number of hectares covered			67	
1.2	Number of coastal KBAs under improved management and number of hectares covered			67	
1.4	Number of globally threatened species benefitting from reduced pressure from unsustainable practices (hunting, fishing, over-harvesting)			3	From the original list, we could only report reduced pressure from <i>Caretta caretta</i> . The plant species <i>Whitania chevalieri</i> was never found in the Protected Area (it is located in the nearby PA of Serra Negra, which did not benefit from this project). The other two listed species, the

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					Hawksbill turtle ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> ) and the hammerhead shark ( <i>Sphyrna mokarran</i> ) we don't have evidence that were benefitted from the project, although the species were targeted by the training to the fishers. On the other side, two other plant species not listed originally were located and benefited from the project: <i>Pulicaria diffusa</i> (EN) and <i>Limonium brunneri</i> (CR)
4.3	Number of management plans of protected areas incorporating specific actions for plant conservation			1	Although it was not a result of this project, the existing Management Plan specified the presence of plant species. A zonation of the PA where no activities are allowed is specific for the the presence of disperse plants.
4.4	Number of protected area managers demonstrating improved skills and knowledge on plant conservation			3	The Ecological Monitoring Technicians, and focal point for the Protected Areas, and 2 Protected Areas guards, participated in the training and the surveys.
4.7	Number of young professionals with substantial			7	At least 7 young professionals (6 APB staff and 1 PA staff) with enough experience to conduct plant



Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	experience in plant conservation gained				monitoring surveys, plant nursery management and reintroduction.
1.5	Number of threatened species from coastal KBAs seeing status improved (i.e., short-term increase in population and/or breeding success)			5	The following species are listed as threatened either by the IUCN or in the National Red List of Threatened Species (reviewed in 2023). They all have seen their conservation status improved in the KBA with the reduction of poaching and/or destruction of their habitat. Caretta caretta (EN - IUCN) Pulicaria difussa (EN - IUCN) Limonium bruneri (CR - CV red list) Lotus brunneri (DD - IUCN) Tamarix senegalensis (VU - CV red list)

## GLOBAL INDICATORS

### Protected Areas

Protected areas that have been created and/or expanded as a result of the project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID*	Latitude	Longitude	Country	Original Total Size (Hectares) **	New Protected Hectares ***	Year of Legal Declaration or Expansion
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\*World Database of Protected Areas

\*\*If this is a new protected area, 0 should appear in this column

\*\*\* This column excludes the original total size of the protected area.

## Key Biodiversity Area Management

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) under improved management—where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation—as a result of the project.

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management
Costa de Fragata	CPV05		67

## Production Landscapes

Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity as a result of the project.

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention
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## Benefits to Individuals

- **Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
89	23	Plant conservation and monitoring; Introduction to Guardians of the Sea program; Terrestrial reptiles conservation and monitoring; Financial Management; Bird conservation and monitoring; Training on Environmental Legislation; Training in diplomacy and conflict management; Introduction to GIS software; Training of fisheries legislation; First Aid Response training; Training on marine monitoring for fishers: marine megafauna identification and reporting, and use of GPS and marine radio; Training on hygiene and food manipulation of fisheries; Training of Organization Management; Training to Minimizing the Safety Risks on Fisheries; Training on the use of Drones for monitoring.

- **Cash Benefits:**

<b>Number of Men – Cash Benefits</b>	<b>Number of Women – Cash Benefits</b>	<b>Description of Benefits</b>
		No cash benefits were generated from this project.

## Benefits to Communities

View the <b>characteristics</b> column below with the following corresponding codes:	View the <b>benefits</b> column below with the following corresponding codes:
1- Small Landowners	a. Increased Access to Clean Water
2- Subsistence Economy	b. Increased Food Security
3- Indigenous/ Ethnic Peoples	c. Increased Access to Energy
4- Pastoralists / Nomadic Peoples	d. Increased Access to Public Services
5- Recent Migrants	e. Increased Resilience to Climate Change
6- Urban Communities	f. Improved Land Tenure
7- Other	g. Improved Use of Traditional Knowledge
	h. Improved Decision-Making
	i. Improved Access to Ecosystem Services

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i				
Fishing communities of Sal Island: Pedra de Lume, Palmeira and Santa Maria	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cape Verde	284	69
Tour guides of the Island of Sal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Cape Verde	68	17

### Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

- Tour guides of the Island of Sal: Local Tour guides visiting the Protected Area and benefiting from the implemented activities.

## Policies, Laws and Regulations

View the **topics** column below with the following corresponding codes:

A- Agriculture	E- Energy	I- Planning/Zoning	M- Tourism
B- Climate	F- Fisheries	J- Pollution	N- Transportation
C- Ecosystem Management	G- Forestry	K- Protected Areas	O- Wildlife Trade
D- Education	H- Mining and Quarrying	L- Species Protection	P- Other

No.	Name of Law	Scope	Topics															
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P

**“Other” Topics Addressed by the Policy, Law or Regulation:**

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
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**Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices**

A company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
TUI Amusement Cabo Verde	Co management of PA, endemic tree nursery, and Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). We also managed to secure funding from TUI, the largest tour-operator of the country, to carry on works to improve	Cape Verde

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
	the access roads to the PA and, as a consequence, reduce the use of alternative paths: 19,000€.	
Sodade Tour	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde
Zy Tours	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde
Annes Info Point	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde
Vista Verde Tours	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes	Cape Verde



Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
	guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	
Marcio Santos Serviços Turísticos	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde
Elvis Tours	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde
Buracona Tours	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde
Bonus Tour	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed	Cape Verde

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
	voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	
Vady Horse	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde
Explore Cabo Verde	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde
Yoga Cabo Verde	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde
Surf Zone	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de	Cape Verde

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
	Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	
Sea Life Experience	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde
Carlos Cruz Tours	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde
Surf Mitu & Djo Kite School	Dune protection and Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). Together with Mitu & Djo Kite School, we protected 2 adjacent areas to their school where dunes had disappeared due to their activity. The areas are now successfully recovering, which motivated the implementation of other dune recovery.	Cape Verde
Logan Tours	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa	Cape Verde

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
	Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	
Soares Tour	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde
Caramau Tours	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde
Spot Travel Tours	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
Gla Sousa No Stress	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde
IMAE Dilan Tours	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde
Paradise Adventures	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde
Roberto Tours	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde

<b>Name of Company</b>	<b>Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice</b>	<b>Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted</b>
Discovery Tours	Code of Conduct for Good Practices for touristic activities conducted within the Complex of Protected Areas of the East of Sal (Costa Fragata Nature Reserve, Serra Negra Nature Reserve and Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape). The code of conduct is signed voluntarily by tour operators and excursion providers. Establishes guidelines to minimize the impact of groups of people visiting the Protected Areas and was developed updating the guidelines present on the existing Management Plans.	Cape Verde
APP Ambiente	It is the company in charge of managing the Waste Water Treatment Plant of Santa Maria, adjacent to the PA limits. A larger plant nursery was set in their compounds, where we are now producing up to 5 different endemic and native species.	Cape Verde
RIU	The RIU Hotels chain will support the management of another Protected Area, with similar habitats as Costa Fragata. This resulted in the signing of an agreement between the company and the environmental central authority for funds up to 400.000€. APB will coordinate the project. Also, implementation of the first plant nursery for <i>Tamarix senegalensis</i> , from which the first specimens of the species were translated to the PA to restore ecosystems.	Cape Verde

## Networks and Partnerships

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable.

<b>Name of Network/Partnership</b>	<b>Year Established</b>	<b>Country/Countries</b>	<b>Established by Project?</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Guardians of the Sea	2020	Cape Verde	Yes	The program Guardians of the Sea brings together fishers from different communities.

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
				They participate in marine mega-fauna monitoring efforts and help identify fishing infractions. They support other types of conservation initiatives such as sea turtle conservation and shark monitoring. The program was established in Sal Island in 2020, but in 2022, it became a national network together with other NGOs.

## Sustainable Financing

Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?

## Globally Threatened Species

Globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, benefitting from the project.

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Caretta	caretta	Loggerhead Turtle	VU	Species monitoring, anti-poaching patrols, habitat protection and restoration.	Increasing
Limonium	brunneri		CR	Plant monitoring surveys, habitat protection and restoration	Unknown
Pulicaria	diffusa		EN	Plant monitoring and habitat protection and restoration	Unknown
Phoenix	atlantica		EN	Production in plant nursery for habitat recovery	Decreasing



<b>Genus</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Common Name (English)</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Population Trend at Site</b>
Megaptera	novaeangliae	Humpback Whale	EN	Species monitoring	Unknown
Chelonia	mydas	Green Turtle	EN	Species monitoring	Unknown

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Incentive system for the Guardians of the Sea (GoS) program

At the inception of the project we planned, and budgeted, to give incentives to the fishers participating in the GoS program in the form of weekly fuel. In the original plan, GoS will go out to fish as normal, but will be recording sightings of marine megafauna and fishing infractions within and around the Protected Area. The project will pay 40\$ per week to each fisher as an incentive to participate in the program. And so we started the project bringing fuel to the active GoS every week at the same time that we were collecting their reports.

Soon after starting, and after confirming funds to take onboard more fishers from all communities of Sal, we realized that this was not the right approach. Or at least it was not the most effective. We realized that:

- The biggest incentive to the fishers was the fact of being involved in conservation and receiving constant training.
- The incentives were benefiting only a few fishers, and that could have detrimental consequences for the rest of the community. We wanted to engage with all the community through the GoS program, therefore we needed to have a wider impact.
- More fishers wanted to join the program, or at least participate in the capacity-building actions.

For this reason, we redesigned the system on incentive in a way that would still benefit the GoS, but also the whole community. The first step was ensuring that the GoS, which had already benefited from the fuel incentive, agreed with the new strategy. The new incentive strategy targeted the GoS and the fishing communities of the island as follows:

For the GoS, we purchased equipment extra to improve their working conditions. The project equipped each of them with a cool box and a fuel tank (before they would use plastic bottles for the fuel). Additionally, and with the funds from another project, we included in the safety kit of all the GoS a VHF marine radio.

For the Fishers Community Associations, we first conducted a participative diagnosis with the three communities, including a SWOT analysis and the elaboration of Sal's fishing activity cycle. Based on the results we designed the following strategy:

1. We performed a series of capacity building with the three Fishers Communitarian Associations, including organizational management and project planning and management.
2. We made available funds for three projects, one per community, of up to 5.000€. The associations had the present project proposals, including budgets, to the project coordinator. We offered tutoring during this process, helping them prepare the proposal.
3. After the projects were approved, the funds were made available either directly transferring the total of funds or paying the invoices for the projects.

With this approach, we ensured that the associations gained some valuable experience, and that the use of the funds for the incentives had the needed impact for each community. The initiatives funded were completely different on each community, which shows the importance of this kind of approach instead of a more simplistic, same-for-everybody approach.

Moreover, the work with the whole community has had some unexpected impacts, such as a great engagement of a big part of the fisher in the conservation causes. This has facilitated the implementation of other activities from other projects related to MPA monitoring.

- Engagement of the private sector

The project was designed to follow a participative approach to improve the management of the Protected Areas, and in general, this was a success. However, after the first 2 years of the project, some users returned to conduct their activities unsustainably and/or against the management plan. This coincided with the withdrawal of the Protected Areas guards. In conversation with those companies, mostly quad-bike excursion companies, they acknowledged they knew what they were doing was wrong, but they said they had no other alternative to conduct the excursion while keeping the same profit. This is, in part, due to a lack of awareness, but also due to the lack of alternative perimetral paths allowing to go from the southern section to the northern one.

At the same time, and also after the guards left, other motorized users started to use alternative paths to the official ones, hindering the previous efforts made by the project. When questioned, we could determine that some did not care or saw no importance to the conservation work. Others acknowledged the wrongdoing, but excused themselves because the official paths were in a very bad state and driving there was detrimental for their vehicles.

Those issues showed us that, to conserve the key habitats, it is important to consider initiatives to facilitate the proper use of the Protected Area. The project implemented some initiatives in that direction, such as the delimitation of 7km of official paths. However, it did not consider improving the access paths and, for example, fencing the most critical areas. In part, this was due to lack of experience, but also reduced funds (those interventions have high costs).

On the other side, the project planned initiatives within the Protected Area, but not outside or around it. We learned that to have a bigger impact, we also need to consider the PA's surroundings and its planning and management tools.

Another lesson learned is that to implement this kind of project in an area with high use from the tourist sector, it is necessary to design larger awareness campaigns. Including the main stakeholders in the discussions has proven very useful, however, it does not work for all the users. Perhaps a similar approach to the Guardians of the Sea could be a solution to increase the support from the users that profit from a healthy Protected Area.

## **SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION**

The biggest challenge was the engagement of the Environment central authority and its Delegation in Sal Island, the park authority. Both the central and the local authorities have little resources allocated to the management of the Protected Areas. Their capacity, which is always insufficient, is also very unstable and volatile. This project is a good example: at the inception and start of the project, the park authority was the island Coordinator of the Protected Areas. But after the project started in 2019, this person disappeared from the island and for months there was no one responsible for the Protected Areas. In 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment established its Delegation in Sal Island. The Delegate was then the maximum responsible for the management of the Protected Areas. At that time, the Delegation had a lead technician with good experience in environmental monitoring, which became our focal point for the implementation of all the activities. Later, this person quit and for more than one year we had no focal point. Later in 2023, the same technician was back in the same position, and we could start planning some new activities.

In the meantime, 2 Protected Areas guards started to work, but as the Delegation had no focal point for the Protected Areas, the guards had no coordinator and relied on our project staff.

This instability and lack of personnel is well known by all the stakeholders, who see the Protected Areas as an eternal issue and tend to ignore their authority. In many workshops with the private sector the Delegation (park authority) announced that they would start issuing official complaints and fines for the reiterated infractions, however, this never happened. Some users, that had changed their activity to comply with the Management Plan, complained as they saw their competence not following the rules. In summary, the lack of presence of an active park authority threatens the sustainability of the result of the project, and challenges any conservation activity implemented in Sal Island.

At the same time, this project has shown to the public that Protected Areas exist and are important. Before this project, little or nothing was done to implement the Management Plans of any PA of Sal. The project brought the "issue" of the Protected Areas to a topic of discussion, while before they were nonexistent. This is an important step towards their conservation.

As a result of this increase in visibility of the Protected Area of Costa Fragata, we attracted other funds to replicate, to a certain extent, the activities in other Protected Areas. The Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, through one of their project, gave funds to replicate the project in the Protected Area of Murdeira Bay (Reserva Natural da Baía de Murdeira), another important nesting site for loggerhead turtles. This PA now has its official signs, which follow the same design as the ones in Costa Fragata. At the same time, we lobbied with a major hotel chain (RIU Hotels and Resorts) to fund the management of a third Protected Area, Ponta Sino Nature Reserve, where they have their resorts. This lobby resulted in the agreement between the hotel chain and the Government of Cabo Verde, in which the first will fund 400.000€ the management of the area, including an interpretation centre. At the same time, the Government and the hotel chain have asked us to coordinate the project's implementation and co-management. This is the first time that a co-management agreement for a Protected Area has been established between the Government, the private sector and a conservation NGO.

As mentioned in this report, the Guardians of the Sea program is also an example of the great success of the project. Since the start of it, in 2019, we secured three different projects (and funds) to keep implementing, and scaling, the program. The GoS program is now being implemented in 7 different islands by different NGOs, which are now part of a national network, funded until 2028 through a Blue Action Fund project.

Another success that has been replicated in other PAs of the island was the introduction of a night-vision drone patrol to protect nesting loggerhead turtles. Since August 2020, when the first patrol started in Costa Fragata, poaching decreased on all beaches where the drone patrol was deployed. Two drone teams are organized every summer, one of which patrol the beaches with more incidence of poaching together with the military. Poaching in Sal Island decreased to its lowest record during 2023, with 2.1% mortality compared with 7.6% in 2019. This is even more relevant because in 2023 there were 3.4 times more turtles than in 2019. Since 2020, drones are being used by the organization to monitor marine megafauna in 3 different MPAs and to record and report environmental infractions.

Finally, the success of the project has helped us secure alternative funds for our Terrestrial Conservation Program, which includes several activities to support the management of the

Protected Areas of Sal. For 2024, we secured funds to implement some key activities identified during the last year of the project, such as the improvement of the access roads and the fencing of critical areas to be recovered. During the project we also successfully created our new Island Conservation Volunteering Program, which brings volunteers from abroad to help in the project activities. Although this program is not designed to bring alternative income at this moment, it has the potential to do so in the future.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

Safeguard reports submitted separately.

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

We would suggest that future funding opportunities from the CEPF to Cabo Verde, support national joint initiatives to lobby at the national level. One of the most common challenges of all conservation projects in Cabo Verde is the inability of the Government to manage Protected Areas and to welcome and, therefore, benefit from the conservation efforts being made by NGOs. Funding for local conservation initiatives is, with no doubt, critical to guarantee impacts. However, the lack of consistency from the Government and their lack of capacity to enforce the law, hinders the results achieved by the NGOs. Perhaps CEPF, together with other donors, could somehow facilitate some processes directly with the Government or through existing networks (in our case TAOLA+).

Recommendation regarding CEPF reporting system:

Although we find the platform and, in general, the system, very useful. We believe that the reporting on Deliverables is redundant and sometimes confusing. We suggest that the deliverables, after being reported, auto populate for the following reports.

## ADDITIONAL FUNDING

<b>Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)</b>	\$1,323,812.00
<b>Breakdown of Additional Funding</b>	<p>The organization managed to secure funds for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the management of the Costa de Fragata PA: 376 000 \$ from AECID (the spanish cooperation agency), 20 000 \$ from TUI, 17 812 \$ from APB resources (salaries, cf details below).</li> <li>- the management of another protected area close to Costa de Fragata: 430 000 \$ from RIU hotels.</li> <li>- the NGO work: 480 000\$ of unrestricted funds, from a swiss foundation.</li> </ul> <p>The organization covered the following expenses with its resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Salaries of the project staff during the periods of May-September 2022 and October-November 2023, in which the project was still ongoing but there were no funds from CEPF. Salaries for Technicians: 6,995\$</li> </ul>

	<p>Salary for Coordinator: 2,574\$  Salary for Supervisor: 2,277\$  Salary for Drone Pilot: 478\$</p> <p>- A new technician was employed to set up and maintain the plant nursery during 2023:  Salary Antonio Monteiro: 3,973\$</p> <p>- Finally, the project purchased an electric trike used by the plant nursery technician:  Electric trike: 1,515\$</p>
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**INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY**

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. For more information about this project, you may contact the organization and/or individual listed below.

Associação Projeto Biodiversidade, [info@projectbiodiversity.org](mailto:info@projectbiodiversity.org)