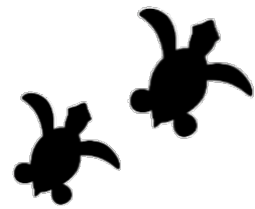


Turtle Times



Newsletter

Volume 5 | Issue N ° 1 | June/July 2019



START OF THE SEASON 2019

Another season has begun and once again Fundação Tartaruga started its work of assembling the camps. Of the five camps that will be assembled over the next few days, we started at the Canto beach, located in the northeast of the island. Shortly before 9 am our team headed towards the organization's warehouse. We collected all the necessary materials and took the road. Next stop: Canto beach. Before we reached our destination there was still a long way to go. We passed through the villages of João Galego and also stopped in Fundo das Figueiras to pick up the coordinator of the camp and a newly integrated rangers, who will collaborate with us for the first time. We then headed north and started an interesting journey on a dirt road until we no longer could see houses of the community.

OUR TEAM

Human resources constitute a valuable asset for any organization, whether public or private, with or without profit. In this topic, meet our office team on page 5.

THE INTERVIEW

The first volunteer of Turtle Foundation/ Fundação Tartaruga, Mathias Koch, gave us an interview, where he talked about his passion for sea turtles and his experience as a volunteer at the Fundação Tartaruga. Read the full interview on page 6.

FACTS AND CURIOSITIES

Sea turtles have existed for millions of years. However, in recent years this specie has been suffering natural and human threats that put into question its long-term survival. Find out in "Facts and Curiosities" on page 7 why it is important to protect and conserve this species threatened with extinction.

As soon as we arrived at the destination, many pairs of hands started to remove all the material from the cars. And, under the leadership of Carlos, our logistic coordinator assistant, the tents and shade was setup which will be the home of our camp staff (scientific and field coordinators, rangers and volunteers) during the whole nesting season until the end of October. The logistics behind the assembly of our tents is impressive and, about two hours later the magic has happened. The tents and shade began to gain its form.



Photo by: AL – Canto camp building

Time has passed quickly and it was getting late. It was time to return to the city of Sal Rei and to continue our administration/ logistic working day. The rangers and coordinators will stay in the camp where they will certainly give their best in the protection of sea turtles. The following



Photo by: AL – Cruz Morto camp set up

day, the ritual repeats itself, but this time our mission took us to a more distant beach: Cruz Morto. Before we arriving in Canto beach, we took a right turn over an improvised dirt road and in few minutes there we were again assembling another camp with the essential support of our rangers, office team and logistic staff. The beach of Cruz Morto is truly beautiful where one can breathe in peace and quiet.

As there are no two without three, two days later it was time to build the camp of Boa Esperança. This time, the trip was shorter. We started our journey from the warehouse, towards the road that leads to the oldest hotel on the island. We then turned right on the cobbled road that leads to the city's cemetery.



From there, it comes a dirt road. About 15 minutes later we reached our destination of Boa Esperança beach. On the far right of the beach is the ship *Cabo de Santa Maria*,



stranded since 1968 and which constitutes nowadays one of the most touristic attractions of the island. Upon arriving in Boa Esperança, we could see some evidence left by our camp staff from the previous nesting season. After gathering our strengths, a few hours later, another camp was ready.

Following the setup of camps in Canto, Cruz Morto, Boa Esperança and Lacacão, we again



Photo by: AL-Assembling the camp in Curral Velho

started our journey to setup our fifth and final camp in Curral Velho. Getting to the other side of the island was an adventure and a challenge. Our trip started from the warehouse in the city of Sal Rei, passing through the town of Rabil, we then continued on the road that leads to Povoação Velha, the oldest village on the island. Before arriving in this historical village, we made a left turn heading

south of the island. As we approached Lacacão, a huge and beautiful white sand beach appeared and in the background the resort of the RIU chain of hotels is visible - almost like another big city. Then, from the RIU Touareg we continued our journey through an improvised road to our Lacacão camp. Here we paused there for a few minutes with our newly Curral Velho rangers, then three of camp rangers of Lacacão joined us to Curral Velho to help us assembling the camp. Getting there was not an easy task, we almost got stuck. When we arrived at our

AN IMAGE SPEAKS MORE THAN A THOUSAND WORDS

On May 30th, while carrying out the census, the rangers of the Curral Velho camp found the first nest trail of this season.



Photo by: José Luís Rodrigues and Almeida Gomes

destination we immediately started to set up the camp. The weather urged us to work faster as we can feel the hot sun is approaching the highest point of its temperature. After completion of our setup, we began to prepare our return to Sal Rei around 15 o'clock. All set, the countdown to the official start of season 2019 on the 1st of June has now started.



Participation in the activity "Beginning of the implementation experience of an agroforestry system in the João Galego Pilot Center "

In commemoration of the day of biodiversity, a set of activities focusing on biodiversity as a basis for healthy eating and improving human health has been organized by the responsible persons for the community development of Projeto Tartaruga Boa Vista. Among these activities is this one, that marked the initiation of the implementation of the agroforestry system and took place on May 24th, 2019 in the Pilot Center in João Galego. The activity was attended by the delegate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Mr. Xisto Batista and also two professionals: Ivone Delgado, responsible for environmental inspection and Marina Pereira, responsible for ecological monitoring. On behalf of Fundação Tartaruga

DID YOU KNOW?

The Projeto Tartaruga Boa Vista is a project funded by the MAVA *Pour la Nature* and implemented by the three non-governmental organizations working in the conservation/protection of turtles, Fundação Tartaruga, Bios CV and Cabo Verde Natura 2000 and Ministry of Agriculture and Environment. Each one is responsible for an area of expertise, community development, environmental education and scientific research. The project began in 2018.



Photo by : Arminda Lima

Henrique Cruz and Arminda Lima participated. The event also included the presence of some local farmers and the group of women responsible for the plant nursery. It was about 9 am when this activity began.

Guilherme Bunek, specialist in agriculture, began talking about biodiversity. Then, he spoke about the evolution of agriculture over time, especially of the "Green Revolution" that occurred from the 1940's on. The "Green Revolution" represents the introduction of machinery as well as agrochemicals in the production of agricultural products.

Guilherme continued talking about the current models of agriculture: natural or organic agriculture. According to him, it is because of this that the agroforestry system arises, which is an agricultural system mixing forest species with agricultural crops.

He said: "This system generates biodiversity because it uses natural fertilizers and there is a recycling of water and nutrients. It has been used in Brazil in the Atlantic Forest, in Amazonia and in Catinga - The latter has characteristics close to the existing here on the island". After the explanation, Guilherme demonstrated the practice of how to plant a banana tree and a lemon tree using the agroforestry system.



OUR TEAM

Office Team

EUCLIDES "UKIE" RESENDE, PROJECT MANAGER



Euclides is known to everyone as Ukie. He is a native of Fogo and has been working at the Fundação Tartaruga since 2010. He has made an upward journey in the hierarchy. He started as a logistics coordinator and now leads the entire team. He never misses the opportunity to make a joke.

LEANIK PEREZ, FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

When it comes to money, Leanik is the right guy. No money leaves the organization without it being analyzed by him. Cape Verdean with Latin ancestry, Leanik loves cats and Eminem songs. He is helpful, sensitive and, has a big heart. He always seems to be in his own world, but if you talk to him for a while, you will be surprised...



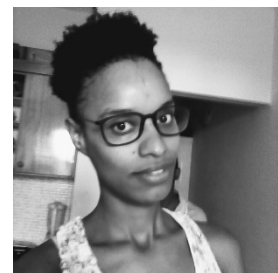
JOÃO HENRIQUE CRUZ, MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATOR



Known to all as Mr. Cruz, Henrique has been working at the FT for two years now. Organized, experienced and dynamic characterize well the personality of this sixty-years-old man with energy of a young man of 20 years. Teacher by profession, is a born conversationalist. Having a good network, there is no administrative problem for which he does not find a solution.

ARMINDA LIMA, PROJECT MANAGER – ADMINISTRATION

Newly integrated into the Fundação Tartaruga team, Arminda is a quiet soul. You'll never see her lose her temper even if the world is ending. Coming from Santo Antão, she is a lover of animals, nature, coffee and alternative rock of the years 80s and 90s. Vegetarian by choice, perfectionist by nature, she works for the first time in the area of the environment.



AIRTON JESUS, FIELD WORK SUPERVISOR



Coming from the city of Porto Novo, Santo Antão, Airton preserves well the traits of the people of that Island: friendly, humble and responsible. Biologist, by profession, he came to Boa Vista for volunteering work to protect sea turtles and found through this work himself. He is not planning on returning home soon.

Photo by: Facebook



THE INTERVIEW

With Mathias Koch

Cheerful, humorous, fun. Three words that define the German of 53 years perfectly. One of the first volunteers from Fundação Tartaruga gave us an interview where he spoke about his experience as a volunteer at our institution.

Turtle times(TT): How did your passion for the protection of turtles emerge?

Mathias Koch (MK): I was always interested in turtles. When I was a kid I had my first experiences with turtles, but only tortoises.

TT: How did you get interested in the Fundação Tartaruga?

MK: I was in Switzerland at this time, I opened the newspaper and I saw an announcement about the volunteer work with Fundação Tartaruga, I got interested. I needed to leave my country for a while, "why not?" I thought. So, I sent my application in and got a positive response. That's how it started. By then, we were just two volunteers from Germany, Astrid and I. Shortly after, volunteers from other nationalities participated; James, Martin and Magda were for example from England.

"The situation with the turtles is, now definitely much better"

TT: How was your first experience here?

MK: When I arrived here in 2009 the greatest difficulty I found was the linguistical question because I did not speak your language (Creole) but I could count on the support of Joana and Ukie.

TT: Have you ever volunteered in other projects before?

MK: No, this was my first experience. I wanted to go abroad but I had no time. (laughs)

TT: When it comes to turtle conservation, do you think things are better now than in the past?



Photo by: Thor Barreto

MK: Yes, for sure. When we started at Canto camp, we found, almost every day, dead turtles... the whole beach smelled of dead turtles. The situation with the turtles is, now definitely much better but I do not like the situation in the island.

TT: Although there is a law that protect turtles and criminalizes their consumption, there is still much of demand for the turtle meat. Do you think it is a matter of awareness, monitoring or legislation?

MK: I think many things are resolved through law... But this is not the right way to stop this. The right way is to sensitize people, more or less, what we do at the Fundação Tartaruga. For example, in Germany we have hunters. Even though there are laws against hunting they keep doing it. We cannot stop this for 100%, but we can make people being aware of it. Especially the kids, because they talk with their parents and "educate" them as well...

TT: So you think it is more a matter of awareness...

MK: Yeah, it is a good way... I was in Fogo and I found the same situation as in Fundo das Figueiras in 2009, people do not care about this poaching of turtles... If you see someone catching a turtle and you tell her "you cannot do that" the person can get mad at you... That's why awareness, is the best way!



FACTS AND CURIOSITIES



Sea turtles: Why it is important to conserve them

Sea turtles have existed for millions of years in the oceans. However, in recent years this species has been suffering natural and human threats that put into question its long-term survival. The human threat constitutes, without a shadow of doubt, one of the main causes that make turtles a species in the way of extinction. Among them is the capture for commercial exploitation of the meat, disturbance and destruction of the nesting beaches through vehicle traffics all terrain, artificial illumination and/or extraction of minerals (sand), pollution of the oceans that makes many die from suffocation with plastic bags and debris from fishing articles as well as accidental fishing.



Sea turtles play a preponderant role in the balance of ecosystems since they are a source of food for other animals, they are consumers of marine organisms. In addition, other organisms such as plants may inhabit their carapace. There are currently seven species of turtles. They are: Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Hawksbill Sea Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), Leatherback Sea Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys kempie*), and Flatback Sea Turtle (*Natator depressus*). Of these species, five occur in the waters of Cape Verde, namely: The Leatherback Sea Turtle, the Green Sea Turtle, Hawksbill Sea Turtle, Olive Ridley Sea Turtle, which occurs less frequently and the Loggerhead Sea Turtle, the only species to nest on the beaches of the whole country (Report on the status of biodiversity in Cape Verde, 2008).



Nowadays, Cape Verde welcomes the third largest population of Loggerhead Sea Turtles worldwide and the beaches of Boa Vista, Maio and Sal receive annually thousands of females. In the North Atlantic, Cape Verde is the second largest spawn point of sea turtles after Florida (USA).

Source:

Governo (2018). Decreto legislativo: Regime jurídico especial de proteção e conservação de tartarugas marinhas em Cabo Verde.

Nalon (N/D). Tartarugas marinhas: porque conservá-las. Available at: <http://www.temasbio.ufscar.br/?q=artigos/tartarugas-marinhas-e-importancia-de-conserva-las>



FLASH NEWS

*In the context of the Projeto “Biodiversidade e turismo” (Bio-Tur) implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment a work meeting was held on the 16th May 2019, at 9 o’clock on the subject “Strengthening the legal framework to facilitate the co-management of natural resources in Cape Verde” with the international consultant Dr. Carlos Sonderblohm. The activity was attended by representatives of associations and NGOs which are directly and indirectly linked to this theme, namely the Association Varandinha, **Fundação Tartaruga**; Bios Cabo Verde; MarAlliance; Cabo Verde Natura 2000 and the environmental education coordinator of the Projeto Tartaruga Boa Vista, Mrs. Katia D’Assunção. It was also attended by the presence of professionals from the MAA (Ministry of Agriculture and Environment) Boa Vista office and Guy Monteiro, community development professional of Projeto Bio-Tur and also Mr. José Moreno, professional of follow-up and evaluation of the Projeto Bio-tur.*

*National Deputy Dália Benoliel met with the members of the Management Committee of the Projeto Tartaruga Boa Vista on June 4th, 2019. Present at the meeting were: Arminda Lima, from the **Fundação Tartaruga**, Carla Corsino, coordinator of community development of the project, Carolina Oujo, from Bios CV and Maria Medina from Cabo Verde Natura 2000 and also the delegate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment in Boa Vista. The aim was to get to know the activities developed and to know the main challenges faced in order to be able to exert influence with the government.*

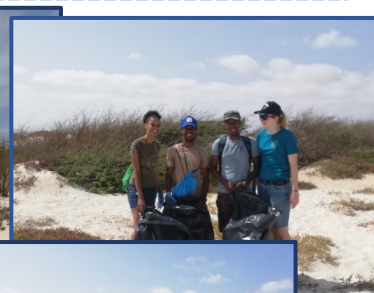
Nests in June

The number of nests on the spawning beaches under control of the Fundação Tartaruga is dramatically low compared to the same period last year. This year only 69 nests were registered, compared to 95 nests found last year. The beaches in which nests have been registered are: Lacacão, 2 nests; Ponta Pesqueira, 8; Curral Velho, 14; Boa Esperança, 12; Água Doce, 9; Canto, 17; Norte, 4 and Cruz Morto, 3. There’s still no record of nests in beach of Gatas.

*The **Fundação Tartaruga** participates in the cleaning campaign of the islet of Sal Rei. The initiative was carried out by the MarAlliance in commemoration of the World Oceans day celebrated on June 10th. The foundation deployed a team that has made a valuable contribution to this activity, where 150 people participated and embraced the initiative. According to official data released by MarAlliance, 350 garbage bags were collected. (See images below)*



Pictures by : Julie Ferreux,
Arminda Lima, Thor Barreto



PRESS MAGAZINE

Newspaper A Nação

*Boa Vista: **Fundação Tartaruga** with conservation dogs.*

The season goes until October 31st and will also count on the support of 55 camp staff, four national volunteers, international volunteers and drones operators.

The Fundação Tartaruga, in Boa Vista, has already initiated another campaign to protect the beaches of sea turtles.

This year the novelty is the use of conservation dogs that should arrive this Thursday, 13th, to the island of Boa Vista. A professional trainer will as well join them the start of protection activities with a local team. (Translated from the original in Portuguese)

Read full article here: <https://anacao.cv/boa-vista-fundacao-tartaruga-com-caes-protectores-da-especie/>

Newspaper A Semana

*Sea turtles: **Fundação Tartaruga** launches the campaign to conserve the species*

The Fundação Tartaruga on the island of Boa Vista starts with the campaign of protection in the nesting beaches of sea turtles, with the assembly of five camps on the beaches of Canto, Cruz Morto, Boa Esperança, Lacacão and Curral Velho. The campaign has the support of about 55 camp staff, four national volunteers as well as international volunteers, and will run until October 31st this year.

According to the project manager, Euclides Resende, this year, drones with thermal imaging cameras will be used again to improve the surveillance of the beaches and also for the first time conservation dogs are introduced to the task force/surveillance team. (Translated from the original in Portuguese) Read full article here: https://asemana.publ.cv/?Tartarugas-Marinhas-Fundacao-Maio-Biodiversidade-inicia-a-campanha-de&ak=1#ancre_comm

Newspaper Diário de Notícias

Ranger dogs and drones used for the first time in the protection of turtles in Cape Verde

"Karetta" and "Kelo" are the first 'rangers' dogs to be integrated into the teams that protect the turtles on the Cape Verdean island Boa Vista, being trained to identify suspects of crimes against this protected species.

The nesting season took off on June 1st and on the main beaches of Cape Verde where turtles usually leave the eggs are already visible some camps of the conservation teams.

On the island of Boa Vista, the Fundação Tartaruga has five camps in place, mobilizing 86 people. Among them, two young rangers who received training in Switzerland to work with dogs trained for the conservation of protected species such as turtle. (Translated from the original in Portuguese)

Read full article here: <https://www.dn.pt/lusa/interior/caes-rangers-e-drones-usados-pela-primeira-vez-na-protecao-de-tartarugas-em-cabo-verde-11014900.html>



Zeddy Seymour

(16th April 1987 – 7th July 2019)



Alexander Thomas Aubrey Seymour, known as **Zeddy**, was born on April 16th, 1987 in the United Kingdom.

He graduated in Hispanic and Latin American Studies in 2010 from the University of Leeds (UK).

However, during a stay in the Brazilian Northeast he realized that what he really wanted was to work in the conservation of wildlife. Between February and April

2011, he did an internship in the Niassa National Reserve in Mozambique, where he worked in the conflict between humans and wildlife. Later, he volunteered in Gorongosa National Park.

In 2012, he finished, with distinction, his master's degree in Conservation and Biodiversity from the University of Exeter.

In the following year, he collaborated with Fundação Tartaruga as Volunteer Coordinator and until 2015 as Assistant Project Manager. He currently was working with MarAlliance on the conservation and research project for elasmobranchs (sharks and rays) in Cape Verde.

Zeddy passed away on July 7th in a tragic diving accident on Sal.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, colleagues and all the people who had the pleasure of meeting and working him.

Source: <http://zeddyseymour.com>

Photo by: marAlliance.org

RIP, Zeddy





Protecting turtles and their habitats

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